



42 years of service

At the Annual Meeting on January 10, 1993, the West Lorne Baptist Sunday School honoured Mrs. Irene Thomson on her retirement after forty-two years of service as secretary-treasurer. Presenting Mrs. Thomson with her gift is, at right, Mrs. Shirley Kirschner. (photo submitted)

West Lorne United Church

WEST LORNE, ONTARIO



Centennial Service

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19th, 1975

SOME HISTORICAL DATES

- 1872 First Presbyterian services in the village were held in the public school. Rev. John Munroe, minister of New Glasgow Presbyterian Church, was the first minister.
- 1874 Wesley Church, Methodist built on the east corner of Munroe and Ridge Streets, facing the railroad. Rev. Thomas Hanna was the pastor.
- 1875 West Lorne Presbyterian Church built.
- 1925 Church Union consummated and the Church named "The Knox United Church of Canada." (Union in West Lorne actually did not take place until 1926). The first minister was Rev. W. M. Kitely.
- 1933 The former Knox Presbyterian Church rebuilt for the United Church by Mr. W. T. Merrett. The bell from the Methodist Church was placed in the United Church belfry.
- 1957 A new Hammond organ presented to the Church by Mr. and Mrs. B. Fisher and Mr. and Mrs. P. Kemp in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Howison.
- 1960 A new addition built on the Church by W. T. Merrett and his firm, The Miller Lumber Co.
- 1975 New Church lighting presented by the Merrett Family in memory of William and Georgina Merrett.

Rev. Potter leaving

By Ruth Ferguson

It will be almost 9 years to the day since Rev. James Potter came to Rodney and took over the ministerial duties of the Rodney and West Lorne United churches. On June 29 the Potters will be moving to Lennoxville, Quebec where Jim will be the pastor of the Lennoxville United Church.

Rev. Potter was honoured recently, along with several other people, by the Rodney Community Policing Committee for his work in helping to get the Committee off the ground. Jim served for one year and was part of the original committee. Because his pastoral charges kept him so busy, the Community Policing Committee was his only outside involvement.

Rev. Potter stated that he and his family have enjoyed their time in Rodney but he feels called to do something different and the time has come to move on. The people here have been very supportive and the Potters have made a lot of friends but they are also looking forward to meeting new people in Quebec.

Lennoxville is about 63 percent English, and the church where he

will be serving is English which is good for Rev. Potter since he does not speak French, "I'll be taking an immersion course when we arrive. It should be a good situation for the children as well. They'll be able to become bilingual."

Bishop's University, which has 2,000-3,000 students is also located in Lennoxville which could provide several opportunities. Lennoxville, which is part of the eastern townships, is not far from Sherbrooke and is north of the Vermont border. The population is about 4,000 people which is an added attraction to the Potters who wanted to remain in a fairly small community.

Both of Rev. Potter's churches are planning farewell parties. The West Lorne United Church has planned a sort of potluck barbecue while Calvary United is having a potluck dinner after Jim's last service there.

The Policing Committee, the community and members of the West Lorne and Rodney United Church congregations will definitely miss Rev. Potter and his family and wish them well in their new church and community.

Church of Christ convention

By Ruth Ferguson

The Church of Christ Disciples convention was held in St. Louis, Missouri this year. Don McKillop and Ron Payne attended the convention which was held in the new St. Louis convention centre. The speakers, etc. were shared with the United Church of Christ Disciples who were having their convention at the same time. The convention ran from a Wednesday to Wednesday, and approximately 15,000 people attended the Friday night meeting where Bishop Tutu from South Africa was the featured speaker.

Ron and Don were not in the area that is currently flooded but they were able to observe the flooding from the plane. Most of the

flooding was taking place north of St. Louis in Des Moines, Iowa. Ray Cuthbert, a former pastor of the West Lorne Church of Christ Disciples, was able to see the Mississippi River from his hotel window and he mentioned that boats weren't even able to go under the bridge because the water was so high. Someone also noted that if you were to see Iowa from the air it would look like a great lake.

Mr. Payne noted that what people see of the flooding on TV is really what's happening. Tetanus shots are now being administered and it is estimated that it will be at least 6 months before people will be able to return to their homes. Unfortunately by that time their houses will probably have rotted. These people truly have lost everything including their homes, personal property, crops and so on.

Mr. Payne and Mr. McKillop attended Sunday services at the Union Street Church which is a very old and historical church. They had to arrive early to get a seat because 700 people attended the church that morning. C. William Nicholson was the speaker that day. After the service, a delicious lunch was served to everyone.

While they were in St. Louis they also went to Brett Hull's Bar and Grill and saw some interesting mementos.

Mr. Payne commented on the fact that St. Louis is a very old city and that the temperature was high, around 96 degrees Fahrenheit with very high humidity.

Each church sends 2 delegates and 31 people from Canada attended. Don McKillop is the Chairman of the Board for the Ontario Church of Christ Disciples churches. Ron Payne is the archivist for Ontario.

Besides having speakers and seminars, 700 to 800 booths for different religious groups and activities were set up for people to view. Ron said that he did enjoy his trip and met a lot of people at the convention.

The Church of Christ Disciple is the largest Protestant denomination to be founded on American soil. It is also a major religion in the US, in Oklahoma alone there are 3,000 members, but in the whole of Canada there are only between 13 and 15 Church of Christ Disciples congregations.

August, 1994



Discovering God's Kingdom

Grace Lutheran Church, West Lorne held their Vacation Bible School, Aug. 15-19. The theme for the week was "Discovering God's Kingdom." An average of 31 children attended from Rodney and West
(Photo Submitted)

STARTED 1959

June 1994



By Carrie Kelly

"I started teaching in 1959 in a one room school house and I always used to laugh I was Principal of a three room school, the main room and the two bathrooms." At #4, Hagerty, Wilno, in Northern Ontario, J.J. Prince's job involved starting and looking after the fire, making sure there was enough water for the bathrooms because there were no flushing toilets, the water had to be thrown into the toilets and in the winter often preparing hot soup for the kids. There were 36 students in the one room, grades 1 through 9. J.J. thought that it was a beautiful situation, the Grade 8's and 9's often helped the Grade 2's and 3's with their reading, arithmetic and homework. It was a "Great experience for one year." He then taught high school in Cobden Ontario, about 100 miles from Ottawa. It was a very small rural school, similar to West Elgin, it was a farming community and the students were bussed in. From Cobden J.J. then went 250 miles North

West of Sault Ste. Marie to Manitowadge, a mining town. At Manitowadge High school he was head of the History Department for 5 years and Vice Principal for 2. J.J. then spent 6 years as Vice Principal at Arnprior High School in Arnprior, which is near Ottawa. In 1976 J.J. came to West Elgin as Principal.

"I've enjoyed it. I enjoy the kids because there's never a dull moment, there's always something new, there's always somebody trying something new as far as maybe doing new things but really kids basically haven't changed at all. They haven't changed since you were here, they haven't changed since your mother was here, they haven't changed since your grandfather was here. Kids haven't changed. Kids basically are still kind and good, and they're devilish, they will attempt to do stupid things and you have to try to save them from themselves. That's about all you can do. I'll miss that kind of thing with kids."

Over the years J.J. has coached hockey and basketball. He laughs about being the only undefeated basketball coach in North America. His first year teaching, J.J. coached a basketball team and he didn't know anything about basketball. He had to ask the players after the first game why sometimes they got one point and at other times they got two points for a basket. He had such a good strong team that the whole season he never lost a game.

In the first 2 or 3 schools he always did a 3 act play every year. Generally a comedy with 30 or 40 kids involved. But since he's been here he has been too busy to do any extra activities.

J.J. is planning on working but he has no idea what he's going to do. "I know one thing, I will not sell Real Estate. I know that for sure." He's had offers from different consulting firms but he doesn't want to get tied down to anything because "I want to golf - everyday if I can, for the first three or four months anyway." J.J. says there's all kinds of opportunities for jobs out there. There's "lots of jobs for teaching teachers how to teach in other countries of the world, to consult on how teacher organizations are set up." The possibility of going into arbitration or mediation is also an option. He's not going to do anything quickly and he's not going to move. West Lorne has become home to J.J., his wife Janis, a primary teacher at St. Marys in West Lorne, and his family. "I like the place and the people in it. I'm not moving out."