



Retiring from WESS

Several familiar faces will be missing from the hallowed halls of West Elgin Secondary School in the fall. Six teachers handed in their resignations and will be retiring after the end of the semester in June. Pictured are, front row, l-r: Mary Youlton, and Ibbey Ruttle. In back are J. J. Prince, Bill Graham and Paul McCulloch. Unavailable for photo was Norma Schneck-enburger

200 YEARS OF TEACHING

By Carrie Kelly

Mr. Graham, Mr. McCullough, Mr. Prince, Mrs. Ruttle, Mrs. Schneck-enburger, and Mrs. Youlton will be retiring from West Elgin Secondary School this spring. These six teachers have a total of 140 years teaching experience in Elgin County and 200 years total teaching experience.

Bill Graham has taught Welding and Special Education for 16 years at W.E.S.S. He has also coached the curling team.

Paul McCullough has been teaching Math at W.E.S.S. for 28 years and has been the Head of the Math Department and involved with the Chess Club.

J.J. Prince has been Principal at W.E.S.S. for 18

years and previously taught History for a total of 35 years teaching.

Ibbey Ruttle has taught Physical Education, Geography, and History, been the Head of the Girl's Physical Education Department and coached several O.F.S.S.A. winning teams. She has been at W.E.S.S. for 23 years.

Norma Schneck-enburger has been at W.E.S.S. for 34 years; teaching Geography, English, and Physical Education, as well as coaching sports teams.

Mary Youlton has been at W.E.S.S. for 22 years, teaching Home Economics and Family Studies. She was active on the Prom and Initiation Committees as well as the Staff Social Committee.

Ruttle wins prestigious Leadership in Sports award

Mrs. Ruttle of West Elgin Secondary school is ending her teaching career with a bang. After 33 years of teaching, and 17 years of Track and Field, she received one of the most prestigious awards that a gym teacher can receive: the Leadership in Sports Award which was given to her at OFSAA during the opening ceremonies.

Mrs. Ruttle has been teaching at W.E.S.S. for the past 23 years, and is proud to boast convening the first co-ed WOSSA track meet. Among the local "Natural athletes" that Mrs. Ruttle has taught are Serge



Mrs. Ruttle

Lebedz, Paul Gilbert, Katherine Gall, and Kevin Drouillard.

"I say that they are natural athletes because they were born with a gift; springs in their legs or something. I say jump and they did because they had that ability." Says Ibby Ruttle.

On June 3rd, the OFSAA Leadership in Sports Award was given to her in front of 3,000 people "3 of which I knew", by the organizational standing sports committee.

The award was a great honour to her because she was being recognized by her peers for doing what she does best. Ibby herself worked as a triple jump judge for OFSAA from 1974-84.

Mrs. Ruttle and her husband Jim, (previously retired from the school) will be shipping off to Australia, New Zealand, California and South Carolina in early September pending her June 1994 retirement.

Ibby has yet another goal to add to her list, and retirement will certainly make it more accessible to her. She would love to "swim with whales." Being the person that she is, this seemingly unreachable goal becomes a reality. Good Luck, Mrs. Ruttle, with your future.

23 YEARS WESS



by Carrie Kelly

Mary Youlton started teaching Home Economics in Ridgetown and "I had attended school in Ridgetown and so going back there 4 years later was quite an experience because there was the odd student in the school yet that I had gone to school with. This was kind of a funny experience. It was comfortable in that there were many of the same teachers that had taught me, the same principal, I knew the routines and the classrooms." She was there for two years and then she went to Glencoe for

another two years.

Mary stayed home for the next 9 years with her family and she started teaching at West Elgin Secondary School when her oldest daughter started high school. "We started back to high school together, and I've been here 23 years now. When I came back teaching It never dawned on me that I would be back teaching that long, but within a few years of coming back I had kids that were leaving high school and getting into university so it was pretty apparent that I was going to have to be teaching for a while to educate these kids. Once my children were finished university it wasn't long before I was looking down the road to a full pension."

Originally called Home Economics, the subject Mary teaches is now called Family Studies and covers a wide range of topics including food, economics, parenting, housing, and the family.

Mary was involved with Initiation, the Staff Social Committee, Craft Club, and the Prom. "The Prom was fun, working with the kids and seeing all the work and the creativity that comes out of that. I don't know if many adults would be that creative

and have that much energy."

Once she retires, Mary will "probably be foot loose and fancy free for a while. My husband isn't retiring for a couple of years so that will give me time to do a lot of things like cleaning the basement and the attic and all those things that get put off." Mary would like to spend more time with the groups and organizations she is involved in. She has always been interested in quilting but she has never had much time for it. "I'd like to do some day tripping and wandering around and spending more time with my grandchildren. I'm looking forward to that."

34 YEARS TEACHING



by Carrie Kelly

Norma Schnekenburger will be retiring from West Elgin Secondary School after 34 years of teaching. In 1959 she started her teaching career at Central Elgin, teaching history and physical education and coaching basketball. Two years later Norma came to West Elgin teaching history, geography and physical education as well as coaching all the girls sports. In 1964, she took a year off when her daughter Henrietta was born. When she came back in 1965 she taught history and geography, but no longer taught phys-ed or coached. Ten years ago she started teaching English and stopped teaching history.

Norma was Staff Advisor for the Student Athletic Association for many many years. "I think that my most significant contribution, outside of the classroom, was the part I had in organizing the reunion in '92. That was a really big job and without the commitment of Mrs. Kozdras and the other committee members it would never have taken place."

Norma says that she is going to do things she never had time to do before. In the long range she hopes to get to Australia because through her genealogy, she has discovered some third cousins there. "There are a lot of places right in South Western Ontario that I've never been but that I want to see. I've never been to Pelee Island, Long Point, or the Elora Gorge. There's lots, probably within a 300 mile radius, that I haven't seen."

Genealogy is Norma's main hobby and she said that if she wanted to she could spend all her available time on it. She is always receiving letters and calls from people who are investigating their family roots.

Norma said that she "will miss the social part of teaching. There is no question about that. I'm going to miss the contact with the kids and I'm going to miss the contact with my peers. It's going to be an adjustment, there is no question about that, but I certainly won't miss sitting down every night and doing homework. That I won't miss."

September 1994

NEW PRINCIPAL AT W.E.S.S.



by Carrie Kelly

Mrs. Foster will be the new principal at West Elgin Secondary School this fall. When asked how she felt about being chosen for principal, she answered "How do I feel about being principal? I'm excited to say the least. I'm really quite pleased. I never thought that this was where I'd be, the

principal of the school in which I started teaching. It's a really special experience to have grown up in the school and now to be the person that has the ability to maybe make some changes and do things. It is a very exciting opportunity to actually be the person who can be responsible for the decisions that are going to happen."

Mrs. Foster started teaching science at WESS 18 years ago. She was Head of Science for 5 years and then moved to East Elgin as Vice Principal. She was at East Elgin for 3 years before returning to WESS as Vice Principal for the past 2 years. At East Elgin, there are two Vice Principals, "You had a back up, you had someone to learn from, you had another Vice Principal to teach you as you were going along." She also added that "The step to Vice Principal from classroom teacher is a bigger step, I think, than the step from Vice Principal to Principal because when you go to Vice Principal you're coming from the classroom where you're teaching students and your focus is your day to day classroom teaching, to a whole different job. Once you're Vice Principal, you still make some of the decisions Principals make and you share in making other

decisions with them."

There will be other changes next year, including several new teachers who will be coming to West Elgin. The new Vice Principal is Tom Mattingley, who is presently the Head of Boy's Phys. Ed. at Parkside. Diana Ryckman will be teaching Phys. Ed. and English. She is presently at East Elgin. Another teacher from East Elgin, Annette Martin, will be teaching Art and English. Susan Wallace from Central Elgin will be teaching Geography in the fall at WESS. The new head of Math will be Arthur Voden's Rocco Basacco

June 27th, 1994

The Hodne



St. Mary's Valedictorians

St. Marys School held their grade 8 graduation on the evening of Monday, June 27. Valedictory duties were shared between Darryl van Oirschot, at right, and Catherine Santos. Darryl also won an academic excellence award and the music award. Catherine also received an academic excellence award.

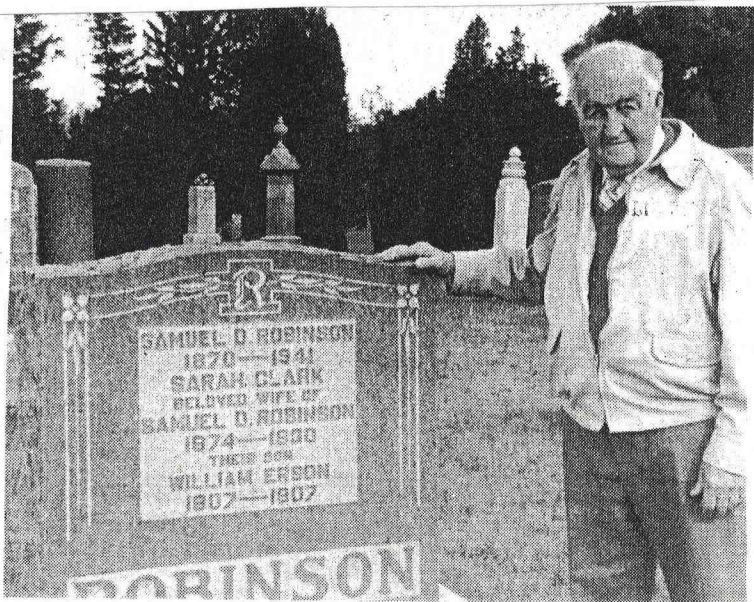


25th Anniversary celebrated by Bd. of Education

The Elgin County Board of Education celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. In recognition of this milestone, the Board presented certificates of achievement to teachers who have taught in Elgin County for at least 25 years. Pictured are, left to right: Mrs. Elaine Brown, 26 1/2 years; Board Trustee Mrs. Dagmar Jobson; Mrs. Gerree Hind, 29 years; and Mr. Bob Carrington, 26 years. Unavailable for photo was Dale Peacock. Mrs. Jobson also presented each of the teachers with a miniature apple.

(Mercury-Sun photo)

EVERGREEN CEMETERY



Manson Robinson, president of the Evergreen Cemetery Company of West Lorne Inc. is pictured here showing off his family's headstone. Mr. Robinson said he was told that his brother was about the third person buried in the cemetery in 1907.

Changes at Evergreen

By Sheila McBrayne

West Lorne's Evergreen Cemetery has been a busy place over the summer, not because of an increase in burials, but rather cemetery workers were busy fixing up the 86-year old cemetery.

More than 100 of the monuments at The Evergreen Cemetery Company of West Lorne were re-sealed after a check of all the monuments was performed. The refurbishing of the family landmarks cost about \$2,320 and the repairs were done at no expense to any of the families of the monument owners. The cemetery is accepting any donations that the public would like to give to go towards the cost.

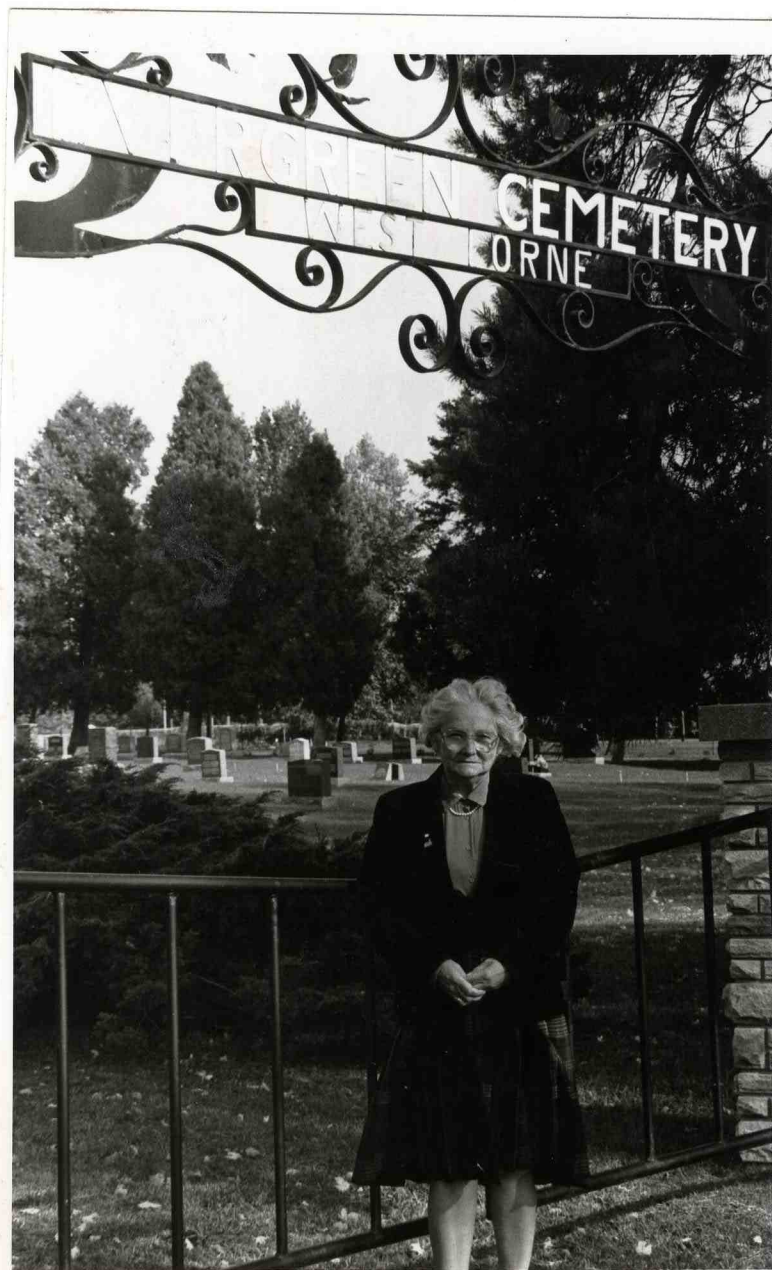
Why the refurbishing? Secretary-Treasurer of the cemetery Jean Ross said that the project was done this summer in response to legislation that made all cemetery owners liable for any injuries incurred at a cemetery. For example if one of the older monuments had fallen over on someone or debris from one of the monuments hit someone, the cemetery would be re-

sponsible. To prevent any such happenings, the cemetery had every monument checked. Some were re-sealed to the base and some minor repairs were performed.

President of The Evergreen Cemetery of West Lorne is Manson Robinson. Mr. Robinson said that in addition to fixing the existing monuments, the cemetery has also been looking to the future as the cemetery board has recently purchased four acres of neighbouring land to expand the cemetery.

Mr. Robinson has been on the cemetery board for 12 years and says he has a lot of families members there. His infant brother was one of the first people buried there back in 1907. The cemetery was incorporated in 1906.

The cemetery has had some changes over the years and one of those changes was the access to the cemetery. The original lane that ran through the middle of the cemetery where the gates stand is actually not in use any more unless there is a burial in the center of the cemetery. Instead a path runs all along the outside of the cemetery and does wind through the cemetery as well.



Jean Ross is the secretary-treasurer of the Evergreen Cemetery Company Inc. is pictured her in front of the gates that once lead to the lane used to go through the cemetery. The gate is usually closed and is only used for burials in the centre of the cemetery.