

Former resident gets police award

Cathy McArthur, former West Elgin Secondary School graduate was honoured for her work with the Chatham-Kent Police Service.

McArthur was the recipient of the Excellence in Performance award for her extensive work in the Father Charles Sylvestre case.

She received the award at the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement banquet in Mississauga May 4.

McArthur, a detective, interviewed women involved in the sexual abuse case, which led to the conviction of Sylvestre for 47 counts of indecent assault.

The daughter of Jacqueline and the late Cameron Leitch has been with the Chatham-Kent police for 15 years.



Cathy McArthur
Former resident Cathy McArthur was recently honoured for her work with Chatham-Kent Police.



Band plays Not just a Christmas Concert

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Above: Richard Hale on clarinet, Ben McArthur on baritone sax, Matt Sterner, and Betty Simpson, clarinet, adorning Santa hats for the West Elgin Community Band's It's a Wonderful Time of the Year, concert at St. Mary's Parish Hall Dec. 6. Right: Michele Barnes, performed Adagio from Violin Sonata #3 on alto saxophone. The band also played seasonal favourites.



Women's choir

Music leader Sharon Little sings along with the newly formed Women's Choir, which meets Wednesdays at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE



Choral Society

JEAN GUY ST. JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

The West Elgin Choral Society presented their 2007 Christmas Concert at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Dec. 1 in West Lorne under the direction of the Music Director John Holland titled "Christmas Around The World". The Christmas Oratorio was written in 1858 by french composer Camille Saint-Saens. The concert included the Christmas Oratorio, some international songs by the choir and a sing-a-long.

DEC/07

Oktoberfest another success

Once again it's expected more than \$10,000 will be raised for the local Daffodil Society at the annual Oktoberfest Classic at Dutton Meadows Golf Club.

About 104 golfers hit the nine hole course and stayed for a silent auction and dinner.

This year, the tournament was held in memory of Wally Tokarz, a long-time area resident who passed away from cancer April 1999.

Wally was the 'man on the mic' at the downhill derby and Santa Claus parades. He also volunteered at the Wallacetown Fair and worked behind the

scenes at WEDS.

Each year someone who died of cancer and contributed to the community is honoured.

This year, Marg Gruenbauer headed up organizing the tournament.

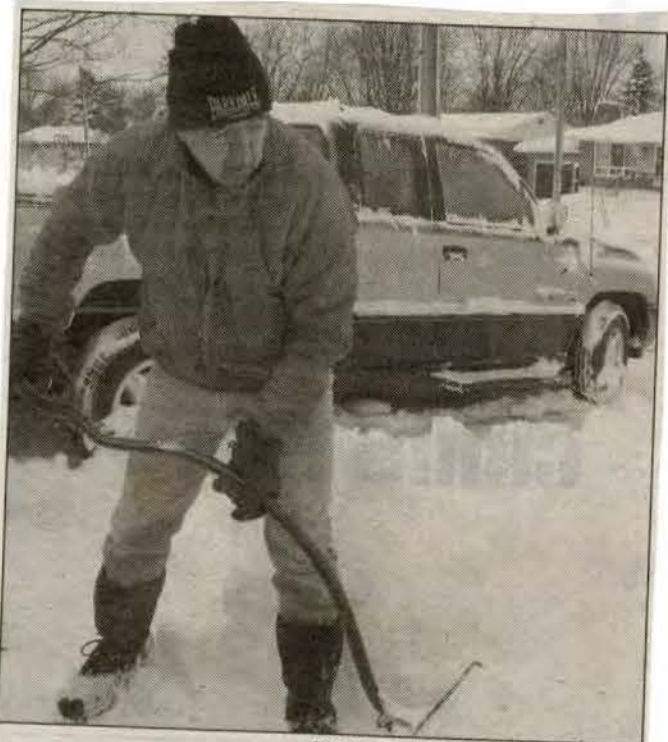
"The Daffodil Society is a unique organization that assists cancer patients and the families (locally). This assistance includes providing equipment such as beds or wheelchairs for home use, financial assistance for needed medicines not covered by drug plans and transportation for patient visits to the Cancer Centre in London," she wrote.



Daffodil Society golf tournament

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Some of the 104 golfers who took part in the Oktoberfest Classic, Daffodil Society Cancer Golf Tournament held at Dutton Meadows Saturday. Here is Richard Cowall, Paul MacDonald, Joanne Emmett, Ian Fleck, Christine Zimmerman, Marilyn Fleck and Bonnie and Mike Rowe on the 8th hole.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Residents do their best to cope with snow

Doug Weaver shovels the snow from his driveway on Elm St. in West Lorne. He's lending a hand and shovelling several of his neighbours driveways along the street.

DEC. 20/07



West Lorne's sink hole

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Dave Tuffin, with West Elgin's water crew, fills a hole on Graham Road where an 8" water line burst early morning Nov. 11 in West Lorne. Water bubbled up and flooded the street. The water crew were on scene for about 12 hours to patch the break. Several customers were without water from Elm Street to Main Street. It's the third break in the line in as many years as the municipality waits for the county to redo the road and curbs in the area. Because water flowed out, not in, a boil water advisory was not needed. Donut Delight had to close early as a result of the break and traffic was slowed during the fix.

NOV 15/07



Power
Kory Timmermans, centre, Geoff Wayne, left and Ryan Grant of Septic Tank closed the show with powerful metal.

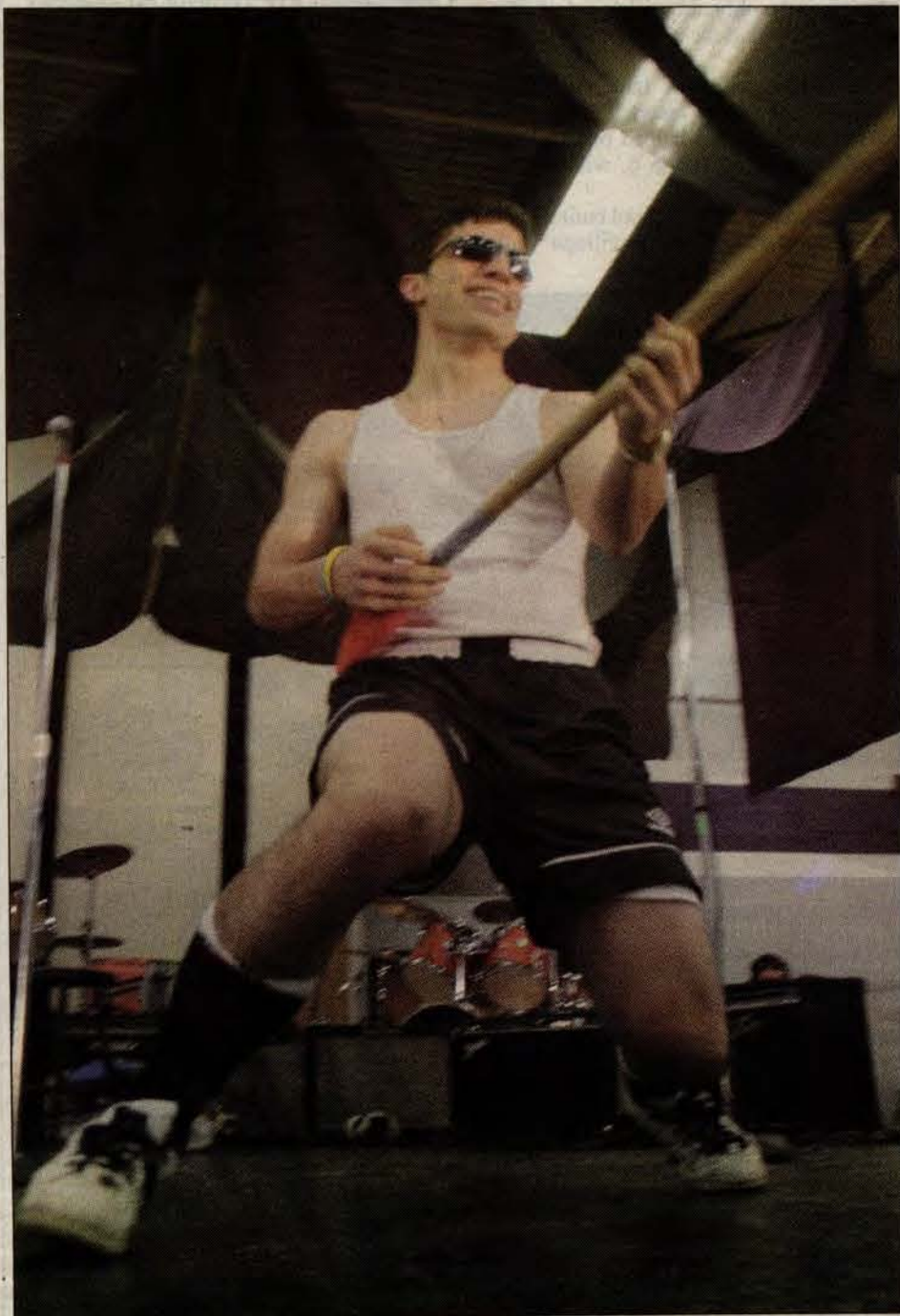


Dance
Caren Campbell plays Cotten Eyed Joe on her fiddle.

Dynamic energy flows at WESS

Students at West Elgin Secondary School showed their talents March 31, whether it be art, dance, music or comedy.

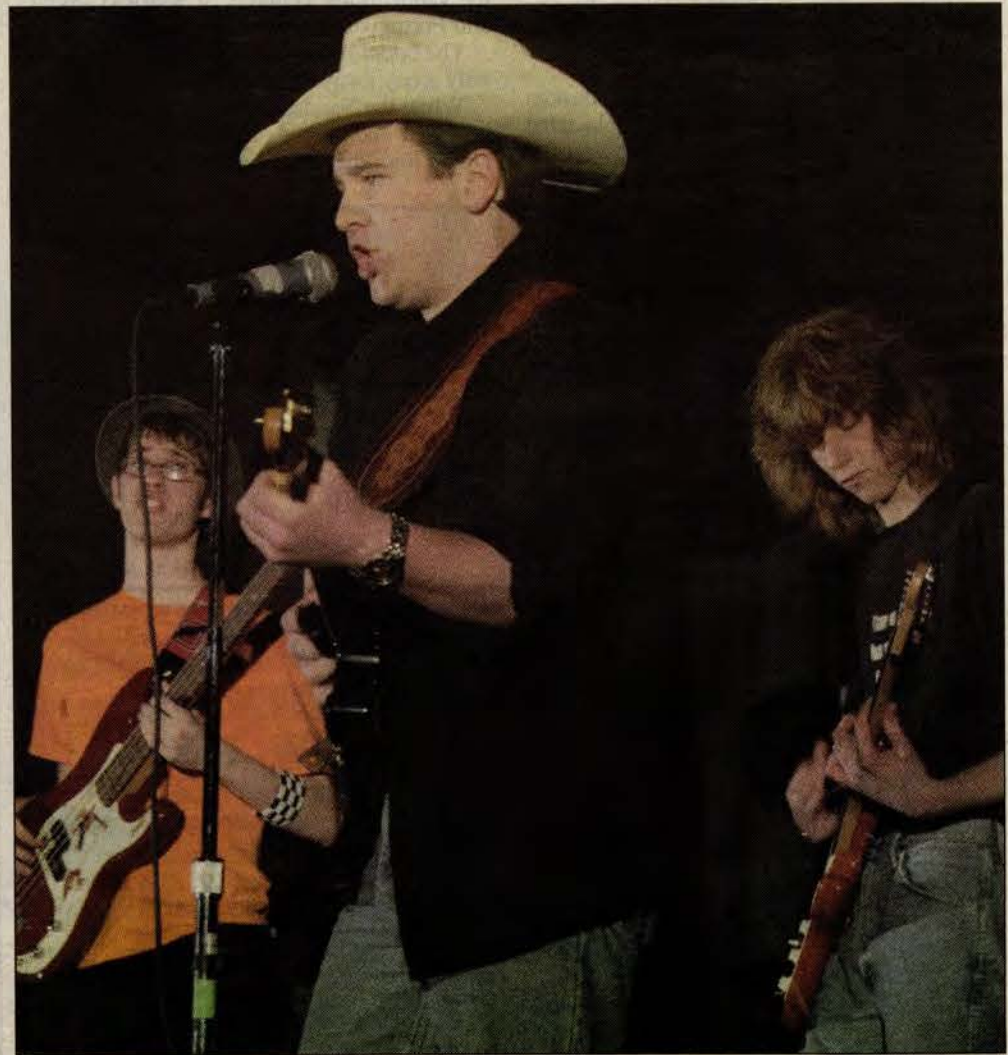
Photos by Jeff Kempenaar



Talent not a requirement
Teacher Bill Lolos shows off his best broom guitar playing to a roar of laughter.



Energy
Jeff Reno, Chris Wemp and Kaylie Wood of Prenuptu played some high energy rock.



Kickin' old school
Jake Zoller sings Folsom Prison Blues with Mark Godfrey and James Stone, who each jammed with different peers amongst the dozens of acts of all kinds.



Knights of Columbus create alcohol and substance abuse awareness
Students at St. Mary's Catholic School participated in the Knights of Columbus' annual poster contest on alcohol and substance abuse. Pictured here are the winners: Left back Matthew Westalaken, Kelsey Conway, Megan Campigotto, Paige Reno, Kasey Kosikar, Amy Olivera, Kelly McFadden, Garnet Stacey. Front: Shelby Pyka, Michelle Simoes, Rene Forgues. Kneeling: Jason Alves.

Classmates return 60 years later

BY KATE DUBINSKI
Free Press Education Reporter

WEST LORNE — Sixty years ago, they were memorizing their multiplication tables and falling in love.

Yesterday, some of those old jitters came back for more than 30 former Dutton high school students when they went back to Grade 9 at West Elgin secondary school as part of a class reunion.

Back then, the girls were addressed by their first name or as Miss, while the boys were Mister.

There were no "teenager" clothes, just skirts and penny loafers. The girls weren't

allowed to wear slacks.

And the only calculator allowed in math class was between the ears.

Math bingo was the first order of the day yesterday when the Dutton grads sat in on a Grade 9 math class, much to the disappointment of some grads.

"We're all retired. We're not used to working," joked one man.

"Will you be checking if we cheat?" another asked.

"I could never do math," whined a third woman.

Back in 1946, they were fresh-faced farm kids from around Dutton, starting their first year of high school.

Yesterday they came together again, with their careers behind them, joking about the years they spent together.

"We've had reunions. We've gotten together listening to music we knew 60 years ago, eating food we ate back then and then it hit me — the only thing we haven't done in 60 years is go back to Grade 9," said Bill Patterson, one of the organizers of the day that saw 38 of 52 students spend the day back at school.

His grandson, Drew Lebedz, who attends West Elgin, said: "I never thought I'd go to class with my grandparents. They're always telling me about stuff that's changed."

The former students wore lapel pins with their pictures from a Grade 9 school photograph — just in case they'd changed in six decades.

The seniors attended Dutton high school, which no longer exists: it now houses Dutton elementary school. West Elgin high is the closest high school.

After the brief math lesson with the Grade 9 class — some of the grads swore exponents weren't on the curriculum in 1956 — the 38 returning students and their spouses made their way to Dutton public school to get a look at their old school building.

See REUNION Page B2



SUSAN BRADNAM The London Free Press

PAST MEETS PRESENT: Marion Patterson Page shares a laugh with Katie King, 19. Page was attending the 60th anniversary of her Grade 9 class and spent the morning in a Grade 9 math class at West Elgin secondary school. She met King in the cafeteria.

WESES Christmas concert a success

The holiday season is around the corner, and our students at West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been working hard to collect non-perishable food items for our food drive.

Together, the school was able to send just more than 1,000 food items to the Daffodil Auxiliary, thanks to everyone who contributed by sending your food in with one of our students.

The school's December assembly about respect proved to be entertaining, as Mrs. Ewing's 7B class treated the staff and students to a performance about conflict and resolution.

On Nov. 24, the school celebrated a spirit day, as everyone wore their pyjamas, slippers, bathrobes, shower caps, put their hair in curlers and pigtails, and brought their teddy bears to school.

Although every class was showing outstanding spirit, 7A and 7B tied for the most, and brought the spirit banner back to their home rooms.

The Christmas concert Nov. 17 was a success. About 150 people gathered for phenomenal performances from the concert band, jazz band, choir, and a brand new percussion ensemble.

The different songs performed by the bands

WHAT'S UP AT WESES?

By Caitlin Simpson

featured solos from many of the band members.

In addition, Stephanie Sutton played We Wish You A Merry Christmas as a solo, and Emily Penney and Amy Gordon performed Deck The Halls.

The Grade 8 girls volleyball team had a terrific season this year.

They practised hard, and Mrs. Krista McLenaghan could see the continual improvement and increasing determination to win. They played a total of four tournaments, two in London and two at home.

The highlight of the season was surely the Nov. 18 home tournament, when they won the silver medal.

Mrs. McLenaghan congratulated Rae Hale, Jasmin Prince, Emily Varga, Jamie Stallon, Jamee Ellis, Kailyn Cedar, Kelsey Shaw, Tasha Stacey, Kelsey McTavish, Jonielle Wilson, Kylie Wilson, and Shawna MacDonald.

The Grade 8 boys also played a fantastic season. This year, they are the South West Regional Champions, after capturing the gold medal at the tournament on Dec. 6.

Miss. Carrie Ostrom congratulated, Robert Johnston, Rob Roos, Cole Schneckeburger, Sheldon Downie, Cody MacKinnon, Ryan Leys, Doug White, Mitch Kuska, Zach Dymock, Jason Ambrose, and Ben Welch.



Christmas Concert

Emily Penny and Amy Gordon perform a duet of Deck the Halls on clarinet at the West Elgin Senior Elementary School Christmas Concert Nov. 17.

SUBMITTED

WESES principal treats children as his own

David Westaway is making a home coming of sorts as the new principal at West Elgin Seniors Elementary School.

A student, then teacher at Southwold Public School, Westaway is making his professional return to Elgin County after teaching and administering schools in London.

Westaway comes from a family of educators, his mother Sandra taught at Aldborough and his father Bud taught in St. Thomas.

"It's come home, I'm comfortable in an agricultural community," said the



David Westaway

husband and father of three young children currently enrolled at Southwold.

Westaway was intrigued by the unique set up WESES has, twinning with the high school.

"This is an amazing facility," said Westaway, in his fourth year as principal and 14th year in education.

He has been impressed with the talented staff, a staff he will rely on.

"I'm not the brightest guy around. I need the support of the staff and local community to work together to find creative ways to support the children," he said.

Grade 7 and 8 can be tough years for students, Westaway recalls from his own education.

Students are still finding their peers and themselves.

One way to help students

through the tough and quick two years at WESES is to give them a broad perspective.

With literacy and numeracy as a backbone to education, school is a chance to educate the students as a whole, exposing them to every opportunity available in life.

"I treat students as if they were my own children because during the day they are my children," he said.

SCOTT VANRAES
IS THE SON OF W.I.
MEMBER ANITA VANRAES
AND GRANDSON OF
MARY LIEPMANN



Jr Wildcats win WOSSA

Back row: Melanie Granhadeiro, Emma Wilkins, Courtney Besley, Lauren Sheedy, Elysia Peskar, Hilary Hodder, coaches Meegan Campbell and Christina Gosnell. Middle row: Kaylie Wood, Jessica Varga, Meghan Schneider, Andrea Goos, Alanah Sutton. Front row: Caroline Levesley and Brittany Correia.

SUBMITTED

Wildcats win WOSSA 2006

The West Elgin Junior Girls Volleyball team brought home the Western Ontario Secondary School Association (WOSSA) championship recently.

The girls won the title by beating out CDL at the final WOSSA tournament in Goderich Feb. 27 bringing WOSSA to the Wildcats

where it belongs.

The win continues a tradition of strong volleyball teams at West Elgin Secondary School which has also benefitted from a strong program at the senior elementary school, where many of these girls played before coming to WESS.

My favourite Christmas memory

ALDBOROUGH
Grade 6

My best Christmas memory
My best Christmas memory is when me and my family go to my grandma and grandpa Liepman to celebrate Christmas. Usually me and Caleb, my cousin play our game boy but the fun part is when me and Caleb dress up as anyone or make up our own people. Sometimes me, Caleb and uncle Wayne go outside and have a snow ball fight, make snow forts and play hide & go seek. Sometime after 6:00 we have supper and after supper we open up the presents. The coolest Christmas present from uncle Wayne is a model of a van. Usually my present from grandma and grandpa is money for college.

But Christmas isn't about getting presents, it's about giving presents to other people and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Scott VanRaes

My Best Present Ever

A couple of Christmases ago I was at a party down 10 or 12 houses from my house. I was at the party for about 2 or 3 hours and then went home. On the way home my mom kept saying there was a surprise waiting for my dad & I at our house. She said the thing started with the

letter H. I guessed hat, hacky sack, hatchet and every thing else other than what it was! After about 3 minutes I gave up guessing but my mom still would not tell me. When we finally got home their was a big... um... something on our patio and from where I was standing it look like an old box but when I got closer to it I realized it was a... Hot Tub and on Christmas morning I also got a GameBoy Advance SP and one game called Super Mario Cart! That was my best Christmas ever!!

Ryan Alderton

My Favourite Memory!

My favourite Christmas Memory would have to be getting my new Pug-Dog. Well, it all started out in the year 2004... my Mom's best friend Sherry breeds Pug-Dogs.

So, one night we went to go see them. Mom, Cody and I all wanted a Pug-Dog but Dad said "NO!" That's typical Dad, just kidding.

Anyways, let's get on with our story... Later on that night, this one girl Pug-Dog wouldn't stop following my Mom and me. So... then Dad finally gave in when we were about to leave and we got a puppy!!! We named it Maggie and she's still alive in 2006!!

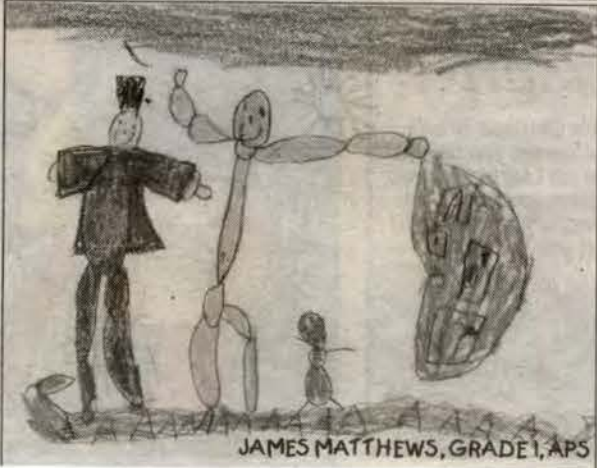
Stacy VanAcker



AMBER DEGRAW, GRADE 1, APS



KATE DOCHERTY, GRADE 1, APS



JAMES MATTHEWS, GRADE 1, APS



JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Students take on alumni

Cody Dinga of the alumni breaks away from Adam Clarke of the West Elgin Wildcats men's hockey team during the annual alumni game held March 24.

Alumni beat Wildcats

A young West Elgin Wildcats men's hockey team got a real test against the alumni team in the annual special game March 24.

The alumni team won 8-2 in front of a capacity crowd.

Leading the way for the alumni was Cody Degaust with a hat-trick.

For the first half of the game, the alumni dominated physically,

out racing the young Wildcats team to the puck.

However, next season looks bright for the Wildcats, says

Captain Pete Thomson, who has played his fifth and final year with the squad.

"This was a good test for the young guys, they haven't a had a real test like this all year," he said.

The team faired well despite the young roster, exiting the playoffs in the first round.

Coached by Ken Shine and teachers Rob Tait and Mark Bennett, direction for the game was simple.

"Have fun," said Shine.

Next year, the Wildcats are looking forward to having all but three players eligible to return.

Last year, the Wildcats tied the alumni but this year, couldn't compete against a fortified alumni team with more players available because of last week's college strike.

Brenden Carey scored for the Wildcats.

Andrew Coates, Mark Vergeer, Degaust and Joey Vandusen scored for the Alumni.

Students bought their way out of class and filled West Elgin Arena.

Money from the game is going to the school hockey team.

Next year, the school hopes to ice a girls hockey team, which would split athletics funding for hockey.



Football awards given at annual banquet

Members of the West Elgin Secondary School Wildcats varsity football team received awards at the team's banquet held recently.

Back: Kory Timmermans, Jesse Greenfield, Tyler Wood, Geoff Wayne. Front: Kevin Greenfield, Josh Kalita and Kyle Kuska received individual awards.

CONTRIBUTED

Mildcat football team awards given

The West Elgin Secondary School football team held its annual dinner and awards anquet the night of Nov. 30 in the school cafeteria.

Wildcat players, coaches and parents celebrated another successful season and recognized the many volunteers and players who ade an impact over the last three months. It has been evident on the field and on the ore sheet that the Wildcat football team has en tremendous growth over the last three ars.

Although the Wildcats completed the seann with a 2-4 record, their inspired play on field bodes well for future seasons.

The team's last two losses were by eight ints or less and the other teams in the gue are beginning to show them the pect that they deserve.

Four graduating players have been the merstones of this team for the last two seas.

Tyler Wood was awarded team MVP honrs for his stellar play this season. Wood yed Tight end, Running back, Defensive i and took care of all kicking duties for the m. Wood led the team with two touchwn receptions and one rushing touchdown s season.

Kory Timmermans has been the vocal der of this team for three years and for the rd straight season was named the teams fensive MVP. His experience with the

London Falcons allowed him to take charge of the defense and teach younger players how to succeed. This season he played both ways as a linebacker and offensive guard.

Jesse Greenfield, this years top lineman, leads with his heart and determination. Having played both ways for over two years Jesse will be very difficult to replace. His combination of power and speed made him extremely effective as an offensive tackle and defensive end.

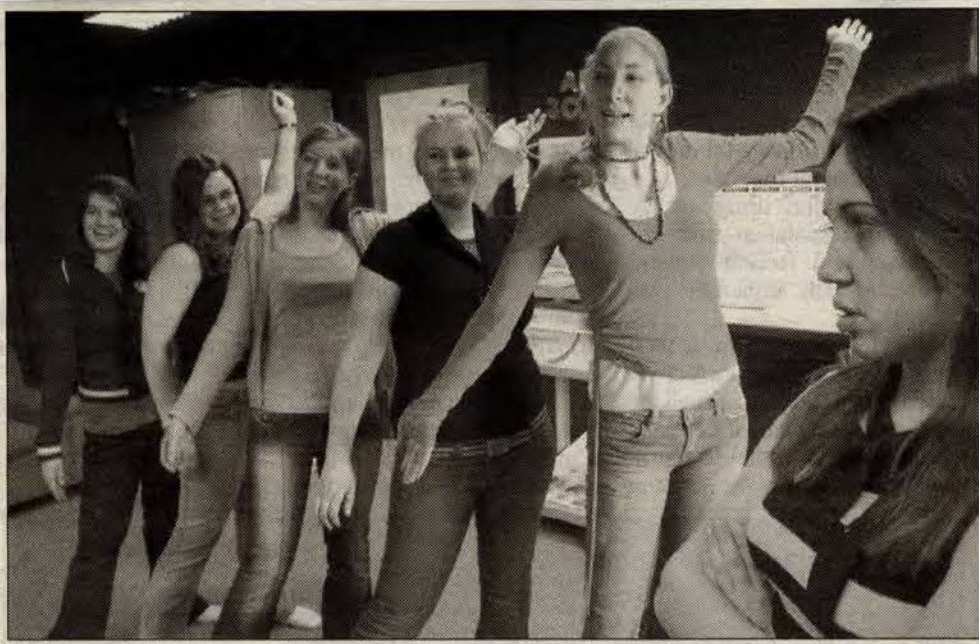
The coaches award for Leadership went to the fourth graduating player, Geoff Wayne. Geoff played defensive back and wide receiver and was an instrumental part of both the offense and defense. Geoff's reliable hands and great anticipation allowed him to make several big plays this season.

These four athletes will be very difficult to replace next season. The coaching staff is looking to a few key players to step up their play and leadership next year in order to fill the void.

Other award winners included: Kevin Greenfield (Offensive MVP), Josh Kalita (Rookie of the year) and Kyle Kuska (Coaches Award for Dedication)

The banquet ended with two slide shows prepared for by assistant coach Greg Bums.

The slide show included video highlight reels and incredible still photos taken by team photographers Evelyn Dietrich, Helena Wood and Joleen Crawford



Hollywood unimpressed with local talent JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
The lead in All Show, a WESS Drama production, right, is a Hollywood actress played by Devi Dermo. She's unimpressed with the local theatre group: Left to right, Ariel Whalen, Chantelle Ovecka, Rebecca Stone, Nickie Day and Amanda Hood.

Energetic WESS students show well at drama festival

A dynamic energy fueled West Elgin Secondary Students to enter two productions at the SEARS festival in Aylmer last week.

Star Devi Dermo received an acting award of merit and Amanda Hood received an award for directing at the festival.

WESS represented two of a total of five plays performed at the festival.

The first play, called All Show was produced by the students.

It's about an arrogant Hollywood actress with her career on the verge of collapse.

Trying to shine her once glimmering starlight, the actress (played by Devi Dermo), returns to her home town (supplant Rodney) to perform in a community talent show.

The students plan to perform the play later this month for the local community.

"It's funny," said Chantelle Ovecka Wubs.

New dramatics teacher, Mike Lynds, said the contrast between Hollywood glitz and

small town living is exaggerated.

"It's awesome," said Ariel Whalen, Grade 9 student.

The play's cast and crew crosses class and grade strata at the school.

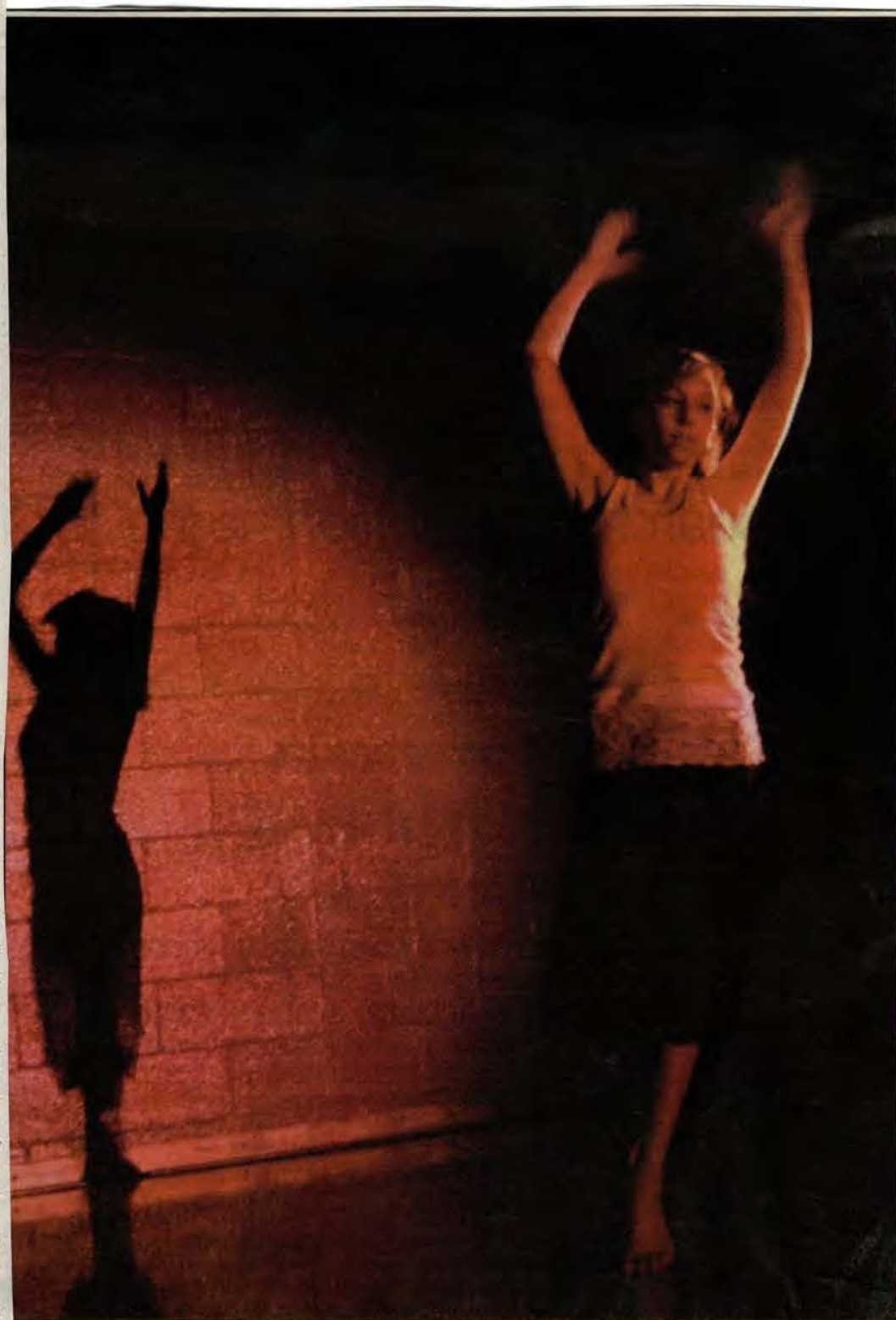
He said since he was hired in September as the first, qualified drama teacher at WESS, a dynamic energy to perform is exploding at the school.

"These kids want to do everything," he said. "This is all extra-curricular so it's difficult to help them find a balance between the structured learning and extracurricular."

Already, 22 students are helping with the two productions performed at Sears and two more productions are being added for the community this year.

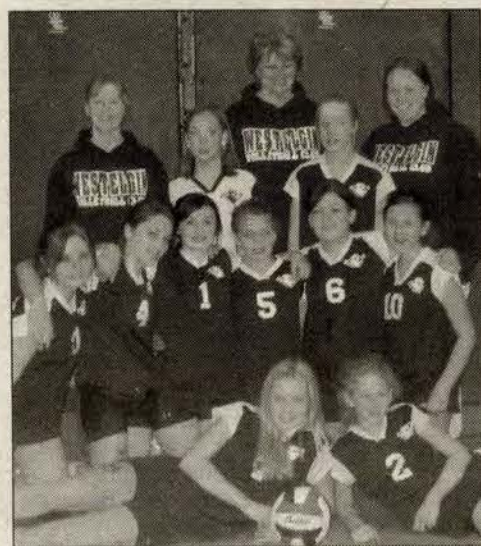
Lynds was hopeful both productions would be chosen to compete at the regional finals.

"It is a competition, but everyone is doing this because its fun," he said.



WESS students in spotlight JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE
Katie Miller dances during a talent show March 31 at West Elgin Secondary School. Staff and students performed in front of a raucous crowd in the gymnasium.

Warriors compete in provincial championships



The West Elgin Warriors U14 Volleyball Team finished out their season this past weekend travelling to Port Colborne for the Provincial Championships.

The Team competed in five tournaments during the season, earning a place in Tier 4.

The Warriors battled hard on Saturday, just missing the medal round by two points against the first place rivals Riverside taking them to three games (24-26, 25-23 and 13-15)

Every year at the Provincial

Championships the Award of Excellence is presented to one Team member for each team.

The Ontario Volleyball Association of Excellence was awarded to our setter #5 Emily Varga.

The girls had a lot of fun playing volleyball this year with Head Coach Donna Mylrea, Assistant Coach Sarah Leitch and Trainer/Manager Rachel Kalita for all the hard work and dedication to our girls! Without you three we could not have done it!

Warriors compete in provincials

The West Elgin Warriors competed in the provincial championships this past weekend. The team is, laying down are: Patrycja Ford 7 and Debbie Levesly 2. Second row Stephanie Campbell 11, Sarah King 4, Maddi Gosnell 1, Emily Varga 5, Jonielle Wilson 6 and Randi Woolley 10. Third row, Carlee O'Connor 8, Laura Pinder 13. Back Row: Assistant Coach Sarah Leitch, Head Coach Donna Mylrea and Trainer/Manager Rachel Kalita. Absent are: Kristin Mylrea 15 and Karlie Snobelen 12.

SUBMITTED

Junior girls volleyball team win WOSSA

The West Elgin Junior Girls Volleyball team won the Western Ontario Secondary School Association Championship Feb. 27.

The girls beat CDL in four sets to take the tournament held in Goderich.

The team went undefeated during the regular season however lost to CDL to lose the Thames Valley championships.

"Both teams were evenly matched," said coach Meegan Campbell. "Our girls

were determined. There was no way they were going to lose WOSSA."

The team was made up of Courtney Besley, Brittany Correia, Melanie Ganhadeiro, Andrea Goos, Hilary Hodder, Brodi Jewell, Caroline Levelsey, Elysia Peskar, Meghan Schneider, Lauren Sheedy, Alanah Sutton, Jessica Varga, Emma Wilkins and Kaylie Wood.

Coaches were Campbell and Christina Gosnell.



Atom girls team battling in playoffs

SUBMITTED

The newly formed Atom girl's hockey team is enjoying a year of laughs and development. Comprised of 15 kids including eight under-aged Novice players and four first-time hockey players, they started the year with several losses, but kept learning and working hard and now compete well against all teams. They are currently battling it out in the playoffs against Mt. Brydges, South Huron and St. Mary's in a round-robin format. Pictured above are: Back 1-r Jenna Verboom, Rachel Gray, Jodie Aldred, Courtney Van Dyk, Steele Van Dyk, Rachel Frizzell, Carley Oliveira, Mikayla Myers, Brooklyn Jones, Front 1-r Brittany Mylrea, Abi Hansen, Courtney Simpson, Cassidy Van Dyk, Samantha Riemens and Katie Andrews.



Wildcats win WOSSA

Off to OFSSA

West Elgin Secondary School senior boys volleyball team beat Goderich in an exciting finale to the Western Ontario Secondary School Athletics championship hosted by WESS Nov. 16. The boys now move onto the Ontario finals this weekend. *Please see WESS, page 8*

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

APS principal excited

Aldborough Public School's new principal's door is always open.

Students are encouraged to come in and read their favourite story to her, but should know she may come and read her favourite story to classes.

Christine Blagden, from Middlemarch, has been with the Thames Valley District School Board for 25 years, since she started as a teacher in a four class school, Mary Buck in St. Thomas.

Already overwhelmed by the staff's enthusiasm to learn, Blagden hopes to build on the strong connection Aldborough has with the community.

Being a good role model is a key philosophy for Blagden, approaching any new position.

She is a life long learner and says that's what all students



Christine Blagden

should be encouraged to become.

"All of us need to work together. The school, the community and parents all have to work together to find what's best for students," she said.

"I like when I accomplish something personally but it is more rewarding when my accomplishment has made a positive difference in people's lives," she said.

The mother of two, a son and daughter in university, Blagden is married to an IT group leader, Michael, who works at the TVDSB South office in St. Thomas.

She has taught in London, St. Thomas and for many years at Southwold Public School.

She replaces Gord Park who retired last year.



Talent show

West Elgin Secondary School held a talent show Nov. 22. Above: Chris Wemp and Will Browne perform. Below: James Stone and Dave Oliveira performed solos. Students danced, sang and played music in the competition. Caren Campbell with Jake Zoller and Michael and Jonathan Godfrey won. Katelyn and Jessica Duplessis finished second.

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

WESS band buys barbeque

*Jeff Kempenaar
Staff*

Music students cooked up a gift for the cafeteria at West Elgin Secondary School when they donated a new barbeque worth more than \$500.

Gathering money from the annual school band's jazz cabaret show over the last four years, the students surprised the cafeteria staff with the gift last week.

"It's beautiful. I've never seen one so big," said Anne Wrobel, cafeteria supervisor.

West Elgin Student Association Inc. is the only non-profit cafeteria in the school board and Wrobel has been working there for 17 years.

"These ladies do a great job," said music teacher Spiro Grima. "They help students with economic needs and work really hard. We needed to help them."

At each jazz cabaret the cafeteria had collected money to support the school band.

It was part of a community-wide effort that raised \$27,000 for new instruments.

The school band has capitalized on the new instruments to win five gold medals in the last six years at the regional band competition.

"We've really been cooking the last few years," said Grima.

Wrobel plans on cooking on the new barbeque as soon as she can.

The new barbeque replaces an old, home-sized, range and allows more food to be made



Cafeteria staff to benefit with big grill

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Music teacher Spiro Grima, left and West Elgin Secondary School band members, Jen Ford, Mandy Mistele, Mark Godfrey, Trena Lebedz, along with George Cipu show off the new barbeque donated to JJ's Cafeteria in return for all the fundraising support the cafeteria did for the band.

quicker.

It was used primarily outside during the late spring because the cafeteria does not have air conditioning.

"All the staff is lining up to cook on the grill," said Grima.

On April 8 the band's jazz cabaret will be held at WESS.