

ABM users ripped

▶ Cards skimmed

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Users of the Bank of Montreal automatic banking machine in West Lorne were shocked to find their accounts had been drained.

A scam, called skimming resulted in a "small number" of accounts robbed.

The bank manager couldn't comment but called the Bank of Montreal public relations department to provide comment.

Michael Edmonds, spokesperson for BMO wouldn't say how many people were scammed or for how much, for security reasons. He said it was a small number of people.

Edmonds said he believes everyone effected has been contacted, cards have been replaced and any money taken has been reimbursed.

Robert Rogan, a local business owner and an employee discovered their bank accounts were emptied sometime last week.

Rogan said \$1,000 was taken out in three transactions, two at banks in London. Others scammed reported the same circumstances.

Rogan said he wasn't sure how his pin number was found out.

"As long as I got my money back, I didn't ask questions," he said.

He said the bank was quick to respond, reimbursing the taken money quickly.

Edmonds said the bank has rigorous security measures to detect skimming.

The BMO spokesperson wouldn't specify whether only BMO card holders were affected by the skimming.

He wouldn't say how the skimming was done, for "obvious security reasons".

"It's important for everyone to be cautious with their debit cards, not just in West Lorne but anywhere they use a bank machine," he said.

Fraudsters are more interested in robbing the bank through ABM users than robbing

Owens bound for Owen Sound

If your last name is Owen or Owens, you are invited to a party in your honour in Owen Sound.

The Calling all Owens campaign is part of the community's 150th anniversary Homecoming celebrations from July 27 to Aug. 5.

JIM FOX



ONE-TANK TRIPS

In fact, anyone visiting Owen Sound this summer can become an "honourable Owen" and join the fun, says Mayor Ruth Lovell.

Hundreds of events are planned including a tugfest featuring whistle blows, tug-boat races, a Christmas lights boat parade, water rescue demonstrations and tours of the Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cove Isle.

There's also a Harbour Nights Concert Series including a performance by the DeSotos, a new musical about Canadian landscape artist Tom Thomson, a homecoming parade and a performance by escape artist Steve Santini.

Along with talent shows and heritage events are children's activities including The Amazing Race: Get a Clue!

Visitors can also check out the Cobble Beach Golf Links, a new 18-hole, links-style course in Georgian Bluffs, adjacent to Owen Sound.

Saddle Up

It's time again to saddle up and head out for Cactus Cattle and Cowboys weekend.

The July 28 and 29 event in western Elgin County includes a "horses only" parade through downtown West Lorne, western-themed activities and trail rides. Western Elgin is home to many special breeds of horses, such as Canadians and Paso Finos as well as Percherons and Halfingers.

As well, there are "numerous quarter-horse and standard-bred operations that



Sun Media

HAPPY TRAILS: A leisurely trail ride is part of this year's Cactus Cattle and Cowboys event in West Lorne.

have sprung up in the area where affordable farm land is still found," said Scott Hilgen-dorff, one of the organizers.

Thousands of horses can be found in this belt of farms along Lake Erie's shore and the Highway 401 corridor in the western half of Elgin County, between London and Chatham-Kent's border.

The weekend includes the popular horse parade through West Lorne, starting at high noon on July 28. That follows activities starting at 8:30 a.m. such as a farmers market outside the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

In its second year, events are "built around cowboys and horses, and admission is free," said Robert White of the sponsoring Marketing Partners of Western Elgin County.

After the parade, Ballistik Paintball Park is the location for a quick-draw competition, line and square dancing, rib cooking demonstrations, gospel singing, cowboy poetry and a steak barbecue.

As well, there will be roping demonstrations, a blacksmith and western-styled children's games. Wagon rides are available to shuttle visitors between downtown and the park.

Dave Simmons will host riding demonstrations and breed exhibits at his farm

north of West Lorne on Crinan Line.

The day's activities wrap up with a BX93 video dance at the West Elgin Arena from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Trail rides are available both days with "free primitive camping provided" and some box stalls available.

There will be a Saturday evening jamboree and cowboys are invited to bring their instruments. Cost for the rides is a donation to the Trans-Canada Trail Association.

Birds and Butterflies

Birds and Butterflies at Pelee Island is among the innovative Family Adventures trips offered by "boutique" travel firm Horizon and Co. of Toronto.

Participants will identify many of the exotic bird calls filling the air and can observe the vast Monarch butterfly population as it prepares for its epic journey south.

There will be tours led by conservationists to discover Ontario's southernmost point and the intricate ecosystems of the lush Carolinian forest. Also planned is a meal on the estate of a Point Pelee vineyard.

Jim Fox can be reached at one-tanktrips@hotmail.com



Disciples donate to STEGH

Jerry Galbraith, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation Board member, accepts a \$10,000 gift from June Smart and Betty McKillop from the West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples). The donation will help finance the purchase of two new ventilators. Also pictured is Terry Hiddink manager of Cardio-Respiratory Services.

SUBMITTED

Sod turned at Heritage House site

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Shovels will go into the ground to begin construction of the West Lorne Heritage House this month.

A ceremonial sod turning was held at the site, with dignitaries, Aug. 29.

The 16-unit supportive affordable housing apartments for seniors are hoped to open Spring next year, adjacent to the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

The \$2.2 million project is being sponsored by the West Lorne Heritage Homes Not For Profit Corporations, made up of local service clubs.

It received \$1.1 million from

the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program, administered locally by Ontario Works, St. Thomas.

It's being complimented by almost \$888,000 in site clean up, waived fees, servicing and donated land from the municipality.

West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick said the project is a great opportunity in the face of adversity, as the abandoned rail lands are now being turned to something good.

He said in rural communities its essential the government makes large capital investment where there is not enough private investment.

Please see No, page 2



Sod turning

Taking part in the official sod turning for the West Lorne Heritage House is Harry Mezenberg, project chair, Lori Baldwin-Sands, St. Thomas Aid., Steve Peters MPP, Joe Preston, MP, Lynn Acre, Warden and Graham Warwick, Mayor.

JEFF KEMPENAR/THE CHRONICLE

OPP bust "Chop shop" in West Lorne

A warrant was executed after a six month investigation into a suspected "chop shop" in West Lorne May 17.

Police recovered six complete vehicles and two partial vehicles at 24611 Pioneer Line.

The vehicles had been reported stolen from the London, Glencoe and Chatham areas.

Elgin County OPP officers responded along with the Provincial Auto Theft, Rural Agricultural Crime Team, Drug Enforcement, Emergency Response and a canine unit to execute the warrant.

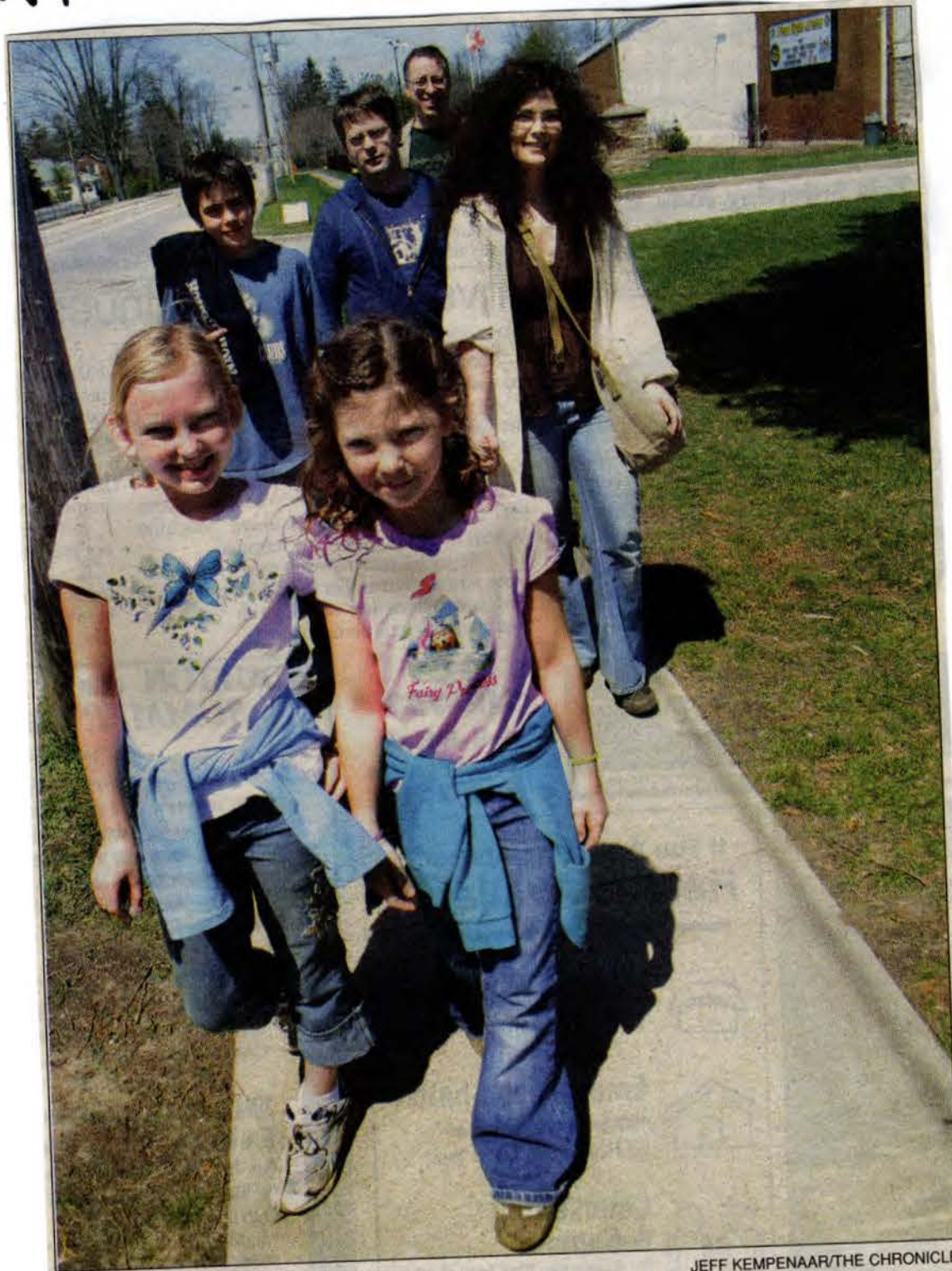
The warrant was the conclusion to a six month investigation into the business and residence.

Police also seized a small amount of marijuana.

A 68-year-old West Lorne man was arrested without incident and remains in custody.

The man is charged with possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and possession of a controlled substance.

He's scheduled to appear in a St. Thomas court May 22. *MAY 24/07*



Great Ride and Stride for Cancer

Allysa Austin, Emily, Josh, Jenny and Derek Buchanan and Don Bowser begin their walks for the Great Ride and Stride for Cancer in West Lorne Sunday. A smaller crowd this year still raised \$1,311 for the Canadian Cancer Society. The event in Dutton raised around \$4,000.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

She took his name, nationality

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Julie Sura was born in Canada and has never lived outside of Canada.

Yet she was not considered a Canadian citizen when she recently applied for a passport.

She has a birth certificate clearly showing she was born in Windsor in 1928.

But a strange stipulation on a passport application brought to light changes to immigration laws made 60 years ago that had passed her by.

With talk of passports being required to enter the U.S. (2008), Sura began preparing for her trip to the Caribbean from Detroit and applied for a passport.

She hit a snag.

Her late husband, Alec, was from Hungary and immigrated to Canada in 1923, before marrying then Julia Badin, in March 1946.

"If you are a woman who, before 1947, married a man who was not a British subject, contact Passport Canada," states the Proof of Canadian Citizenship section on an Adult Passport Citizenship.

"In other words, my birth certificate doesn't mean anything," she said.

Her birth certificate may not have meant much because when she was born Canadian citizenship didn't exist.



Wave goodbye to another Rodney fair

Jacob Vojin from West Lorne rides the mini-jets on the Carter Show's midway Sunday at the Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Fair. Cold weather did stave many off as attendance numbers could be up from last year. See more photos from the Fair on Page 10.

JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

World Day of Prayer services written by Paraguayan women

The small land-locked country of Paraguay, the heart of South America, is the focus of this year's World Day of Prayer services offered at three area locations.

Women from Paraguay have written the 2007 World Day of Prayer service on the theme United Under God's Tent.

Wars and a long dictatorship have taken their toll on Paraguay. It lost its sea access and 80 per cent of its male population following the Triple Alliance War in the 1800s. The 35-year dictatorship, which ended in 1989, left scars of

poverty, environmental destruction and repression.

Despite their poverty and struggle to survive, Paraguayans are caring and musical people known around the world for folk music and handmade spider web lace known as Nanduti - and, of course, their Olympic medal-winning soccer team.

Christians in more than 170 countries and 2,000 communities across Canada will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Paraguay.

Following the theme, organizers ask those planning to

attend to bring a shawl or scarf to use as a symbol of God's sheltering and protective tent.

Join the celebration and invite friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer service March 2 and learn more about Paraguay and its unique culture and heritage:

- 7 p.m. at Bobier Villa.
- 7:30 p.m. at West Lorne Baptist Church, guest speaker, Joanne Bobier.
- 10 a.m. Calvary United Church, Fellowship Hall.

Crowd tours reopened Complex

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

It's been 20 months since an almost \$1 million fire gutted the West Elgin Community Complex.

Doors officially reopened Saturday at the downtown West Lorne building.

Harley Melkert, who already had books on hold for him got to cut the ribbon with West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick.

An open house was held afterwards where some of the public, got their first look at the reconstructed building.

While insurance will cover the reconstruction of the building, along with bringing it up to today's building code standards, the municipality has invested more than



Complex reopens

Harley Melkert, avid library user got to join West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick to cut the ribbon at the official reopening of the West Elgin Community Complex Saturday. Many dignitaries joined more than 50 people for the open house that was included in the events surrounding the 100th anniversary of Rodney and West Lorne.

\$200,000 to improve the building.

An extension was made onto the library, adding an area for children.

It will be paid for

by the Elgin County Library which rents the space.

The basement was also finished, including a lift that can take people in wheelchairs down-

stairs, where it was not accessible before.

YWCA has said it will use the main room in the basement for its home-work club.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A second public meeting room was also built in the basement.

On hand for the reopening was MPP Steve Peters, MP Joe Preston, Elgin County Warden Lynn Acre, Kathy Nesbitt, with the county library, Phillip Scott with Hickman-Mount Reconstruction and Andy Spriet, of Spriet Associates, along with municipal staff, councillors and former Reeve Harley Lashbrook.

Lashbrook accepted a mock-up of a future sign that will be placed on the cairn in front of the complex marking the centennial of the villages of West Lorne and Rodney.

West Elgin Support Services also held an open house to show its

new office space.

The building once was the municipal office for West Lorne, built in 1997, until amalgamation in 1998.

Accident closes Highway 401, snarls villages

A transport truck collided with a line painter crew truck on Highway 401 at the Dunborough Line crossing, Monday at around 12:50 p.m.

The truck had a caution sign alerting traffic of line painting ahead on the westbound lanes when it was struck by the transport truck.

The driver of the line painter crew truck was extricated with the jaws of life by West Lorne Fire Department.

The 54-year-old Guelph driver was taken to St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The transport truck crossed the median and ended up half in the south ditch of the eastbound lanes, causing an SUV to veer into the ditch.

The transport driver, a 52-year-old man from Brampton, and two occupants in the SUV were treated at the scene with no injuries.

The eastbound lanes were closed at Graham Road, causing a back up on the Emergency Detour Route through West Lorne and neighbouring villages.

Police controlled the intersection at Main and Graham most of the afternoon.

The eastbound lanes remained closed until OPP technical collision investigators completed the investigation at about 6 p.m.



Crash JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

A 52-year-old Brampton man walks out of an ambulance uninjured as West Lorne Fire Department extricates a 54-year-old Guelph man after a collision on Highway 401 Monday.

Anti-idling signs erected in West Lorne

The ecoElgin Environmental Group has had anti-idling signs erected in various locations around West Lorne. These signs request vehicle operators to turn off their engine when parked. Please obey these signs for our health.

Carbon dioxide is only one by-product of fuel combustion - the vehicles Canadians drive every day also generate other toxic substances that are fouling our air, contributing to urban smog and threatening our health.

Studies by Health Canada and community health departments and agencies have shown a direct link between contaminants in vehicle emissions and significant respiratory health effects. These studies have concluded that poor air quality and

ECOELGIN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP NEWS

smog - caused in part by vehicle exhaust - are resulting in increased hospital admissions, respiratory illnesses and premature deaths, particularly in urban areas.

In fact, Health Canada estimates that more than 5,000 Canadians die prematurely each year because of air pollution, and thousands more become unnecessarily ill. Children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution because they breathe faster than adults and inhale more air per kilogram of body weight.

Air pollution also causes unnecessary difficulty for elderly people and those with respiratory prob-

lems, such as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

These health problems could become even more common and pronounced as climate change progresses. That's because climate change results in more frequent and severe heat waves, which tend to make smog and air pollution worse.

One way to head off the problem is to stop unnecessary idling. Our air would be cleaner, and respiratory health would improve in our communities.

For more information on health and climate change, visit the Web site of Health Canada's Climate Change and Health Office. Information about respiratory issues is available from the Canadian Lung Association.



Auction and dance

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Julie and Wentworth Newman of West Lorne peruse silent auction items at a fundraising auction and dance for the West Lorne Heritage House, senior apartments March 17. The fundraising committee raised more than \$6,000 toward the \$70,000 goal for the local portion of the project.



Environmental projects get boost

CONTRIBUTED

MP Joe Preston delivers a cheque for \$64,000 for the West Elgin Habitat Restoration Project to local landowners participating in wetland and natural habitat restoration.

Habitat restoration gets funding

MP Joe Preston recently delivered a cheque for \$64,000 to support the West Elgin Habitat Restoration project as part of the EcoAction Community Funding Program.

The project will assist locally-based, non-profit organizations to initiate actions that result in cleaner air, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, cleaner water, and the conservation of nature at the local

community level.

The local groups involved in this project include; Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority, Canada - Ontario Environment Farm Plan, Aldborough Public School, St. Leonard's Society, Dan Higgs Excavating, West Elgin Nature Club, Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Elgin Stewardship Council, Wetland Habitat Fund, Community Fisheries Involvement

Program, Canada-Ontario Agreement to Improve Lake Erie, Ontario Trillium Foundation.

EcoAction will continue to provide financial support to Canadian not-for-profit organizations to undertake community-level projects that have positive, measurable results for the environment.

The next submission deadline for proposals to the EcoAction program is October 1, 2007.

Villages celebrate 100th anniversary

Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



Parade

Jerry Prince, with Mikel, Lukas and Kevin Prince-Duarte decorated their bikes for the parade Monday.



Heading toward their own 100th

Frances McCallum and Steve Frederick both turned 92 years old this year and are heading toward their own 100th birthday by taking part in the parade in West Lorne Monday.



Music at WESS

Darryl VanOirschot amazed a crowd of about 100 with songs from Les Miserable, accompanied by Shirley Walker Sunday during a music program held in the cafetorium at West Elgin Secondary School. Other events held over the weekend include fireworks by the volunteer fire departments, sidewalk art by the YWCA, a jamboree at the Rodney Legion and special church services at the West Lorne United Church.



Shunpiker

Above: A group from Freelon stops at the Old Jail in Rodney to pick up their first poker card from Mary Bodnar. About 24 cars took part in the Historical Shunpiker tour around West Elgin Saturday. Below: Helen Jones and Rose McGill share a laugh at the farmer's market.



100 year old pictures shown

A crowd forms around Harley Lashbrook and his slide show of pictures depicting 100 years of West Lorne and Rodney history at the West Elgin Community Complex Saturday his collection even included pictures of the villages from 100 years ago.

401 ticket money deal done

► \$150,000 a year could come to western Elgin

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Money from OPP enforcement on Highway 401 in Elgin County will be split by the three western municipalities.

That's the good news.

The bad news? Depending on what side of the county line you live: Money from tickets in Elgin that were collected at the Chatham-Kent court house for years will not be coming back.

"We're not going after that anymore," said Mark McDonald, chief administrative officer with Elgin

County.

After meeting with the Ontario Attorney General, McDonald was told Chatham-Kent was promised the money when it built its court house.

The court house was built bigger to process tickets from the Highway 401 enforcement units, commanded out of Chatham.

It was estimated more than half a million went to the Chatham-Kent court house, bringing revenue with it, for the past five years, until Jan. 1, 2006.

McDonald also met with the detachment commander of the

Chatham-Kent OPP and was assured officers would carry ticket books for Elgin, to be processed at the Elgin County Court House.

The deal for western municipalities follows a long standing agreement with the county.

It's estimated \$150,000 could be split between West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold.

Although, it could be more, McDonald said last year \$350,000 was processed from fines issued on Highway 401 in Elgin County.

Money will be split using the same formula as all other provincial roads:

10 per cent of the fine and the administrative costs will be recovered by the county.

"It's good news. The money is going where it belongs, to the three municipalities that have the 401," said McDonald.

"We figure (Chatham-Kent) got more than they should, but that's my opinion," said McDonald. "It took five years but the money is going where it belongs."

The decision came down to Central Elgin Mayor Sylvia Hofhuis voting to follow the agreement ruling other provincial roads in the county.



Fun in the park

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Fun Day in the Park, formerly Senior's Day in the Park, brought seniors, family, friends and colleagues out to the Backus-Page House for music, education and fellowship Aug. 15. Above: Angie Cornwell, dietician at the West Elgin Community Health Centre tests the knowledge of food groups with Ruth Andrews and Susanna Reintsma Right: Judy Tunks and Shirley Bolton with the Four Counties Adult Day Program play a memory game with Margaret Ford.





Book near done

Nancy and Harley Lashbrook comb through scrap books loaned by families for a book on local soldiers.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Searching for soldier stories

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

A last call, in a sense, has been issued for information on local soldiers that served in the First and Second World Wars.

Harley Lashbrook could have a definitive book published by month's end with information of those who served in the war that at one time lived in Rodney, West Lorne or the former Aldborough Township.

Starting with just a list of dozens of names, Lashbrook, former newspaper owner and Reeve of West Lorne has spent the past three months collecting information.

With 300 pages printed in draft form, Lashbrook is now looking for pictures of the soldiers.

He has many already, but to go along with the service information he has now, he has made space to add images.

Please see Book, page 2



Holocaust survivor

Dr. Eva Olsson, Holocaust survivor, spoke to students from West Elgin Secondary School and Senior Elementary School last week, linking the struggle against the Nazism to the struggle against bullies.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Tolerance not enough

Jeff Kempenaar
Staff

Holocaust survivor Dr. Eva Olsson returned to West Elgin Secondary School May 8.

She last spoke to students at WESS in 2004 but this time her message has changed.

Olsson, 82, has spoken at 1,500 schools to more than one million students over the last 10 years.

She held the WESS gymnasium in silence, recalling the horrors of concentration camps for high school and senior elementary students.

Today, she says tolerance is not enough.

She calls the Nazis of Germany bullies.

"In 1928 there were 300 Nazi bullies. The attitude was, it would

go away, nothing will happen," she told students.

"By 1933 there were 300,000 Nazi bullies. Bystanders joined in," she said.

Olsson, from Bracebridge, speaking throughout the Thames Valley District School Board as part of the safe schools initiative, has always linked her story to the issue of bullying.

However, she says tolerance only and being a bystander are not acceptable.

"Wouldn't it have been easier to have stood up to the Nazis at 300? By the time they did it was too late. Eleven million people died," she said.

A 15-year-old, Hasidic Jew when Germany invaded her hometown in Hungary in the 1940s, she recalls the day when

soldiers came to her town.

Fenced into a six block ghetto were 20,000 Jews. She lived in two rooms with 19 people.

Of her extended family of 89 people, only she and her younger sister survived.

Unlocking Doors, A Woman's Struggle Against Intolerance is the name of her memoir.

This summer, Olsson is embarking on a trip she said she never would do.

She is returning to her home town, Sztatmar Hungary for the first time, with plans to visit Auschwitz.

Her journey home and visits to schools, including WESS are being filmed as a documentary.

She left three words as her final message: "Loving, knowing and being."



First World War book

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Harley Lashbrook presents West Elgin at War a book with information, stories and letters about Aldborough soldiers that served in the First World War to Shelly Flemming with the Rodney and West Lorne library.



God's Princesses

JULY 19/07

SUBMITTED

Princess Day 2007 was held at the West Elgin Living Water Pentecostal Church June 23. Each young girl was crowned God's Chosen Princess during the royal evening celebrating King Jesus.

Merry Christmas

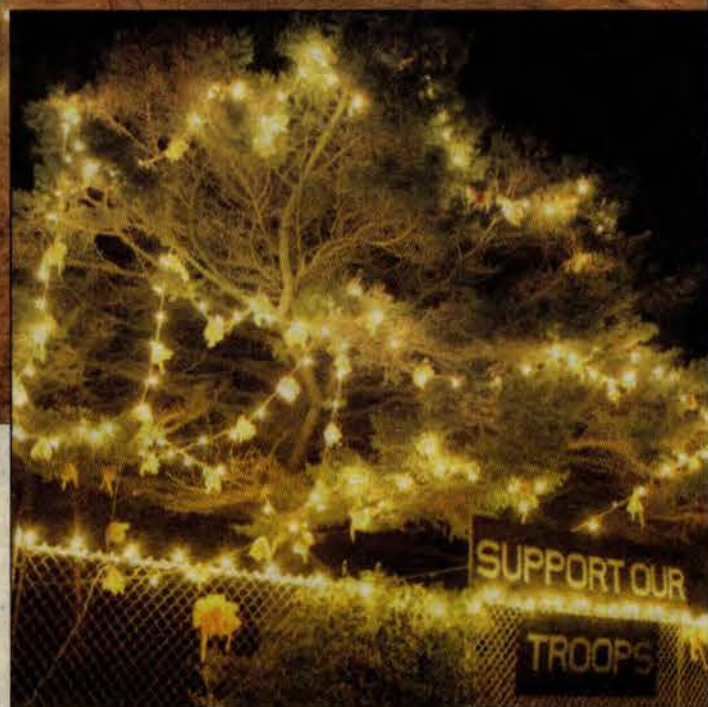
From Chronicle staff
Cheryl, Jeff, Jesse, Joe, Karen,
Steve and Suzanne



Season of lights

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Joe Seman, Joe Jr., Heather and Jason Bowles have thousands of lights at their Talbot Line home near New Glasgow. People have been stopping throughout the season and even dropping off food donations for the Caring Cupboard. Right: This tree has 325 yellow lights as a sign of support for Canada's troop and peacekeepers overseas this holiday season. The property also has a gingerbread house with a candy cane lane, Rudolph and Santa's reindeer and a flag pole with red and white lights for national pride.



Bells on ...

Sharon DeDecker is decked out on her horse Blueboy an Arabian.



Ambassador

Wallacetown Fair Ambassador Kate Campigotto and Lin McCann travel with the Wallacetown Agricultural Society float.



Tiny Tots

Suzanne Brears and Shelly Smith ride on the Tiny Tots Float..



Bagpipes

Royal Scots O'Mocha pipe and drum band from London wore their Santa hats for the parade. The band followed the Legion Colour Guard. After the parade, revelers went to the West Elgin Community Health Centre to have pictures taken with Santa Claus.



Bringing in the cheer

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Snoopy and the Red Baron, a float created by Albert's Generators was one of the 37 floats in the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Santa Clause Parade Nov. 30.

Santa comes to West Lorne



Kelly JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Keith Kelly shows a plaque and poster which he received for his weather observing services to Environment Canada for 50 years from his home in New Glasgow.



A Night of Celebration JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE
A Night of Celebration was held at the West Lorne Baptist Church on Saturday evening to celebrate the completion of the Daughter of the King course, followed by a Princess Ball at the church. The Princesses are: (back row) Jordynn Belbeck, Sade Duncan, Tabatha Wemp, Stephanie Sypher. (Front row) Emily Ross and Ashley Blais.

Weather observers rare

from page 1

Now 82-years-old, he doesn't have as many chores and he lives out his retirement quietly with his wife Marie.

His family and friends collect the data if he goes away.

He still gets many calls from media, the grain elevators and agriculture industry for his seasonal forecasts and information about corn heat units.

"Weather is really important to farmers," he said.

His own data helps paint a picture of the area, by combining data from weather stations in St. Thomas, Ridgetown, London and Port Stanley.

His field manager Arnold McDonald crafted him a walnut-wood box with various metres and a large poster with scrapbook images and his historical weather data. MP Joe Preston gave him a certificate of appreciation and he received a plaque for his 50 years of service.

Watching the weather is in Kelly's blood. He looks in the journals of his great grandfather William V. Havens. Every entry begins with an observation of the weather that day.

Nov. 28, 1872, the entry says the wind was from the north and it was cold.

While meteorologists get paid to analyze the weather data and make forecasts, Kelly continues to be asked local forecasts based on tried and true observations of wind direction at solstice.

At the autumn equinox he said it would

be a good fall with warm spells, "and it was."

Although people like to point out when he's wrong.

"They always tell you when you were wrong but never point out that you were right," he said.

"Not many of Environment Canada's volunteer weather observers serve for 50 years. Over the decades, it is probably not more than a few handful across the entire country. Having recorded climate data now for over 50 years, Keith is in a very select, dedicated group. His observations have been of the highest quality and his enthusiasm for the job rarely matched. His contributions toward the understanding of the area's climate are very much appreciated," said Jim Cook, Environment Canada.

New Glasgow Climate Stats:

Highest temp: 39°C (Jan. 25, 1988)
Coldest temp: -29°C (January, 1994)
Wettest day: 125.2 mm (June 28, 1967)
Snowiest day: 20.3 cm (Dec. 6, 1962 / Jan. 14, 1968 / Nov. 21, 1971 / Mar. 17, 1973)
Warmest year: 10.6°C (1998)
Coldest year: 7.1°C (1978)
Average year: 8.3°C
Wettest year: 1,228.5 mm (1990)
Driest year: 575.1 mm (1958)
Average year: 886.9 mm
Snowiest year: 165 cm (2004/05)
Least snow: 25 cm (1982/83)
Average winter 79.6 cm.



Bubbles JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Siera Poels blows a bubble at the YWCA Day Camp in West Lorne Monday.



Amazing race JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Kelsey Mantie, Lannie Wood, Montana Stuart and Rebecca Fish take part in the Amazing Race organized through the West Lorne Library which saw about 20 youth seeking clues at town businesses June 30.