

Wednesday May 6, 1998

**NEW BUSINESS OPENS IN
WEST LORNE
VILLAGE TRENDS**



Shelley Poels from West Lorne decided to start her own business after being a Nurse for ten years. Due to the fact of lay offs and cut backs at the Hospitals in London, Shelley decided to go out on her own as she wants to work with the public. She is a wife and a mother of four small children. Shelley went back to school on a part time basis to pick up courses and now specializes in manicures, pedicures, medical foot care, acrylic nails, fiberglass nails, nail art waxing and tanning. Upcoming services are electrolysis, reflexology, aromatherapy, facials, make-up application and airbrushing. She is located at the Corner of Graham and Main Streets, West Lorne.
THE BEST OF LUCK TO SHELLEY IN HER NEW ADVENTURE.



NEW OWNERS AT NORTH END MINI MART: Left to right Christie, Darlene (MOM) and Cindy

North End Mini Mart changes hands

As of May 5, 1998 the North End Mini Mart changed hands as it was recently sold and the new owners took over. The new name will be "Durrant's Mini Mart" and is owned by Mr. & Mrs. William and Darlene Durrant with their two daughters, Christie and Cindy helping in the store. A third daughter, Jo-Dee has one son and is presently expecting another child and she will also help in the store when required. The Durrant's are living in London presently and want to see how things go and possibly will move here in the fall. They have been in the retail business for 20 years and have seen the good times and bad times of the business.

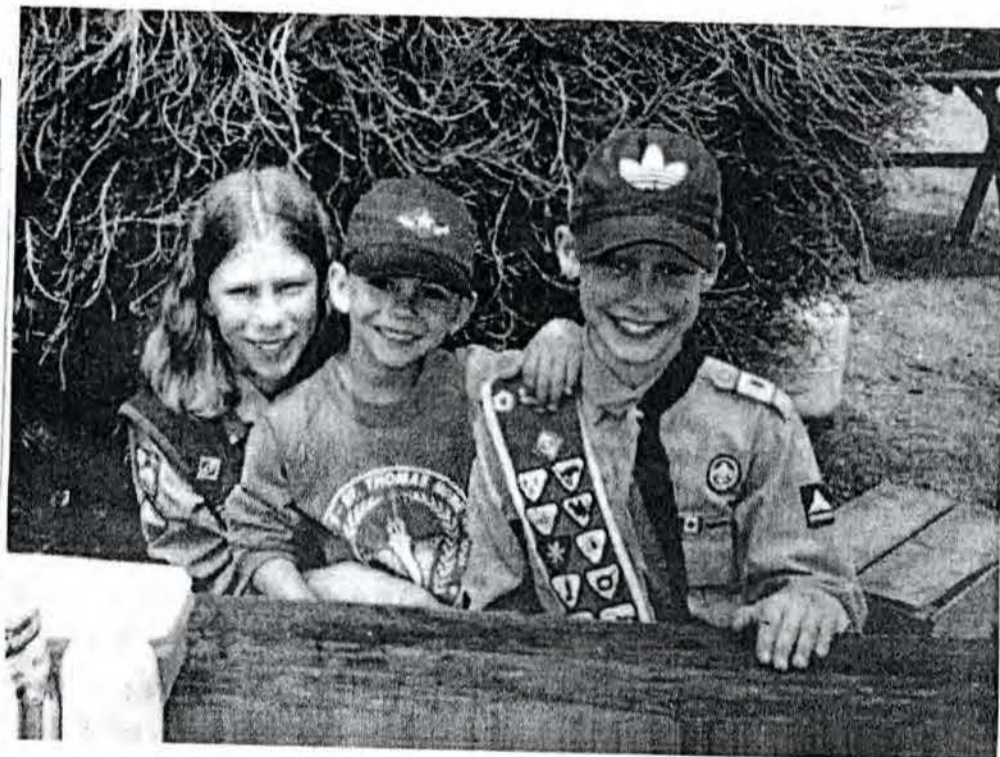
MAY 13, 1998



The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne will be giving its customers who are interested in doing their banking via the computer a quick run through of the services. mbanx allows you to have full service banking by phone fax, mail, ABM and PC, 24 hours-a-day, 365 days a year. Bank of Montreal's NetBanking service also offers 24 hour-a-day convenience. Wherever you have access to a PC and the Internet, that's where you can enjoy access to all accounts. Bank employees will be giving customers a quick lesson from May 11-22 during regular banking hours. If you can't make it during that time, you can call for an appointment. Here, bank customer Winnis Van Lierop (sitting) gets a quick preview from customer service manager Wendy Vergeer and Paul Milne of Paul Milne Computer Consultants, who is donating the computer and Internet time (through Odyssey Network Inc.)



Come and Visit Erie Gardens.



Pictured here are Breanne and Derek Podedbry from West Lorne Scouting Family who were out cooking hot dogs for Erie Gardens and in the middle is a little helper.

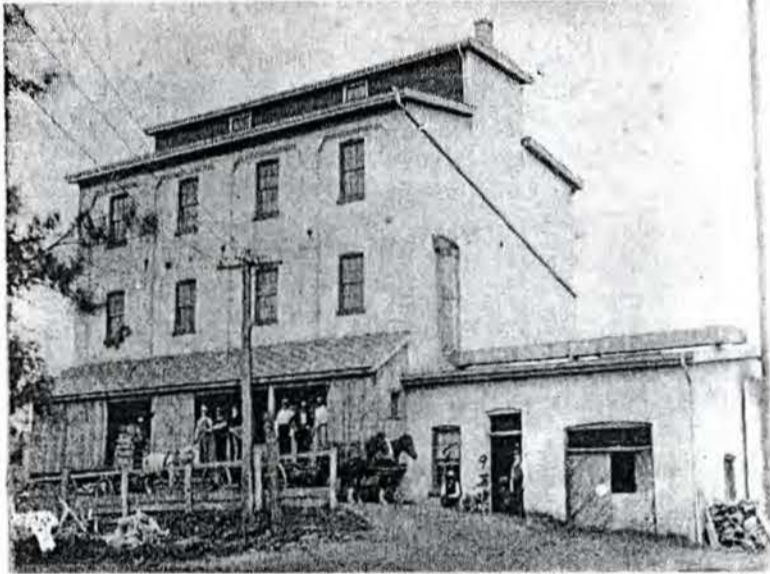
WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

BUSINESS
+ INDUSTRY
1998

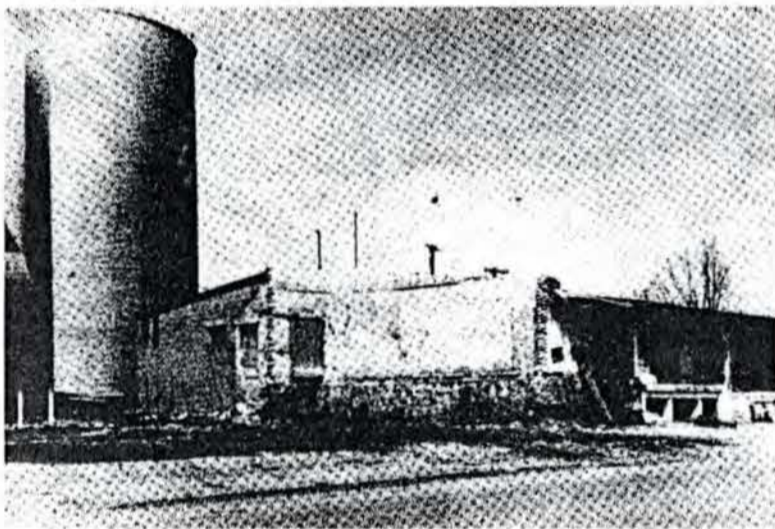
Volume 1 Issue 12

Wednesday May 27, 1998

AN ERA...



19th Century Flour Mill - This picture which shows the original flour mill built in the 19th century and was then purchased by Elgin Co-Operative Services in 1944.



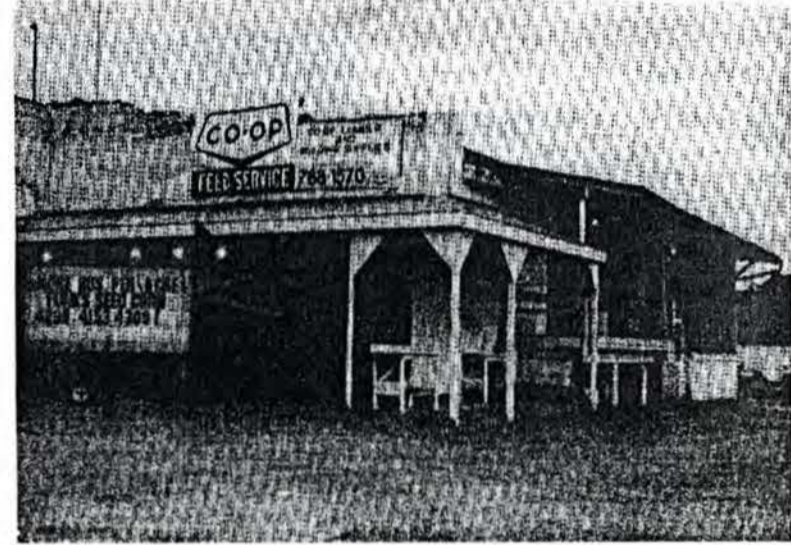
Elgin Co-op After Demolition - This is how the co-op appeared after the old white brick mill, which was built before the turn of the century, was demolished to make way for modern grain storage silos.

West Lorne has recently seen the demolition of the 19th century flour mill that was located on Main Street. The flour mill was built in late 19th century by A. McKillop and Sons and it changed hands several times before the co-op purchased the property in 1944.

The Elgin Co-op after running in this location for 46 years was sold in 1990 to J.R. Richardson and Sons, Limited of Winnipeg (known in Ontario as Topnotch). At that time the assets sold went for \$7.8 million according to general manager at the time - Doug Best. At the takeover some head office employees were offered severance packages and other were hired by Richardson to continue.

The reason behind the sale of the Co-op was a \$2 million grain loss in 1981-82 and that made it hard to ever get ahead in the next few years. The Co-op ended up in debt \$3 million. When the Topnotch store closed in 1992 they then rented it out to various business interests - flea market run by Tom Jones and Tammy Swain; then operation was taken over by Don & Betty Ann Bobier; and then most recently Dixon Feeds was operated out of the building. The Topnotch grain elevator then ceased to accept grain and closed its elevator in the fall of 1996. After all the history of this location and the several business operations that were run out of here, all that remains now is a clear lot with all evidence being removed, so that if you were a newcomer to West Lorne you would never know what history sat on this location.

GONE



Elgin Co-op Sign to Change -The 46 year-old farmers' co-operative was sold to James Richardson of Winnipeg in 1990 and at this time they are represented in Southwestern Ontario by Topnotch Feeds.



All That's Left - This is all that remains of a historic building that has been torn down and renovated several times - from flour mill to grain elevator to flea market to feed store to a pile of rubble.

**MEZENBERG'S ANNUAL
DRIED FLOWER FESTIVAL**

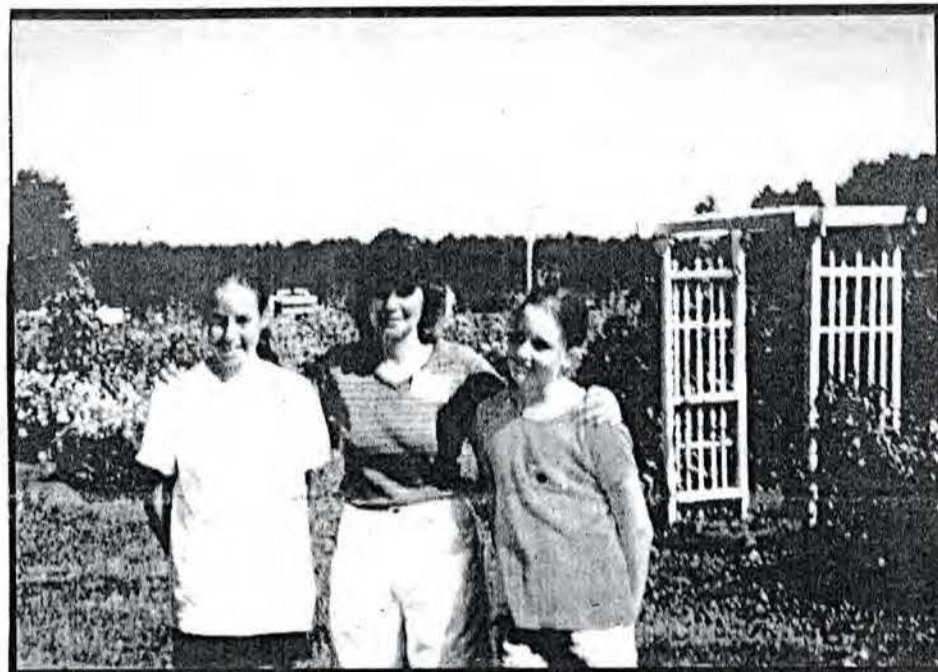
**Bank CEO says West Lorne branch
will not close with proposed merger**

Bank of Montreal chairman and CEO Matthew Barrett has assured the customers of the West Lorne branch that the proposed merger with the Royal Bank of Canada will not affect the service they receive at the Graham and Main Streets location.

"Service excellence continues to be a primary goal of the new bank and we intend to offer our customers a full range of products and services," says Barrett. "Bank of Montreal is proud to have been part of your community and we look forward to our continuing partnership with our customers and the residents of West Lorne." Barrett adds that "no small community, small town, or rural location will lose branch service because of the proposed merger."

The merger between the two banks was proposed in January and must still receive government approval before it goes through.

Toronto-Dominion and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce have also announced plans for a merger.



Here is Cathy and her nieces Lisa King and Nicole Bickle who have been helping Cathy for the past few years.

Craft and flower enthusiasts attended Mezenberg's annual Dried Flower Festival on the Weekend. The beautiful weather brought people out from all over. Over 20 exhibitors were out to give a wider variety of goodies for everyone.

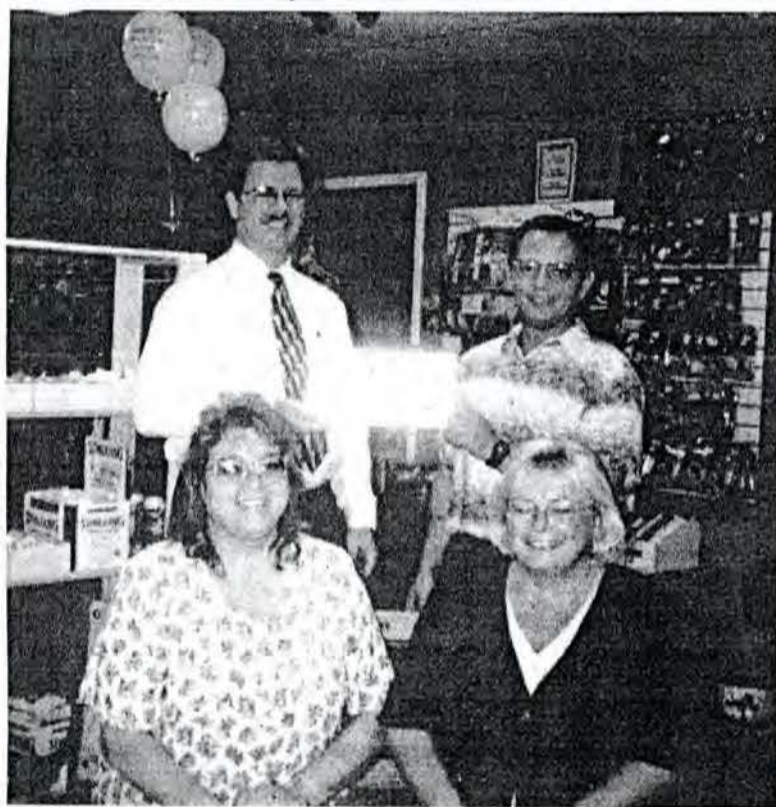
Shoppers had a variety of booths to shop from including ceramic tables, clothing, knitted items, quilts, and wood crafts of all kinds. The members of IODE were out with a bake table and the Optimist Club were out cooking food to those that were hungry. The rafters of the barn were filled with dried flowers of all colours and types. If dried flowers wasn't what you were looking for you could go out to the back forty and dig your own perennials.

Fresh fruit and vegetables were available and artist Paul Stephenson was out with his Northern Landscape pictures. If you were interested you could watch the furniture being made which thrilled a lot of those who attended.

Each year the event grows bigger and better. So if you were looking for something to brighten up your home for the winter months you likely were able to find it at Mezenberg's.

Don't forget it's not too late to go out and get your dried flowers for your home.

MTO GRAND OPENING



Present for the Grand Opening on September 18th were front row Trudy Balint-Councillor, Penny Masse-MTO. Back row Region Director from the Ministry, Warren Blackmore and Glen Cook. Licensing Hours are Mon.- Fri. 9-5 and Sat. 9-12



The West Elgin Chronicle moving to West Lorne

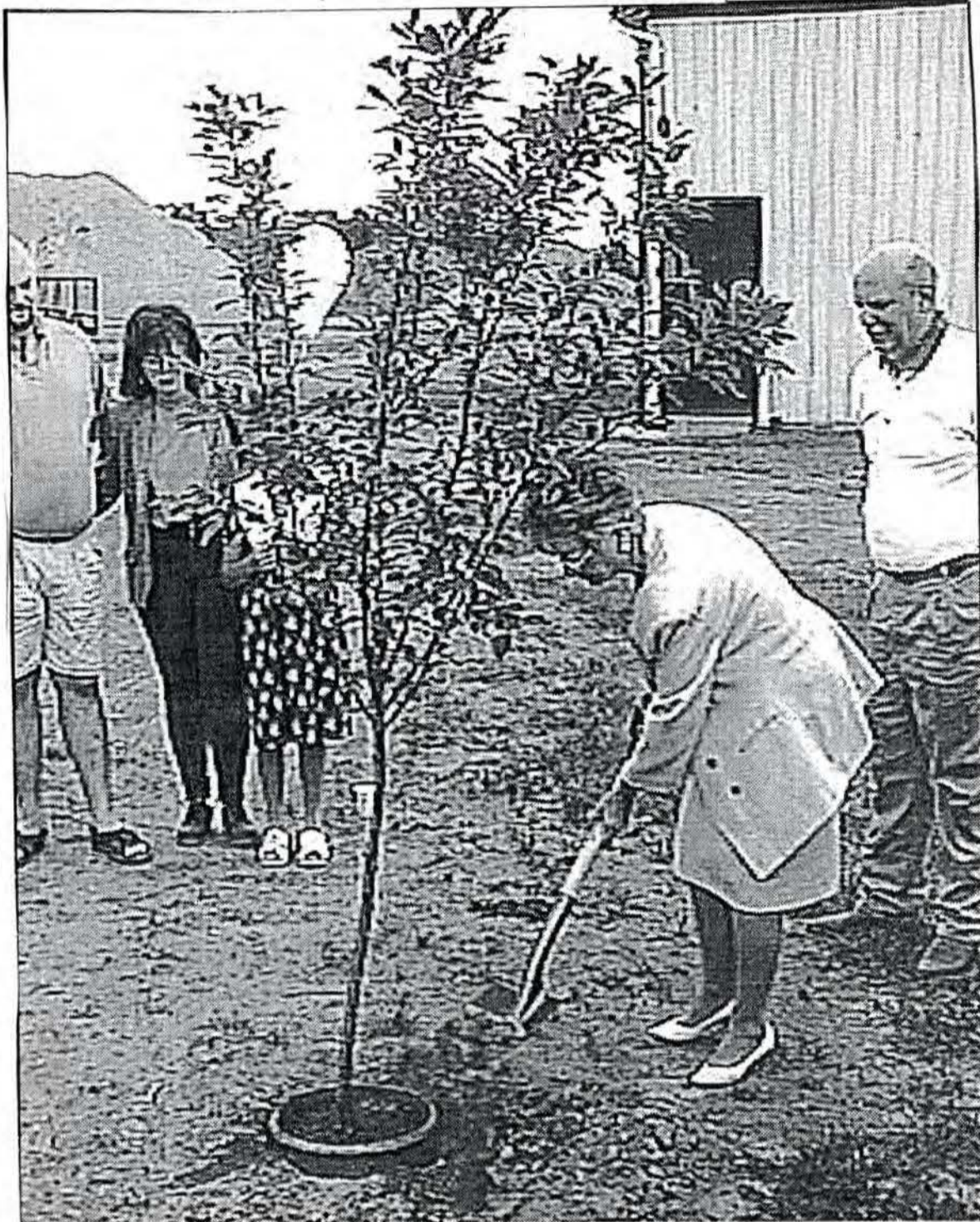
The West Elgin Chronicle is headin' on down the road. After being purchased by Rodney's Shirley Slaats three years ago, the community paper's home base will be moving from Rodney to West Lorne. As of Monday, Aug. 31, you will find the staff of The West Elgin Chronicle working as hard as

ever at 242 Graham St., in the former N&W Country Video store. Our hours will remain the same (Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.) but our new phone number will be 768-2220 and our fax number will be 768-2221. See related story on Page 3 to find out more about the move.

**OPEN HOUSE AT THE
WEST LORNE LIBRARY,
JUNE 11, 1998**



West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, Library Supervisor Shelly Fleming and Elgin County Warden Perry Clutterbuck helped cut the ribbon to the opening of a larger library.



Memorial Tree Planting

The Municipality of West Elgin have honored the memory of former employee Lynn Tunks with the planting of a tree behind the municipal office on Hoskins Line. Lynn, a long time member of the roads department, passed away earlier this year. Here, Lynn's wife Judy tosses the first shovel of dirt on the new tree.

Wednesday September 16, 1998

West Elgin Free Press - Page 9

**THE COMMUNITY WELCOMES JEFF, TERESA AND FAMILY AND
YOUR GRAND OPENING OF HOMEHARDWARE
SEPTEMBER 17th - 20th**



New Owners of the Home Hardware are Jeff and Teresa Knight. In the front row are their two children Holly and Corey.





As it stands now...

West Lorne Council has been approved funding to build a new town hall, complete with a fire hall and library. The present building is pictured here as it appears now. A new town hall might mean the destruction of the present building or could mean a great deal of renovations and expansion. Council will be talking with their architects to determine what is best and most economical.

1994
**West Lorne gets
\$300,000 fire hall,
municipal office**

The province has approved construction of a new building which will house the Village of West Lorne municipal office, fire hall and works department.

Reeve Diane Buchanan says construction on the \$311,583 project is expected to start in November and be completed by September 1996.

Funding under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program was announced on the weekend by MP Gar Knutson and Municipal Affairs Minister Ed Philip.

Reeve Buchanan says the building will enhance community service to residents and provide sufficient space for village vehicles and equipment. "It is expected that the building, located in the main commercial intersection of the village, will attract other businesses to the area.

Construction will generate an estimated 330 person-weeks worth of short-term employment.

"We as council of the Village of West Lorne are very pleased with the approval of our project for the fire hall/ municipal complex," said Reeve Buchanan. Being a small municipality, this project enables us to provide accommodation for our fire equipment, and barrier-free access to the municipal offices means that we are better able to serve all of our residents."

Mr. Knutson also praised the project. "Construction of this new building translates into better services and jobs for the citizens of West Lorne. I am glad to see such needed projects funded by the infrastructure program."

Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works is a \$2.1 billion shared cost program designed to create jobs through local priority projects which will improve the province's infrastructure and therefore its competitive position. Canada, Ontario and local partners are each contributing one-third of the project funding.

2 - The Chronicle, October 10, 1994

Everyone involved in run

There was a chill in the air, but not in the hearts of the 220 students participating in the sixth annual Terry Fox Run held at West Elgin Senior Elementary School last Wednesday.

The youngsters all ran, walked or jogged six kilometres to help raise money for cancer research. Both groups of junior kindergarten students also participated, and covered one kilometre for the run. Pledges were collected by the students from among their friends and family, and while the exact dollar amount is not known yet, the school has managed to raise a total of \$23,192.52 in the past five

years.

Teacher Cathy Bell has organized the event for the past three years and says the school had 100 per cent participation this year. "The kids love it," she says, adding that the Terry Fox Foundation helps boost interest in the run by providing bookmarks and buttons for the young runners, as well as supplying videos to the school so the students can understand exactly what it is they're raising money for. Trophies are awarded to the three senior students with the most pledges, as well as an individual trophy for the highest pledge collector in each of the J.K. classes.



Even the youngest WESES students got into the act and participated in the Terry Fox Run held at WESES last week.

Meeting skating stars a dream come true

BY: KAREN ROBINET

She may not be able to skate herself at the moment, but 11-year-old Ashley Murray still loves to watch, and when it comes to professional skating, there are few better than Lloyd Eisler and Isabelle Brasseur.

Last weekend, Ashley, who has cancer, had the chance to meet the skating superstars through the efforts of Beth Evans, a coach with the West Lorne Figure Skating Club and the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

Evans coaches Eisler's niece in another skating club, and says that both the professional skaters work with the Children's Wish Foundation. When asked if they would meet with Ashley - who is a former member of the local figure skating club - they quickly said they would.

Evans says she immediately called Children's Wish, "and they set it up for them." Evans says she was impressed at how quickly the trip was organized. Before leaving, Ashley received a skater figurine and sweaters from the skating club, as well as some balloons from Cherie and Company.

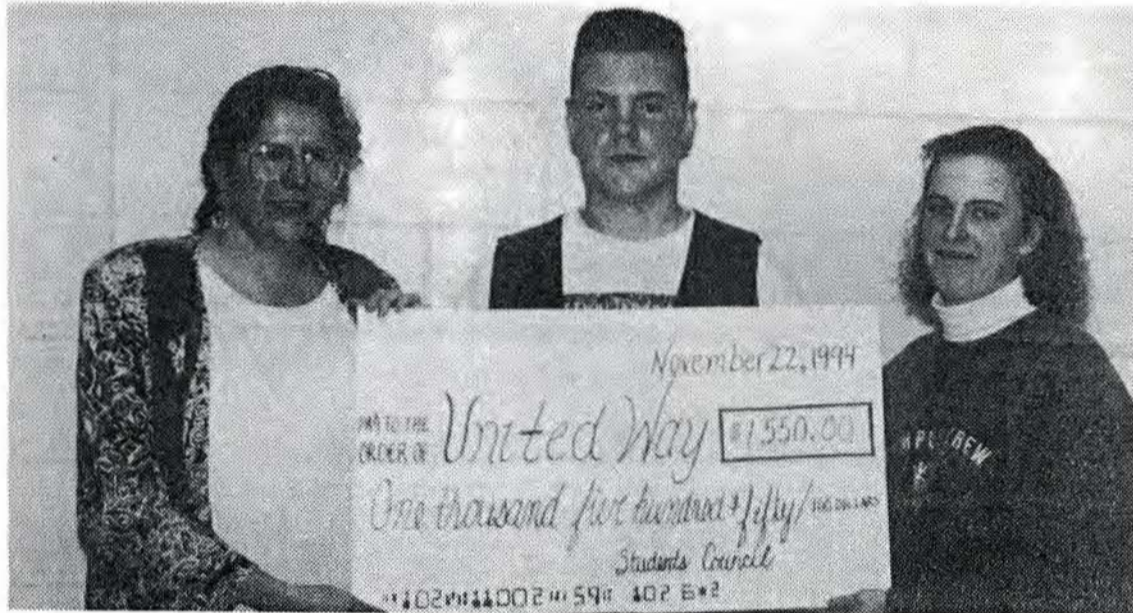
Ashley and her family left West Lorne at noon on November 25 in a white limousine headed for the Sheridan Centre, where they received two bedrooms, and an adjoining parlour. Lillian Murray says Ashley, "had a wild time," in the hotel rooms, which offered a bird's eye view of the skating rink where Ashley and her brothers could watch the skaters practicing. At about 4 p.m. on the Friday, a representative of Children's Wish stopped by with a photographer to take some pictures. The highlight of the trip was the personal visit by Eisler and Brasseur who spent about half an hour visiting with the Murrays.

The skaters presented Ashley with a sweater and t-shirt, and she presented them with a number of items to be autographed. During their show that evening, Eisler and Brasseur made a special presentation of roses to Ashley, and the youngster can now tell all her friends that she was actually kissed by Lloyd Eisler.

"On Saturday we took the kids to the CN Tower," says Lillian, adding that Ashley wanted to buy a camera with her spending money, so, "we took lots and lots of pictures."

Ashley is currently undergoing chemotherapy and as of last Thursday had been hospitalized with a slight fever, which Lillian says is very common with cancer patients. She said she expected Ashley would be home again in a few days.

Just after the Murrays got home from their Toronto trip, they were notified by the Sunshine Foundation that a trip to California for Ashley had been set up for the following week, but because of Ashley's chemo, the trip will have to be postponed. Now, the family is hoping the California trip will take place in February.



FROM STUDENTS, TO UNITED WAY: WESS Principal Martha Foster accepted a cheque for \$1,550 on behalf of the United Way from student council president Dave Carr and treasurer Cara Hollan. A week of activities, including a penny drive which raised \$625, were organized to raise money for the worthy organization.

Nov.



Winners from McFadden's Threshing

A variety of contests were held at the McFadden Antique

Show and Threshing.

Winners in the wagon backing were Bob Paterson, first; Brian McGill, second; Larry Howard, third. In the coverall race Bill Okolisan took first, Pete Soos was second and Simon Ecker, Jr. was third.

In the children's nail driving contest the winners were John Watterworth, first; Adam Newman, second and Casey Okolisan third.

The ladies nail driving con-

test saw Pat Watterworth take first place, Brenda Steel placed second and Shirley Brown was third.

In the men's nail driving contest Jim Payne was first followed by Harry Vergeer in second and Pete Soos in third.

Winners in the log sawing pairs were Bob Kuska and Jim Payne, first; John McIntyre and Bill Graham, second; Bill Graham and Ray Hull, third.

And finally, those naming ten items on board were Harold Lamb followed by Art Ross.



Bruce Davey.

Nov. 1994

West Lorne man reported missing

A 60-year-old West Lorne man is missing and it has family members and Dutton OPP worried.

Lawrence Davey has been missing since last Thursday. He was last seen driving a 1981 Malibu licence 853-LAV.

Mr. Davey is described as six feet tall, weighing 220 pounds with white hair, green eyes heavy build.

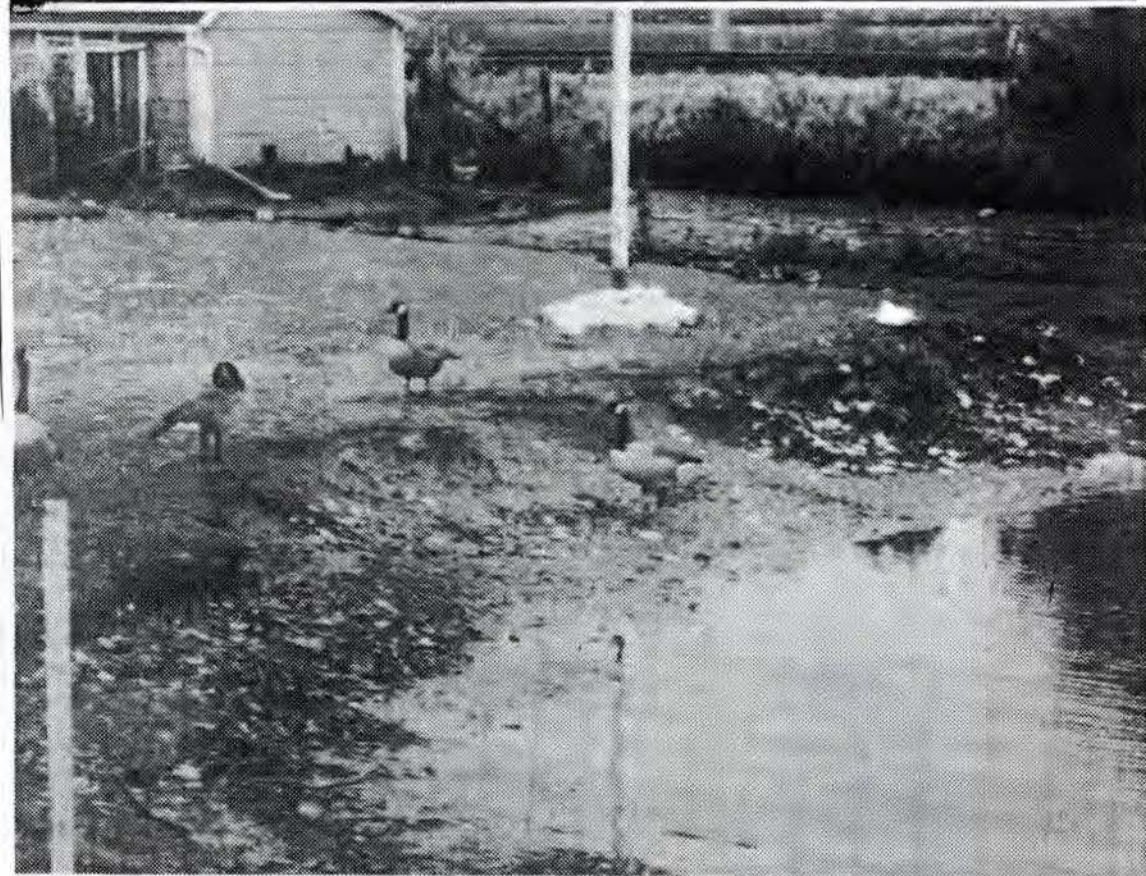
He was last seen wearing a beige suit coat and overcoat.

Dutton OPP and family ask residents to check their properties for the vehicle or for Mr. Davey.

Those with information are asked to contact Dutton OPP at 762-2833

Wednesday, November 9, 1994

Brown's Wildlife Sanctuary



All looks well at Brown's Wildlife Sanctuary just outside of West Lorne, but the truth is, the birds are missing their keeper, Roy A. Brown who passed away on October 29, 1994.

Roy A. Brown

Area's naturalist will be missed

WEST LORNE -- West Lorne residents were saddened with the news that Roy A. Brown passed away.

Residents were concerned about what would happen to the bird sanctuary that Brown was so faithful to. Brown was likened as West Elgin's own "Jack Miner". Coincidentally, in Kingsville last weekend was the 50th anniversary commemoration of Jack Miner's death on Nov. 3, 1944.

Roy A. Brown

Brown passed away at Four Counties Hospital on Saturday, October 29, 1994 in his 76th year.

Born in West Lorne, son of Charles Brown and Annie Hodge, he was a devoted naturalist. He was predeceased by brothers Harley (1941), Harry (1975),

Clifford (1985), and Alvin (1989).

Dearly loved and sadly missed by his wife Betty (Bell); daughter Bonnie Rodger of London; sons

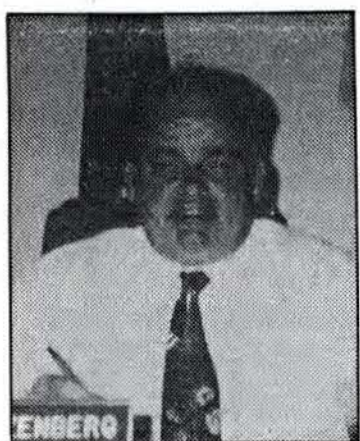
Robert and his wife Shirley of Woodstock, Harley of London, Gary and his wife Shirley of West Lorne; sister Bertha Cooper of Elgin Manor; grandchildren Aaron, Carla, Christopher, Rhonda, Dana and great grandson Warren.

Friends called at the West Lorne Chapel on Monday and Tuesday where service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 2 with the Rev. T. Godfrey officiating. Interment Evergreen Cemetery.

If desired, donations to the Hearth and Stroke Foundation were appreciated. Arrangement entrusted to the Padfield Funeral Home, Rodney.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION '94

Harry Mezenberg returned to office



Alborough Township results

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Reeve | Deputy Reeve | |
| Harry Mezenberg 913 | Duncan McPhail 1114 | |
| John Fisher 420 | Roderick O'Conner 361 | |
| George Okolisan 228 | | |

Councillors (three to be elected)

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Joann Vergeer | 857 |
| Graham Warwick | 780 |
| Sebastian Begin | 679 |
| John Zsoldos | 536 |
| Robert Coles | 505 |
| Charles Rushmere | 318 |
| Robert White | 229 |
| Bill Fry | 772 |
| Leigh Allossery | 528 |

West Lorne results

Councillors (three to be elected)

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Helen Okolisan | 189 |
| John Shields | 248 |
| Perry Willits | 181 |
| John "Bing" Humphrey | 176 |



The new members of West Lorne village council are: (front row left to right) Reeve Dianne Buchanan, Deputy Reeve Tammy Swain, Clerk-treasurer Brenda Fleming (back) Councillor Perry Willits, Councillor Helen Okolisan and Councillor John Shields.

NOV 1994

New clerk begins duties

BY: KAREN ROBINET

The Village of West Lorne now has a new clerk-treasurer.

Brenda Fleming began her new duties on October 31 in the municipal office, and says she's enjoying her time in the area already.

Fleming - who is newly married - is originally from Wallacetown, although she moved to St. Thomas about a year ago. She completed a three-year business administration course at Fanshawe College and is currently a finalist in the Certified General Accountants program.

Before coming to West Lorne, Fleming spent two years in retail accounting with LOEB Inc. "I wanted to do something that mattered," says Fleming in explaining why she was interested in the clerk's position. "I wanted to do something to help the community, not just fulfill a function," she said.

This is Fleming's first municipal posting, and while she says she feels quite confident in the treasurer part of her new job, she is working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to bring her up to speed on the clerking end of it. She will also be enrolled in the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers program in January.

"It's a really busy office," Fleming says of the West Lorne office. She says that arriving just in time for the municipal election, "formed me to centralize on the pertinent issues." She adds that, "I am prepared to deal with the issues. It's very challenging," she says. "I'm really enjoying the work."

First and foremost on Fleming's priority sheet is the election, and as returning officer, Fleming is busy making sure that everything is properly in place for November 14. "I have to make sure the proper procedures are undertaken," she says.

Other important issues she will be dealing with include the sewage treatment plant and the proposed new municipal fire hall. She calls the new building,

"something the whole village is excited about." Fleming says she also anticipates that policing will become an even more pressing interest than it is now.

Even though she lives in St. Thomas now, Fleming says she attended W.E.S.S. and understands what living in the village is all about. "I know what it's like to live here," she says. "Im familiar with what the residents go through."



Brenda Fleming.

Second annual nighttime Santa Claus parade draws huge crowds

Despite the cold temperatures hundreds of area residents clogged the downtown core of West Lorne recently to watch the second annual nighttime Santa Claus Parade.

The crowd gathered downtown early for the parade and while they anxiously awaited the arrival of Santa the air was filled with Christmas music which got the crowd in the Christmas Spirit early.

The Legion Color party led of the procession which lasted a little over 45 minutes.

This year's parade featured the Royal Scots pipe band from London.

It seemed that almost every

service club and business in the area entered the parade this year making it the biggest parade area residents have seen in years.

As the procession of floats and other entries past by the crowd the anticipation of the little ones in the crowd erupted into cheers of Santa as the jolly old fellow and his sleigh proceeded down Graham Rd.

And just like the age old story of the Pied Piper they followed the man in the red suit to the firehall to tell Santa their wishes for Christmas Eve.

The Junior Optimist Club offered a babysitting service at the firehall which gave mom and dad a chance to do some Christmas

shopping in the stores downtown.

During the parade Pine Creek Gallery dished out cups of hot cider to help the crowd bear the chilly air and the Star gave out chili to the parade goers.

After the parade several residents took advantage of taking a ride around town on Mike Closes team and his wagon.

It was a parade that area residents will be talking about for years to come. Hats off to the parade committee for a job well done. Thanks to Julie Lawrance, Robert White, Karen Cormier, Shirley Lorch and Bob Stewart for giving the residents of this area such a beautiful parade to kick off the festive season.



Who is this fellow with the stange looking outfit on ! - This little gaffer, Shannon Pyka from West Lorne seems to saying , get me away from this guy in the red suit and the beard Ma! The jolly old fellow from the North Pole made his annual trip to check up on the little folk in the area before his big trip on Christmas Eve.



WEST LORNE

Reeve plans to apologize for comment about Portuguese and traffic signs

'We were concerned that the Portuguese would not understand the concept of a four-way stop,' Dianne Buchanan was quoted as saying of the former village council.

By Sandra Coulson
St. Thomas Bureau

WEST LORNE — A tearful village reeve said Friday she was "extremely apologetic" for a comment she made this week about the Portuguese community.

Dianne Buchanan said in an interview she will contact leaders of West Lorne's Portuguese community to apologize in person. She added she especially regrets the remark in light of the contacts she has built with the community in the last year or two. "I hope and pray I haven't knocked those building blocks."

Her controversial statement came at Monday's council meeting when a delegation asked for a traffic light or crosswalk at the village's main intersection. They were told that several years ago, the provincial transportation ministry said four-way stop signs would be better for the intersection. But council at the time rejected that advice.

"We were concerned that the Portuguese would not understand the concept of a four-way stop," Buchanan was quoted as saying at

Monday's meeting in her explanation of why the earlier council had turned down the signs. Buchanan is the only member of the current council who sat on council when the decision was made. Buchanan then added the remark was council's concern, not hers personally.

But Buchanan said Friday she didn't intend for the comment to come out like that. She said she had wanted to explain the statement was council's concern before she made the statement, not after.

FORGOT PAPER: She said she had anticipated she would be asked about the former council's decision at Monday's meeting. Because she is on "heavy medication," including a pain killer, she wrote out what she wanted to say. But she left the paper at home.

But she added, "I'm not using that (the medication) as an excuse."

Armenio Almeida, president of the Portuguese Club in West Lorne, said Thursday he was waiting to get more information on the meeting before acting. "We are definitely going to do something. It (the remark) was as low as you can go."



West Lorne Reeve Dianne Buchanan became choked with emotion when she talked about the possibility her comment will be a setback in relations with the Portuguese community.

Another community member, Angelino Oliveira, said Thursday he was "very upset" by the comment. "There's no perfect race. We all make mistakes. But I think the Portuguese are doing a good job in this country."

Buchanan became choked with emotion when she talked about the possibility her comment will be a setback in relations between Portuguese immigrants and those who have been in West Lorne for generations.

TRIED: "I've tried since I've been on council to work with the Portuguese community to gain their trust, respect and all that good stuff because councils past ignored one-third of the people in my opinion."

The Portuguese make up an estimated one-third of the village's population of 1,500.

For example, Buchanan said, she pushed the village to set guidelines for some of its unclear procedures for getting permits for parades and other events on public property. The Portuguese hold two major religious festivals a year in the village. Buchanan said she attended one festival as reeve and was encouraged to see other non-Portuguese residents of the village had also come.

She said she will apologize for making the comments and "for putting my foot in my mouth."



January 9, 1995



Architect's model shows the new fire hall on the left, where a parking lot is now located.

West Lorne council looking at funding for fire hall, municipal office this week

West Lorne council will investigate ways to fund a new fire hall and municipal building at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 9.

Council and the West Lorne Fire Fighters Association met with the architect Wednesday night.

Association president Robert White said "nothing is set in concrete, but hopefully if the vote goes right the project will be a go as of Monday night."

He said the fire fighters' association, which already has carried out some fundraising activities, will continue to do so.

A breakfast was held in the fall, bingos are on-going and the association is also looking at a ball tournament for the summer, perhaps held in conjunction with a casino.

The estimated cost of the project is \$311,000 and the fire hall is estimated to cost \$190,000 of that amount.