

Gymfest

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

Hannah, left and Sarah Holder, right, are helped on the balance beam by coach Amber Crawford at the West Elgin Gym Club Gymfest March 10. Throughout the morning members of the club showed parents and judges the skills they learned in this session.

Daffodil Auxiliary gives to STEGH

Jerry Galbraith, board member with the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital Foundation met with Leola Lawrence and Colin Kittmer of the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary last week. The Auxiliary donated \$7,400 toward a digital mammography machine for the hospital. The money was raised at the Octoberfest Mixed Classic Golf Tournament held at Dutton Meadows Golf Club. Over the years, the Auxiliary has donated more than \$40,000 to STEGH.



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Chamber holding diffier

"What's in it for me?"

West Elgin Chamber of Commerce hopes to answer that question for members and anyone interested in the business community at a social evening March 6.

The chamber is hoping to rejuvenate the local business community with a dinner being held at Lake View Gardens.

Business owners, the selfemployed, farmers, health professionals and anyone interested in community development is invited to network and have a frank and open discussion about the local economy.

local economy. Top of the list, the chamber wants to address the state of businesses' and buildings in Rodney and West Lorne.

While discussion on vacant or older buildings has gone on for years, new chamber president Heather Bell hopes some solutions will come out at the meeting.

Guest speaker for the evening is Helen LeFrank, general manager for the Elgin Community Futures Development Corporation.

"Helen has seen development work and been part of it. She knows what we're trying to accomplish out here," said Bell. "We want people to come share stories of what has worked."

While efforts to bring new business won't end, Bell said the chamber's focus now is on improving and servicing the businesses that are already here.

That's where the web site will hopefully help. "People don't even use phone

"People don't even use phone books anymore. They use the Internet," said Bell. The web site is a directory for

The web site is a directory for local people to find services and information about local business. A semi-official launch of the

A semi-official launch of the web site, where its content will be presented, is also on the agenda.

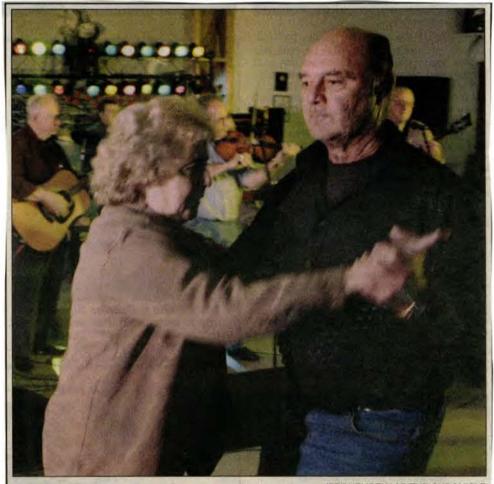
presented, is also on the agenda. The dinner meeting is March 6 starting at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour. Tickets will be available at Marg's Variety and the LCBO store in Rodney, Heather Bell's Sewing Studio and the Chronicle.





Nature

On Sunday, the West Elgin Nature Club led tours across the area as part of the weekend. Above, George Prieksaitis explains digiscoping to Evelyn Freisinger at Old Boys Memorial Park. Below Caroline Guest shows plants found in the area at Mistele Road.





Kiwanians help library

Allen Ure, Lt. Governor for District 4 of the Kiwanis Club joined the dedication of children's books with Shelley Fleming, librarian, at the West Lorne Library Saturday. The Kiwanians and Honda Books for Kids purchased more than \$3,000 worth of new books including seasonal books. SEPT. b/07

Legion jamboree a hoot

JEFF KEMPENAAR/THE CHRONICLE

West Elgin Legion Branch #221 was rockin' all day and night with a fundraising jamboree April 1. Here, Judy and Dave Page of Wallacetown dance along to a waltz.

Hort. Society may fold

Dear Editor,

The village of West Lorne and its surrounding community are indeed fortunate to have so many dedicated service groups. These organizations, founded and run by volunteers, are a vital part of life within our community. Sadly, for many of these groups volunteers are not stepping forward and such is the case for the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society.

This society provides to our community the chance to purchase plants and trees and the information to care for those purchases, knowledgeable guest speakers at monthly meetings, a bursary to a graduating horticultural/agricultural high school student and volunteers who select, plant and maintain the flower beds and planters around town.

We applied for and received a Trillium grant to provide the town of West Lorne with benches, attractive garbage receptacles, banners and, at one time, hanging baskets."

We worked with our local council to select new light posts for the downtown core and we continue to decorate the core for the holiday seasons.

All of this will soon come to an end, though, if we cannot get more people from the community to step up and help out.

Our horticultural society is in serious danger of folding.

Imagine that, an organization, that was founded 80 years ago, gone, all due to a lack of interest. Yes, you all have busy lives, but so do we. Ask any volunteer in any organization and you'll likely find that they belong to more than one service group, have busy families and full-time jobs and careers. These people really can't do more than they are doing now but there are plenty of people out there who could.

So, the next time you pass judgment about the choice or lack of flowers that our society did or did

not plant, those darn weeds that never seem to get pulled quickly enough, or wonder why we don't get decorations up or down as quickly as we could, please know that we would appreciate your help. We really would like to do more for our community but we need more help.

Just a few hours each month goes a long way to beautifying and bettering our community for everyone's benefit.

The West Elgin council, some of the local business owners and the Chamber of Commerce assist us financially and we are truly thankful for that, but it is volunteers that are needed to make it all work.

Come out to our meetings and see what we're all about. You'll find that we're just like you once you get to know us. We hope to see you before it's too late.

Susan Lilley, **Past-president** West Lorne and **Community Horticultural** Society

Organic gardening examined by group

Horticulturalist Shirley Bellows was in town, on April 13, as the guest speaker for the West Lorne and C o m m u n i t y Horticultural Society.

Bellows, a retired Master Gardener and a member of Seeds of Diversity Canada and the Canadian Organic Growers, spoke to the society's members and guests about 'Gardening with Nature: Organic Gardening".

Bellows has been gardening organically, since she was a small child. As she explained, herbicides and pesticides were developed as weapons of war, in particular, the second world war.

Chemicals, such as malathion, diazinon, and 2-4D, were invented to kill humans, not plants and insects. Over time, their use was expanded, as witnessed by Viet Nam participants, where Agent Orange, another chemical, was used to defoliate the countryside, so enemy troops could not take advantage of the heavy ground cover, during battles. For these reasons, chemicals, in the home and garden should be handled cautiously and carefully, by those who choose to use them.

For the home gardener, Bellows encourages them to work with nature. "Good bug or bad bug?", was the most frequently asked question, during Bellows' slide show. She told the group that the habit around her

WEST LORNE HORTICULTURE NEWS

property is to" look before you because you could be exterminating a friendly Spiders are insect. another favourite of

Bellows. They capture far more bad insects than they do good ones. Birds are another ally, eating many insects and supplying the home gardener with a symphony of sound.

Unfortunately, for the region, Bellows and her husband are relocating to Vancouver Island, this summer, to be closer to family. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

President Liz Clark thanked everyone for attending and made a few announcements.

The next directors' meeting is April 28, at the West Lorne Complex at 7:30 p.m.

The society's May 11 meeting will consist of a craft night, where folks can attend and make a "Living Wreath". You must pre-register for this event by calling Liz, at 768-1282. There is another bus trip, coming up on June 15, to Grey County, where guests will be able to purchase unique items and some hard to find plants. Again, contact Liz Clark, if you're interested in going on this trip.

The society held its annual garden sale on May 8 at the West Lorne Complex with a wide range of indoor and outdoor plants for the community to choose from.

Horticulture society hear of hybrid roses, from master gardener

Well-known Master Gardener Diane Vaughan visited the West Lorne Hort. Soc. April 10 to share her knowledge of David Austin: "A Man and his Roses"

With her added humor and wit she made the presentation very enjoyable and informative.

With the use of slides she showed some of the gorgeous species of roses David has propagated over the years and talked of his accomplishments since starting his own business.

David was born in Shropshire, England, in 1926, and was raised on

the family farm. He showed an interest in

horticulture at a very young age. Following the Second World War he inherited

his parents' farm and decided to sell his own plants. His dream was to develop a rose which was a cross between an "old world" rose and a hybrid of today - " a perfect

rose Beautiful roses were the result of his labours and after starting his own greenhouses he sold his products all over the world.

He employs 100 and produces a catalogue fea-

WEST LORNE HORTICULTURE SOCIETY

NEWS

turing over 500 species of roses.

Every rose he produced he named, ranging from family members, musicians, Shakespeare's characters and many more.

The audience showed its appreciation to her and she answered many questions

Past-pres. Susan Lillie thanked Diane with a gift from the society.

Lunch was served by Wendy and Dora.

Perennials include Grecian Windflower, est spring blooming perennials is the Pasque flower (pulsatilla vulgaris). It has purple,

spring bloomers WEST LORNE & COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

NEWS

Society identify

"Bring spring into your garden early" was the message brought by guest speaker, Susanne Spence-Wilkins, to the West Lorne & Community Horticultural Society on March 13. There are many early blooming shrubs and perennials for the garden, many of which are native to southwestern Ontario.

Witch Hazel "Diane" blooms in late February/ early March. Serviceberry, with white blooms, also has edible black berries and attracts birds. Flowering Dogwood (Cornus Florida has lovely white bracts in the spring and is our society's floral emblem. The Easter Redbud (cersis) is another beautiful small tree. Some local examples of these can be seen on the northern-most side of the railroad park, along Jane Street. Long-time favourite, forsythia, along with Moutain Fire Pieris and Star Mangolia are also spring bloomers.

anemone, and bloodroot. One of the prettired, or white blooms and is named after Ester. Epimedium, a ground cover, and Coral Bells (Heuchera) are other spring blooming plants. All of the above, planted either in combination or on their own will provide you with some much needed spring therapy, once winter loosens its grip. Susanne answered questions and shared her knowledge, which she has gained as a West Elgin Master Gardener and also as the owner of Town & Country Landscaping. Susanne was thanked for her expertise and then everyone enjoyed a light luncheon. On April 10 our guest speaker was set to be Diane Vaughan talking about David Austin: The Man and His Roses.



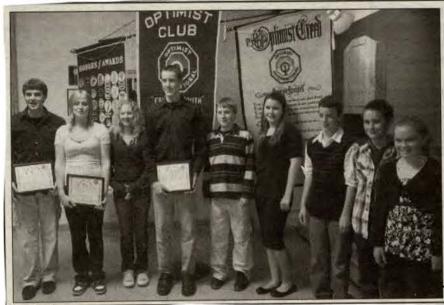
Plant show

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Kim Penny and Betty McKillop listen to Jim Mabee who judged the annual plant show hosted by the West Lorne Horticultural Society at the West Elgin Community Health Centre June 22.



Zackery Greenham, Brody Bodkin and Nathan Hoar have been learning stances and fighting techniques from Ryan Ireland as part of the little ninjas program with West Elgin Martial Arts.



Outstanding youths The Optimist Club of West Lorne "Outstanding Youth Awards" were presented Nov. 20. The award recognizes young people for generous contribution to society and the welfare of others. From Left to Right: Jeremy Wood, Koscik, Kaylie Levesley Debbie and Jonathan Godfrey from WESS, Maikel Dieker and Amy Oliveira from St. Mary's Catholic Elementary School, Evan Ross from WESES, Jordan Mc Coll and Kim Bandeen from Aldborough Elementary School. JEAN GUY ST JACQUES

DEC 1 107 THE CHRONICLE



JEAN GUY ST JACQUES/THE CHRONICLE

Walter Ostanek

Walter Ostanek, Polka King, entertained 147 people at the Elgin International Club May 20.

Ostanek plays at International Club

Multi Grammy Award winning polka star Walter Ostanek and his band played at the Elgin International Club's monthly dance Sunday.

The St. Catherine's residence returned to the club and entertained 147 people with his polka classics.

The 72-year-old has made 50 recordings over his 40 year career and won three Grammy's so far.

At the dance, organizers recognized Sophie House, Claude W. Drouin and his wife Marion who prepared the dinner. House has been preparing meals there for 36 years.

At the April meeting of West Elgin Genealogical & WEST ELCIN MAY 19/07 given in private homes. In 1869 a church, St.

Established in 1826, the diocese of Kingston included all of present-day southern Ontario. In 1827 Colonel Thomas Talbot invited the bishop of Kingston to his Dunwich home.

There, the first baptisms took place on July 27, 1827, the **NE** two children of James & Ellen Taff. The next day the first Catholic marriage occurred, Bridget Taff & Edward Brady. It was also through the efforts of Talbot that a priest was secured & in 1825 or 1827 Mass was celebrated in Southwold.

In 1854 St. Thomas was established as a parish and priests from there served parishioners throughout Elgin County. Mass was said and

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Historical Society, Dan Brock talked on the history of the **GENEALOGICAL AND** Columbkille, was built in Dunwich and another, St Henry's, Catholic Church in West Elgin. families arrived in the vicinity of today's West Lorne, there was a need for a larger and a centrally located building. Thus, in 1885 a new church was opened in West Lorne. St

Henry's was closed in the early 1980's and at present, its

future is under review. In 1902 a more centrally located church, St. Helen's, was opened in Wallacetown. St. Columbkille was sold and moved for use as an implement shed. The present St. Mary's Church was opened in 1973 and the parish hall and rectory were constructed in 1993.

In concluding, Brock noted his research revealed a spirit of co-operation between Catholics and Protestants has existed here since the early days.



Optimist help Heritage House

West Lorne Heritage Homes continues to receive excellent community support in its fund-raising efforts. A goal of \$70,000 to be raised by the community will go towards the \$2.2 million seniors housing project. Here Board Chair Harry Mezenberg (left) receives a cheque for \$1000 from Optimist Club of West Lorne past-president, Doug Staddon.



Country Jamboree John McIntyre from Dutton on violin, Ralph Fleet on guitar from Nova Scotia, Tom Morris n guitar and Jimmy Kovacs on banjo from West Lorne perform at West om Rodne

Elgin Legion Branch 221 at a Country Music Jamboree on Saturday.

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SUBMITTED

Nature tour Sunday

Marjorie Prieksaitis of the West Elgin Nature Club and Diane Van Dyk member of the Marketing Partners of Western Elgin Region (MPoWER) pose with the Travel Western Elgin's Open Trails tour guide.

SUBMITTED

The guide outlines the stops on the car tour and guided nature walk and will be given to all participants who register for the tour between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.on Sunday, May 27 at the Backus-Page House Museum. Everyone is encouraged to come out and experience our Carolinian forest and spring flora.

MAY 24/07





Building birdhouses

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Three generations, Janice and Jada Krebs, left and right, Joan Neil build a birdhouse in Ken Wilton's wood shop Feb. 17 as the West Elgin Nature Club spent the afternoon assembling 62 birdhouses to be available for residents put up across the area.

Sharon Little new choir director West Elgin Choral Society

Pat Campbell, President of the West Elgin Choral Society, announced that Sharon Little will become the choir's Music Director, on a trial basis, beginning March 13.

The vacancy opened up when Wayne Carroll resigned for health reasons following the choir's Christmas concert in December. Wayne had held the position for nine years, ever since the Choral Society first began in 1998.

The Choir's Board of Directors cancelled their planned March concert in order to search for a new leader. "We are extremely pleased with the successful and happy outcome," said Campbell. "Sharon is very talented and full of innovative ideas. She will bring fresh excitement to our choir'

Sharon Little is a well-known local personality, having led the West Elgin Community Band for 10 years. She brings her Royal Conservatory of Music accreditation to her new appointment along with high school teaching experience (choral, strings, band) and performance capabilities on a number of instruments. In earlier years she also sang with the London Fanshaw Chorus and directed stage musicals at Teacher's College and at UWO.

In addition to her private music students, Sharon is currently Staff Coordinator at the National Music Camp of Canada where she has taught since 1978. She is also a regular presenter and clinician at the Ontario Music Educators' Conference each year.

"It seems like a perfect fit", said Campbell. "Sharon has sung and taught music from around the world. She has an amazing grasp of languages, cultures and musical traditions - from Bach to Boogie! Our patrons are in for some wonderful surprises."

Program planning is already under way for the Choral Society's Spring Concert on May 19th. It will feature the George Laidlaw Jazz Quartet, who will perform new arrangements such as 'Yellow Bird' and 'Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans" with the choir.



Sharon Little Sharon Little has taken the helm of the West Elgin Choral Society.



Local Optimists recognized West Lorne Optimist members Dorothy & Doug Staddon were recently presented at the district level with a trophy for New Club Building after helping Centre Ice Youth Club in West Lorne become its own Optimist Club.

Talent show tradition renewed by schools and Kiwanians

By Lynn Gracey

West Elgin Senior Elementary School Music teachers from local schools and the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne will join

together for the first time to organize a showcase concert of our community's musical tal-ent March 29 at 7 p.m. at West Elgin Secondary School.

Traditionally, each of the schools have organized separate performances to show off the talented youth in our community, but with the unfortunate discontinuation of the long lived West Lorne Talent Show last year, the Kiwanis Club of West Lorne and the area schools - Aldborough Public School, Dutton-Dunwich Public School, West Elgin Senior Elementary School and West Elgin Secondary School - have banded together to give a forum for local youth to showcase their music.

Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, the concert will be held in the gym at WESS and will feature the ensembles from each school. Mrs. Neil will be conducting the Primary and Junior Choirs from Aldborough, Mr.

WESES Choir, Jazz Band and Concert Band, and Ms. Emke will conduct the

WESS Junior Band, the Senior Band and the Jazz Band.

More than 200 students will be performing in the concert and it is sure to be a fantastic spectacle never before heard in the area.

Tickets can be purchased through any school music teacher, West Lorne Kiwanis **Club Talent Show**

door.

Robertson will direct the Dutton Dynamo through your support we can begin a tradi-Singers, Mrs. Gracey will conduct the tion in West Elgin of an annual showcase

concert allowing the community to see the musical talent our youth possess.



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member, or at the Dunwich-Dutton Public School held its talent show with students for vari-It is hoped that ous grades before March break at the school.





Bird rehabilitation

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Brian Salt, founder and director of Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Mount Brydges shows Chicar, a raptor from East India at the West Lorne Optimist Club meeting March 7. Salthaven helping animals

Brian Salt, founder of Wildlife Salthaven Rehabilitation and Education Centre in Mount Brydges talked to members of the West Lorne Optimist Club March 7. Salt said many people find

stranded animals and too quickly pick them up. He also said many people

make the mistake of feeding animals milk, which often causes problems for the animal's digestive system.

Youth speak on their Biggest Challenge

SUBMITTED

85

Local students took the opportunity to speak about their biggest challenge at the Optimist Club of West Lorne's Oratorical contest. Pictured left to right (front row) Justin Wheeler and Kyle Brown; (middle row) Brandon DeCook, Alex Kirschner, Breyanne Serle, Alex Goos and Megan Dennahower; (back row) Optimist President Ken Neil, Andrew Gumpert and Jacob Rowe. Alex Kirschner and Alex Goos will go on to the regional boys and girls competition held in Ridgetown on March 31st.



Jazz band joins West Elgin Choral Society George Laidlaw's Quartet jazz band joined the West Elgin Choral Society Saturday night for a concert held at West Elgin Secondary School.

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Guests take glory WEST LORNE LAWNBOWLERS

Results

Our Tournament event began at 4 p.m. on a pleasant afternoon with a gentle breeze encouraging all competing. Three games of 12 ends were enjoyed

by 16 aggressive players at the Willson Towing Tournament July 2.

After the first game, Jean Vanseader and Alberta Jones served a delicious meal to all in attendance.

Playing resumed after lunch and those victorious were:

1st Place: Les and Shirley Hogg from Ridgetown with 3 wins and 32 points.

2nd Place: Joseph and Diane Isley from Learnington, with 2 wins and 37 points.

3rd Place: Ken Willson and Hugh McCahon, with 2 wins and 34 points.

4th Place: Jim West and Jackie Leitch, with 2 wins and 27 points.

Best Effort: Jean Besley and Hubert Vergeer, with 22 points.

Interested in something to do on Monday or Thursday evening at 7 p.m.? Come and try your hand at lawnbowling.



PHOTO BY RICHARD HADASH West Elgin Community Band Bob Davis, right and his grandson, Ben McArthur, of London, make music together at WECB concert, Heroes and Villains June 11 at St. Mary's Parish Hall.



John and Sally McIntyre and Evelyn Gaskell and Jim Carmichael. SUBMITTED Locals attend Edinburgh Military Tattoo

John McIntyre and Jim Carmichael, members of the West Elgin Legion, Branch 221

attended the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland Aug. 20. Many Royal Canadian Legion members from across Canada played in the Canadian Massed Pipes & Drums band. What an honour and emotional experience it was to march through the arched entrance gate of Edinburgh Castle playing Barren Rocks of Eden. The band was led by Drum Major Norm MacKenzie and Senior Pipe Major Ross BAxter

Band members and supporters were billeted at Edinburgh University at Pollock Halls. The band and supporters were bussed, played and marched in parades at Pitlochry, Dumfriees, DunFermline, Crieff Highland Games, Perth, Dundee, the Irvine and Marrymass Festival (which dates back 1,000 years).

John and Sally McIntyre and Jim Carmichael and Evelyn Gaskell rented a car and toured Edinburgh Castle, Glasgow, Stirling Castle (Robert the Bruce) defeated the English in the battle of Stirling Bridge on Sept. 11, 1297, liberating the country. They also visited the village of Carmichael in Lanarkshire, Glencoe and Loch Leven and Glamis Castle. They also took a boat ride on Loch Lomond, lunched at Rob Roy's Inn and visited friends near Kendal. In the Lake District, they took a boat ride from Windermere to Ambleside.



Cadets hold annual ceremonial review

> West Elgin Cadet Corp. 2884 held its annual ceremonial inspection and review Saturday at the West Elgin Arena. Left: World War 2 veteran from St. Thomas, Arthur Bridgman and the reviewing party are led by Sergeant Robert Nute and Chief Warrant Officer Jessica Kalita as they review the cadets deportment and dress. Below: Cadets take part in demonstrations, a race. The cadets conducted drills, including

> marches before being presented with awards. West Elgin 2884 currently has 38 cadets in two troops and a colour guard.

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Skate don't smoke

MELANIE KNAPP/WECHC

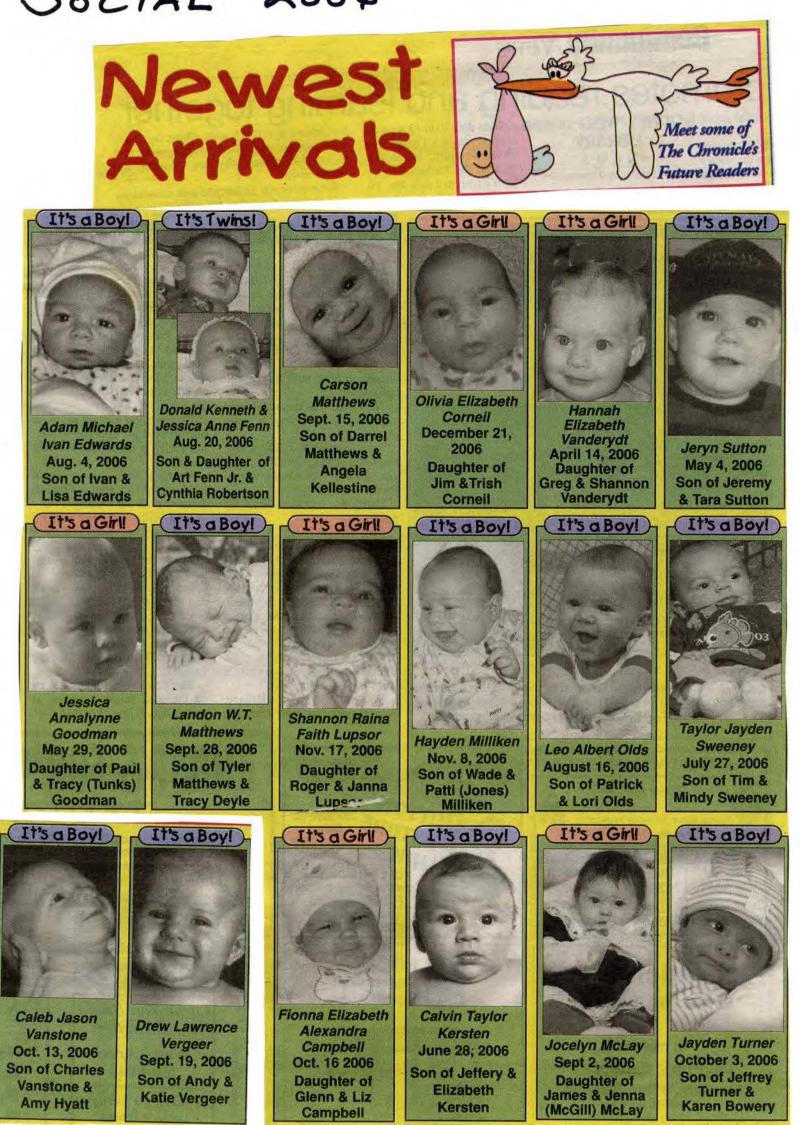
Scott Snake, Chris Ward, Steven Milne, Brent Dunn and Jesse Camenzuli produced an antitobacco video with the Centre Ice Youth Club in West Lorne last week for a youth conference in Cornwall hosted by Town Youth Participation Strategies, which gave \$1,000 for the video.

Tribute to Sifton

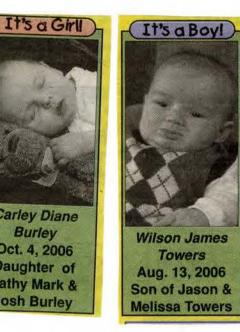
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Capt. Mike Bridgman, left, Corps 2884 West Elgin Royal Army Cadets supports Master Cpl. Allan Percival of West Lorne as he provides honor guard duties at the Ellis Sifton tribute including his medals at the Elgin Military Museum during the memorial service for the battle of Vimy Ridge Monday. Sifton was awarded the Victoria Cross for his heroic actions during that battle.

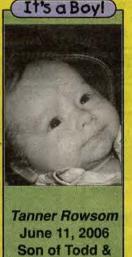
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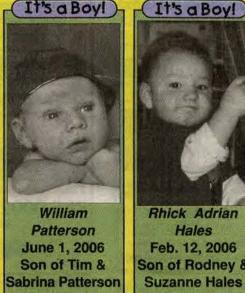








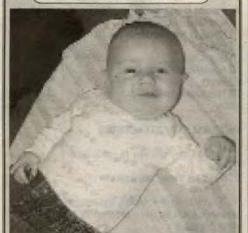




Rhick Adrian Hales Feb. 12, 2006 Son of Rodney & **Suzanne Hales**

SOCIAL 2006

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT >



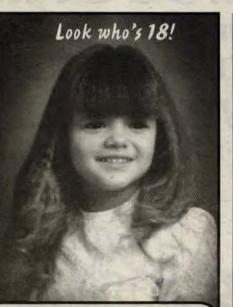
Welcome Drew Lawrence Vergeer born Sept. 19th 2006 in St. Thomas, weighing in at 8 lbs 3 oz. Son of Katie and Andy Vergeer, grandson of Deb & Joe Dees and Harry and Joann Vergeer. Great grandson of Earl and Hilda Morden, Henrica Vergeer, Jack Blaxall, Cleo & Martha Gubbels.



Ilda & Carlos Oliveira together with Susan & Dale Peacock are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Elsa & Ryan



Eamon Johnston graduated from the University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, May 18, 2006 with a diploma in Agriculture. Eamon was the valedictorian and is currently employed by London Ag Commodities. Congratulations from your family!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMANDA Love always, Mom & Ryan



Devon Johnston graduated from St. Clair College, Windsor, June 16/06 with her Diploma in Business-Human Resources. Devon resides in Edmonton, Alberta and is pursuing her degree in Business Administration & Management Congratulations from your family!

It's A Boy!!



Gavin Tyler Steven born August 1st, weighing 5lbs, 13ozs. Spoiled mostly by big sister Logan, and big brothers Nathan & Evan. Thanks to Dr. Maruncie, Victoria Hospital and a special thank you to Diana Reeno-Hindley for all her support and love.