



Ray Jobson of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club is pictured here with the three of the many winners in the Kiwanis Talent Show held Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 at West Elgin Secondary School. From left are Melissa Livingston, 1st - wind solo; Amanda

Lupsor, 2nd - brass and Zoe Frazer, 3rd - wind solo. All three students attend West Elgin Senior Elementary School.



The West Lorne and Rodney Kiwanis Clubs held a joint meeting on Thursday evening, Nov. 25. Together the two clubs donated \$2,000 to the new Olympia ice resurfacer at the West Elgin Arena. The clubs raised the money through bingos. Aldborough Councillor Joann Vergeer, head of the fundraising committee, accepted the \$1,000 cheque from West Lorne Kiwanis Club Vice President Bill Graham, while Rodney Kiwanis Club President Beth Carroll presented Recreation Director Jeff Slater with their club's \$1,000 donation. *(Mercury-Sun photo)*

Nov. 2nd, 1992

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Fire truck dilemmas

Work is completed on the re-ramping of the doorway of the West Lorne fire hall.

The doorway was increased about two feet higher than its previous height. Dave Cadogan, West Lorne's fire chief approached council at its special meeting on October 26 to discuss the present housing situation of their fire protection vehicles.

The recently purchased Rescue Unit has been in storage at the former P.U.C. building for two years and property owners Doug and Colleen McGill have notified council that the property at 170 Main Street will no longer be available to rent after November 1, 1992. The Rescue Unit was too tall to fit in the fire hall.

With the door opening being increased this solves the present problem, or does it?

West Lorne will be receiving its new Pumper Truck on November 5th. This truck, which was purchased jointly by Aldborough and West Lorne is also in need of storage space and, as council heard on November 2 at council, it may be

too high to fit.

The West Lorne fire hall presently has two bays and the department will soon own four vehicles. The old pumper is going to be retired, but there is still three vehicles.

Council discussed various alternatives. Council came up with three options. The first option was to look into a lease-to-purchase agreement. In this case, a contractor would build a new fire hall (with 4 bays) and lease it back to council. "The money we're spending now on rent could go towards the lease," former Reeve Joe Fischer said.

The other option would be to go ahead and build a new fire hall and debenture the cost. The third option was for the village to build the fire hall and borrow the money over two years.

No decisions were made by council except to look into the various alternatives and see which would be most beneficial and cost efficient for West Lorne.

Council is awaiting the arrival of the new truck on Thursday before any action is planned.

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The West Lorne Fire Department honoured one of its own on Saturday evening, Nov. 27. Fire Chief Dave Cadogan was presented with a medal honouring his 20 years of service with the department. Dave received the fire service exemplary service medal for 20 years of loyal and meritorious service to public security in Canada. This award came as a complete surprise as members of the department kept it a secret. "I'd like to thank everyone I've worked with, councils, fire department members, especially current members of the department and council." said Dave. Aldborough Councillor Tere Lebedz, fire department rep., at left, presented Dave with the framed certificate and medal. Congratulations. (Mercury-Sun photo)

Village post office will be closing

By Kathy Hollingsworth

A date hasn't been set but the West Lorne Post Office will definitely close its doors, Canada Post Corporation announced April 8.

"I think it's terrible. We have enough people here to warrant a post office," says Elizabeth McMillan, of West Lorne.

McMillan says there's a lot better ways to cut down on costs than close the post office, adding "we pay enough for it."

Canada Post plans to maintain postal services in West Lorne through a retail postal outlet operated from a local business. Maintaining a traditional post office is not optional. However, a retail postal outlet can provide all postal services currently available, generally for more hours per week.

A retail postal outlet operates on a contractual basis, is open the same hours as the business, and provides all of the retail postal services available at a traditional post office, including posting mail, buying stamps, money orders, picking up parcels and signature items.

Canada Post states in the letter sent out to all customers of the West Lorne Post Office; "This change in service will maintain West Lorne's unique postal identity and postal codes and will provide options to ensure you keep mail delivery within your community."

Connie Mark, of West Lorne says she doesn't like the idea of the post office being closed and would like to see it stay the same. "It will cut down on service, they say it's not but I think it will."

Canada Post will discuss service details with both customers and local officials over the next three months. In order to respond to questions and to listen to their suggestions concerning the delivery options available in the community, arrangements have been made to hold a customer information session April 21 at the West Elgin Arena.

Voja Arsentijevick, of West Lorne, who plans on attending the public meeting to get more information, says "It's better to stay as it is, it's more convenient this way."

The issue to be discussed at the meeting is whether customers prefer their mail to be provided through postal boxes, or an external method of delivery such as community mailboxes.

Chris Kirschner who was promoted to acting postmistress after the postmaster resigned

in November can't comment on the matter but is advising customers to attend the meeting.

Local businesses interested in the opportunity to apply for a retail postal outlet are requested to contact Canada Post Corporation as soon as possible. Applications to operate the retail postal outlet will be accepted until April 30.

The corporation has 5,221 "rural" post offices. Approximately two thousand offices are in communities with a population of more than one thousand. An additional fifteen hundred offices serve more than seventy-five points of call and are located beyond eleven miles from the nearest alternate service.

The above thirty five hundred offices will not normally be considered for amalgamation with a nearby post office. Over time and where feasible they will be turned over to the private sector probably through franchising.

These are some of the guide lines for the remaining 1,700 post offices located within five miles of each other which will be considered for amalgamation subject to natural trading demographics. Multiple site supermailbox or equivalent delivery service may be made available if a rural route service goes through the town. A stamp agency should be established where possible.

For post offices serving more than seventy-five points of call, and located where the distance to the nearest alternate service is between six miles and 10 miles, consideration will be given to replacing the post office with landscaped mini park multiple supermailbox sites for delivery. Retail products and personal contact items will be available at the alternate service through a stamp agency in a local viable business, if one exists.

Post offices serving less than seventy-five points of a call and where the distance to the nearest alternate service is between six miles and ten miles will be amalgamated with the nearest alternate service.

Supermailboxes or equivalent service will be made available at the nearest line of travel of an existing rural route.

Canada Post intends, over a ten year period to assess the configuration of its small rural post offices and as a cost-saving measure, to close many of them.

A letter drafted by the Standing Committee on Government operations has examined the impact of Canada Post Corporation's 1986-91 corporate plan on rural postal service. The report reflects the unanimous views of committee members.

The committee states "Canada Post is not going to solve its fiscal problems by closing rural

post offices or by changing rural postal service," adding the committee is of the strong view that the corporation should look elsewhere for savings in its operating budget.

Post Office moves to Beckers

A decision has been made. West Lorne Post Office will close for retail business with Beckers store, located at Graham and Maple Street, to take over the contract.

All postal boxes will remain at the present location. More boxes will be installed as well to accommodate those who are currently under general delivery. They will be upgraded to postal boxes.

All retail aspects of postal prod-

ucts and services including priority courier, registered mail, stamp purchases, money orders, postage metres filled, etc. will be maintained at Beckers.

There will be no change for rural delivery. All "call fors", for example parcels, registered letters, can be picked up at Beckers. Rural routes are being sorted in Dutton. Conversion date is July 27.

Oct. 15th 1993

Office Re-locating

Local news maintained

With the closing of the Mercury-Sun Publications office this Friday, October 15th, comes the opening of the depot at J B Jeans in West Lorne.

Since the first announcement of the closing there has been skepticism, but all-in-all the move will allow the Mercury-Sun to continue to bring its readers the local news they want and deserve.

Ruth Ferguson will still be reporting on Rodney and West Lorne area news and will be taking photos. Tom Jones will still be the advertising sales representative servicing the local advertisers in both Rodney and West Lorne. Kim Fleming will still be answering your calls about subscriptions, billing, classifieds and general inquiries. All the local employees will still be working for the Mercury-Sun.

The depot at J B Jeans will serve as a place to drop off your school write ups, sports reports, news items, social news and birthday and anniversary announcements.



The ribbon cutting for the new library at St. Mary's School

COMPUTERS PLAY LARGE ROLE AT ST. MARY'S/ST. THOMAS MOORE

By Shirley Slaats

Bygone days when computers were just a little center in a far corner where you could go as a reward or when your schoolwork was finished. Now, computers are part of a students' day. The growing importance of technology to business and industry means students require different skills and knowledge than students did in the past.

Through "Gem Grants" it was possible for The Elgin County Separate School Board to set up a lab for the 320 students attending St. Mary's - St. Thomas More School - making it one of the best equipped elementary schools in our area. This Dual Network consists of Icons and Dos computers. The hard drive and printer stay in the Library but the computers are moved to the classrooms as needed. With a wide selection of programs, primary through grade eight are building skills in Math,

English, Science, Geography, Art and Technology.

Almena Keyboarding (a novice way to learn the keys) is taught as early as grade four. After two full days of training, the student is typing up to 20 words per minute.

Science Fair '92 was a dream come true. A classroom was designated for the project and equipped with eight computers. Because of special programs and apparatus the students were able to experiment and explore new concepts. The computers were used to design graphics, gather and store information and helped the student interpret data.

Last year for the first time, St. Mary's was able to offer Continuing Adult Education Classes in Almena Keyboarding and Introduction to Computers. This year Work Perfect and Windows are courses proposed.

Throughout the school year,

the grade seven eight students have the opportunity to use the Tech Lab 2000 at St. Joseph's High School in St. Thomas. This "lab of the future" was designed to provide the students with basic technological understandings and practical hands-on experiences that encourage eye-hand coordination, observation, prediction, analysis, evaluation and creativity. At least two computers are located at each island which is a work/learn station. It is an integrated system of furnishing, apparatuses and software in which students work, interact and learn. They participate in all phases in the creation of a product--design, manufacture, production, and marketing.

By applying the principles of problem solving and decision making, the students are preparing for the complex technology of the 21st century.

Mid point- third week of Renew

St. Mary's - St. Helen's are at the mid point with the third Sunday of Renew. The theme for this Sunday was "Our Mission".

At both churches the youth of the parish came forward as Renew readers and spoke on behalf of all the young people of the parish. "We are the youth, we want to belong and find our place, we are confronted by all kinds of obstacles, some we need help with in order to understand." This was the theme and it spoke out concerning their role in this world.

All during each season of Renew the young people and the children have become more involved in expressing themselves either in their art work or in the choirs. Involvement seems to have taken over from the "for granted attitude" which can sometimes appear to make a dormant environment.

The Portuguese community also has become more involved, despite the language barrier for some, they are also active in small group meetings. Their choir under the direction of Samuel Marques is ever present at their Sunday masses which take place twice a month.

Renew draws out the best in people. There are those who have talent but cannot express themselves either because of shyness or because they feel they are unimportant. In Renew everyone is important and everything. We all have a place in making our parish and our community a better place.

The young people need to be recognized, to be encouraged to be involved, we need to be there for them and they need to know we are there.

Being recognized, being welcomed, being wanted and realizing the great needs of others, that is our mission and together we strive for that for all people.

Preparation for Renew Season IV - "Discipleship"

Preparations are being made for the being of the fourth Season of Renew with its title "Discipleship", and for the Sign-up Sunday which will take place next Sunday at all Masses.

Both St. Helen's and St. Mary's began with special Renew Readers. These readers laid out the plan for Sign-up Sunday and reminded parishioners of their role as Disciples in their ordinary way of life. Following a very impressive presentation at the mass at St. Helen's the K of C had a Pancake breakfast, enjoyed by many.

At St. Mary's the Youth Involvement was introduced at their 11:30 Mass. The following took part in the celebration: Krista Seed reader, Darryl, Nikki VanOirschot and Sandy Fodor, Offertory Hospitality - Heather McGregor and Nikki VanOirschot - Ushers - David Long, Jonathan Griegoschewski, J. Verbrugghe.

The St. Mary's School Children's Choir under the direction of Mrs. Dupuis, Hay and Verbrugghe provided the music. At all masses the Renew readers read the poem "Who Me" which is very appropriate for this time of decision making and involvement.

Who Me?

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I said, "Who ... me?"
And He smiled, "Yes ... you"
And I said:

"But I'm not ready yet.
And there's company coming.
And I can't leave the kids.
And you know there is no one to take my place."
And He smiled, "Are you sure?"

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I said, "But I don't want to."

And He smiled, "I didn't ask you if you wanted to."
And I said:

"Listen. I'm not the kind of person to get involved in controversies.

Besides, my family won't like it, and what will the neighbors think?"

And He smiled, "I know well."

And yet a third time, the Lord said "Go."

And I said, "Do I have to?"
And he smiled, "Do you love me?"

And I said:
"Look, I'm scared.
People are going to hate me
And cut me to pieces.
And I can't take it all by myself."

And He smiled, "Where do you think I'll be?"

And the Lord said, "Go."
And I smiled:
Here I am, Lord send me.

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