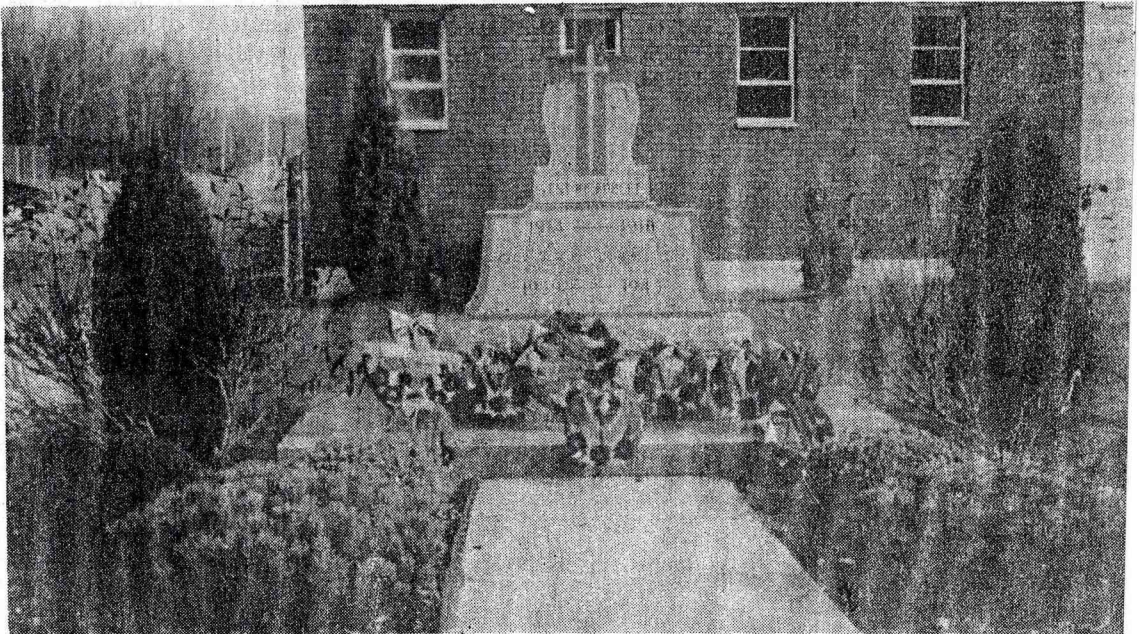


There was a large crowd on hand for the Remembrance Day ceremony at the West Lorne cenotaph on Thursday, November 11. Wreaths were laid by the West Elgin Legion Branch 221, the Village of West Lorne, the Township of Dunwich, the Village of Dutton, Milner-Rigsby, Erie Flooring, St. Mary's School and West Elgin Senior Elementary School. The Last Post was played and a minute of silence was observed. After the ceremony, everyone was invited back to the the West Elgin Legion for coffee and sandwiches.

*(Mercury-Sun photo)*







The West Lorne Atom "C" have claimed the 1993 Silver Stick Championship title. Pictured here in back from left are: Ray Derraugh, trainer, Ray Charron, assistant coach, Shawn McMurphy, Justin Mezenberg, Josh Derraugh, Garrett Littlejohn, David Kilby, Darren Stafford, Darryl

Small, Paul Davies, manager Roy dos Santos, assistant coach, and Mike Rivard, coach. In front are: Adam Charron, Jason Chase, Shawn McCallum, Ryan Rivard, Paul Vergeer and Trevor Mohr. Absent from photo was Jason McDowell.

## Silver Stick Atom "C" champs

### Special to The Mercury-Sun

On December 29th, 1992, fourteen boys and five men embarked on a journey that would take them to the top of their hockey world. I don't think that on that cold December morning that anyone on the team believed that in two short weeks they would be raising in victory one of the most coveted trophies in minor hockey - The Silver Stick.

### In the beginning...

Their first opponent at the Regional Tournament in Alvinston was a select team from Mooretown. It only took 2 minutes and 42 seconds for Paul Vergeer to score our first goal on an assist from Ryan Rivard and from there we took control of the game with the final score ending up at 8-2 for West Lorne.

Our next game was against Thedford and they proved to be our toughest opponent of the Regional Tournament. Thedford opened the scoring at 5:52 of the first period and by the way they were playing we knew that we were in a dogfight. We tied it up at 6:02 of the first period on an unassisted goal by Ryan Rivard. Then Paul Vergeer made it 2-1 at 4:05 of the second period. Play went back and forth until Thedford scored late in the second to tie the score at 2, but with just four seconds remaining in the period Paul Vergeer scored again with assists going to Shawn McCallum and Jason McDowell. We held that 3-2 lead until 3:14 of the third period when Thedford tied it up again. We knew we would have to dig down deep for a little extra if we were to pull this one out, and at 8:36 of the third period Shawn McCallum scored with an assist from Josh Derraugh and we held Thedford scoreless for the last 6 minutes

and 24 seconds to move on to the semi-finals in our grouping.

Our next game was against Mt. Bridges and after our coach (Mike Rivard) watched them handle their opponents easily, he thought they would be the team to beat if we were to win this Regional Tournament. We got a good start in the game and by the five-minute mark of the first period, we had built up a 5-0 lead and we were on our way to the finals. The score ended up 11-1 in favour of West Lorne.

Our opponent in the final was Belmont. They had a couple of good players, but with our team playing with confidence and good positional play we were able to beat Belmont 6-4 and win the Regional Silver Stick Championship.

When the organizers of the North American Silver Stick Finals asked us if we wanted to represent our region in the final tournament in Forest, Ontario we knew that only half of our journey was over and that if we wanted to find out how good of a team we had we needed to compete in this final tournament to represent our region.

### North American Finals

We opened the North American Finals on January 8, 1993 in Forest against teams from all over Ontario and one team from the United States. Our first opponent was a team from Stephen Township, near Exeter, Ontario. Not knowing what to expect, we started out slowly and the Stephen Township team gave us a good game for about a period and a half, but then as our players got over their nervousness and began to feel comfortable, we started to take the game away from them and when the game was over, we had an 8-1 victory.

Our next opponent was a team from Woodville, Ontario, which is near Lindsay. We had no trouble beating the Woodville team by a score of 8-2. Our confidence was

growing and our team just seemed to be getting better with each game.

We beat the next team from Ripley, Ontario by a score of 7-1 and now only one team stood between us and the final game that was a team from Williamstown, Ontario which is located near the Quebec border. They had a very determined group of players and one of the best goalies in the tournament - she happened to be a girl! We had to drive through a snowstorm to get to Forest that day and one of our players had not shown up by game time.

So we put his name on the game sheet in the hopes that he would be there soon. As the game began it was evident that we were not going to have an easy way into the finals. The Williamstown team was playing a great game and they opened the scoring in the second period. About three minutes later Ryan Rivard scored with assists going to Paul Vergeer and Justin Mezenberg. The second period ended in a 1-1 tie and as the third period began our other player finally arrived. As the other player was dressing, Shawn McMurphy scored with an assist going to Ryan Rivard and it looked as if we were beginning to take the game in hand. Two minutes later Paul Vergeer scored again with Ryan Rivard assisting and with our other player now playing we felt confident that we were going to the finals.

At 7:05 of the third period Shawn McCallum scored with assists going to Ryan Rivard and Paul Vergeer and that is the way the game ended and now we were on to the finals against the same Woodville team that we had played in the preliminary round.

We took an early 3-0 lead in the first period and feeling the game was well in hand, we let up a little bit and the next thing we knew Woodville had scored two goals to get back in the game, but we fought back to get another

goal and after two periods the score was 4-2 for us and we knew that we only had to play one more period and we could go home champions. Each team got a goal in the third period giving us a 5-3 win and the North American Silver Stick Atom "C" Championship that we had worked so hard for.

### 1993 Silver Stick Champions

Our journey had now ended triumphantly and the people who made it all possible were our goalies: Adam Charron and Trevor Mohr; our defencemen: Jason Chase, Joshua Derraugh, Garrett Littlejohn and Ryan Rivard; our forwards: David Kilby, Shawn McCallum, Jason McDowell, Shawn McMurphy, Justin Mezenberg, Darryl Small, Darren Stafford and Paul Vergeer; our coach: Mike Rivard; assistant coaches: Ray Charron and Roy dos Santos; our trainer: Ray Derraugh and our manager: Paul Davies.

Our team also placed three players in the tournament all-star team. On defence was Ryan Rivard, and on forward were Paul Vergeer and Shawn McCallum, but everyone knows that hockey is a team sport and we believe that every player on our team was an all-star and that every player had a role to play in winning this championship.

I'm sure that every person involved with the team will have lifetime memories of this event and maybe someday more West Lorne teams will be able to hoist the Silver Stick over their heads.

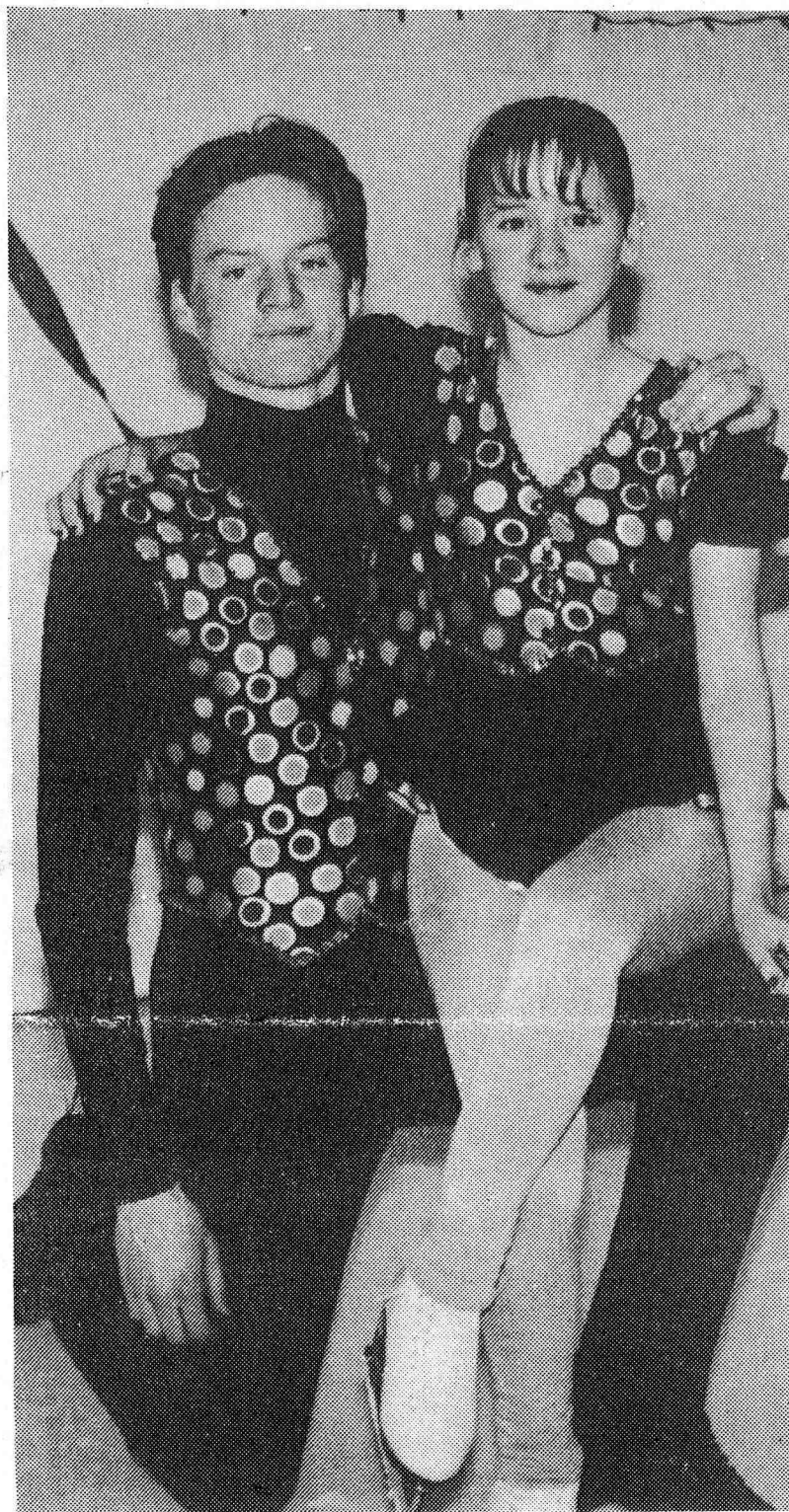
Also, thanks should go out to the coaches, trainer and manager of the team who helped bring this team together and the parents who stood behind them, and always had the players at their games and practices on time.





**Congratulations to the Grade 8 Jazz Band of W.E.S.E.S. who placed first at the St. Thomas Rotary Music Festival. The Grade 7 Jazz Band also took a first place finish and altogether, with bands, solos and small ensembles W.E.S.E.S. brought home 9 firsts; 6 seconds; 9 thirds; 9 fourths and 3 fifths. Congratulations band members and instructor M. Letovsky.**





## Skating fun at 40th show

From circus animals to Olympic stars, the 40th anniversary carnival presented by the West Lorne Figure Skating Club had a little bit of everything.

There was hardly a seat left in the house for the carnival's two performances. Club members had decorated the boards with candles, lights and balloons. There was even a gigantic anniversary cake on one corner of the ice.

At least 50 former skating club members were estimated to have taken part in a parade of skaters, including one family with three generations represented.

One of the highlights of the show was the appearance of Paul Kittmer and his partner, Sara Thury. Paul grew up in West Lorne and began skating at the West Elgin Arena at the age of 5.

Paul and Sara have been skating together for about one year now. They are coached by Kim Hanford and call the Granite Club in Toronto home. They placed 9th in the novice pairs division at the Canadian championships in Edmonton in January. Skating in front of a hometown crowd was a special thrill for Paul.

The other guest skaters were dance pair Mark Oakley and Leigh Austin. The couple train in Kitchener under the direction of coach John Briscoe. Mark had previously visited the arena as part of a skating clinic led by Kevin and Michelle Wheeler.

Several local skaters were also featured as soloists.

The club had a display set up showing the 40 year history of the West Lorne Figure Skating Club.

### Kittmer and Thury entertain

The West Elgin Arena was completely packed for the 40th anniversary performance of the West Lorne Figure Skating Club, held on Saturday, March 5th. Both performances enjoyed the guest skaters, local boy, Paul Kittmer and his partner Sara Thury. Also skating were Mark Oakly and Leigh Austin. Be sure to watch for pictures of the skating groups in next week's paper.

(Mercury-Sun photo)