



Head Librarian Shelley Fleming (right) and assistant librarian Anne Bray (left) welcome their new assistant Janet Givens to the library in West Lorne. Janet will serve at both the West Lorne and Rodney libraries. Photo by Brian Outhouse

## New Librarian for Rodney/West Lorne

by Brian Outhouse

Janet Givens of West Lorne joins fellow librarians Shelley Fleming and Anne Bray in serving the reading needs of area residents.

Janet is an avid reader herself and brings her years of experience of working with people to the Rodney -- West Lorne Libraries. She is also a mother of two children and in the fall Janet will take over the duties of teaching "Tiny Tales" to her young charges which are aged from 1 to 3 years old. Janet replaces the recently retired Alberta Jones who served the library for 25 years.

Shelley Fleming will assume the head librarian duties for the two libraries.

The Rodney library has a long history with its beginnings in 1893 when it was called the Mechanic's Institute.

In 1901 Mrs. Gray became the first librarian. At that time the library was housed in the back room of a barber shop which was located in Dave Peters Hotel. Mrs. Gray received \$ 1.50 a month for her services.

Mrs. Ludy assumed the librarian duties in 1927 and held that position until her retirement in 1976.

In 1951 the library found its current home when the McMillan Brothers donated the money to build both the West Lorne and Rodney Libraries.

At that time each library operated independently until 1956 when the Rodney and West Lorne library joined the Elgin County Library System. Since joining the county system residents have enjoyed the luxury of inter-branch loaning of books.

Current head librarian Shelley Fleming stated that she has seen many changes since she came to the library nine years ago. "Being a small library and having not only financial but space restrictions it's a tough time keeping up with the ever changing reading habits of the public" added Fleming, "but we do our best to satisfy our readers needs."

The library offers several programs for area youngsters which is intended to get them interested in reading at an early age. These reading programs have been successful according to Fleming who also added that some of the parents have caught the reading bug also.

The library features special days for children such as PD days, Halloween Party's and at the end of August West Lorne library is going to feature a puppet show for area youngsters.

The library is also very heavily involved in the community by providing books to shut-ins,

and putting a float in area parades.

In order to keep updating the libraries resources a variety of fundraising projects are held throughout the year such as its annual book sale, collecting Knetchel Food Tapes, and donations from the public ensure that both the Rodney and West Lorne Libraries keep abreast with the times.

The library is currently starting a video collection for patrons.

So if your looking for something to do drop into the West Lorne or Rodney Library and check out a book, and relax with a good mystery, adventure or fiction book.

## Long time West Lorne Librarian retires after 25 years

JULY

by Brian Outhouse

It was a special day at the West Lorne Library on Friday, June 30th, as both the public and her co-workers Karen Mack, and Ann Bray got a chance to say good bye to head librarian Alberta Jones as it was the last day of work for Jones after serving the library for the past 25 years.

Alberta recalled that back in 1970 she applied for a part time a job at the library to help feed and clothe her children. She got that job and has remained here ever since. "That first job was 2 hours a day for 3 days a week and I only made \$ 14- \$16 a month but I loved it" she added.

At that time Mrs. Pearl Cummings was the supervisor and West Lorne had only been under the Elgin County System for a short time, whereas the library was previously operated by the village.

Alberta's intentions were to stay at the part time job until she could find something better, but, shortly after she started Mrs. Norris, the library's assistant became ill and left the library. Alberta was then promoted to assistant librarian at the West Lorne Library.

She worked under Mrs. Cummings until she retired in 1978, and then Alberta was promoted to head librarian of the library.

There have been many changes over the years at the library Jones recalls as she remembers when the library loaned out 16 mm camera equipment to not only the local schools but the general public. Today the rage is videos which the library carries a number of them. She also remembers when a person wishing to check out

large print books could only do so with a doctor's prescription. One day anyone can check out large print books, and the library has a large assortment of the easy to read books.

Although Alberta dedicated her life to the library she has one pastime that she enjoys immensely and that is L. Bowling. Alberta is a member of the West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club.

As for her retirement plans, Alberta is planning on a trip to Alaska, then maybe to Europe.

With a departing thought Alberta "wishes all the patrons of the library well and wishes her successors as much enjoyment as she has had over the last 25 years and that she will be back to check in on them from time to time."

# Community Hall crumbles into history

by Brian Outhouse  
Phase II of the building of the new West Lorne Community Building Complex kicked into

high gear last Tuesday as the old Community Hall which served West Lorne's for the last 66 years came tumbling down.

The old hall didn't fade into history quietly as hundreds gathered in the downtown core to watch the big backhoe claw at the building that was the centre of the town for many years.

As the backhoe lumbered up the front steps of the hall and outstretched its gaping shovel to collapse the walls, the old hall retaliated in her death throw by letting her first floor collapse, sending the huge machine careening on its side to the bowels of the old structure.

The old hall had bought some more time as workmen scurried to upright the 70 ton machine. It took workers and another crane hours to upright the machine before the demolition of the building resumed. And, through this procedure the old hall stood stately defying man and machine, gasping her last breaths before fading into the pages of West Lorne's history.

The old Community Hall was officially opened on June 3rd, 1930. The architect of the old hall was John T. Finlay of St. Thomas but the driving force behind the construction of the hall was the West Lorne Women's Institute

who put up \$3,000 of the \$20,000 needed to build the hall. The Women's Institute also bought a war memorial that was placed in the lobby to commemorate East Aldborough's fallen comrades.

The site the hall was built on was originally purchased in 1913 by the Federal Government for a Post Office, but WWI postponed that idea. It wasn't until 1920 when the Women's Institute took up the charge again to build a community hall and in 1930 the long time dream became a reality for West Lorne residents.

The original hall housed a jail, post office, playhouse and facilities for town council.

In its earlier years the top floor of the hall played host to many fine plays, which were performed by the Young People's Dramatic Society of West Lorne.

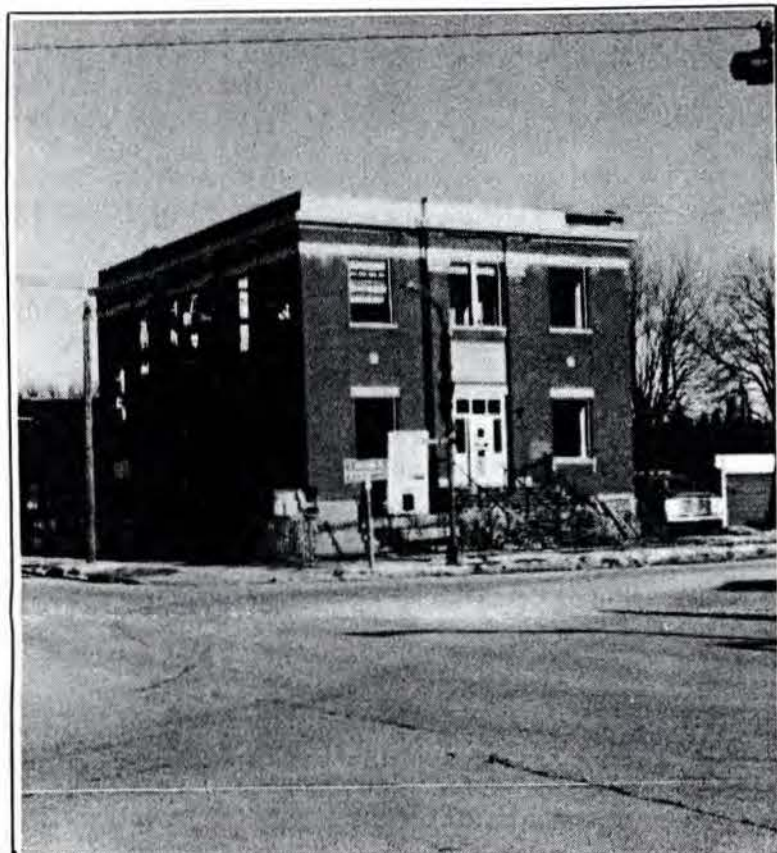
The birth of the hall was ushered in with great pomp and ceremony as the hall was decorated with flags and the St. Thomas Canadian Legion Pipe Band led by piper John Wright led a procession of dignitaries to the opening ceremonies which included a ribbon cutting ceremony by local dignitaries and

MP's. After the opening ceremonies the procession marched to Memorial Park where a baseball game was held between West Lorne and Shedden with Shedden winning 5-3. After the game the Ladies' of the Womens Institute served up a marvelous supper back at the hall for everyone. The day's festivities concluded in the hall's upstairs playhouse with a concert from the Scubert Concert Company of London.

Since then, the old hall has seen many heated council debates and it has been home to many of the area's service clubs including the Womens' Institute, Kiwanis, Eastern Star and many more.

It is fitting that the old hall went out in a blaze of controversy and glory as hundreds of area residents gathered in the cold damp weather to watch the demolition crew tear down the old structure.

Now, that the old hall is gone it is time for West Elgin residents to support the building of the new Complex which will serve area residents well into the next century.



Before and ... After the old hall in West Lorne finally succumbed to the wrecking ball recently. Photo by Brian Outhouse



Going Going Gone... The Old West Lorne Community Hall came tumbling down last week but not before this heavy construction vehicle was uprighted after falling through the ground floor into the basement of the old hall. Photo by Brian Outhouse.

# West Lorne Sun closes

This issue marks the last for the *West Lorne Sun*. The area's community newspaper for the past century or more will cease publication this week, its publishers have announced.

Among the oldest continually published newspapers in Southwestern Ontario, *The Sun* closes almost seven years after long-time publisher and editor Lynn Lashbrook sold

the weekly to Laurentian Newspapers in 1989. Included with that purchase was the *Rodney Mercury*, which is also publishing its last issue this week.

Ironically, the death of the two local newspapers comes only weeks after the March 20 death of Lashbrook.

The newspapers' closure can be linked directly to a lack of

advertising revenue. A new management team was introduced at the newspapers' in early February, and despite significant revenue gains since that time, and a marked improvement in the newspapers' appearance and representation, it was concluded that the long-term financial health of the two weeklies was inadequate.

May 1, 1996

Your Community Newspaper

Vol.1 Issue 1

# WEST LORNE STAR

## West Lorne Star shines bright in West Elgin

With the demise of the *West Lorne Sun* and the *Rodney Mercury* recently it became apparent to Karen and myself that the area needed a newspaper to provide coverage of the local news and events that are important to the residents of West Elgin so we began the *Star*. We will endeavour to report the news that matters to the residents of this area and we welcome your comments and suggestions on how we can make **your** paper a better paper as time wears on. We also hope the community will gather around the paper and support it through advertising so that we do not lose another voice in West Elgin.

The *Star*, unlike its predecessor will be a free publication and we hope you enjoy receiving it in your mailbox each Wednesday. We look forward to hearing your comments on this inaugural issue of the *Star*, so please drop by our office and visit us at 225 Graham Rd., West Lorne.

*Brian Outhouse and Karen Cormier*

November 27, 1996

## Block Parents a step closer to reality

Block Parents will soon be up and running again in West Lorne thanks to the efforts of Sharon Mosher and Marg Weed and Br. 221 Legion.

The new program already has a number of applicants that have passed the screening tests by the police and more will be forthcoming.

During the past week the local organization has brought the Ontario Chairperson for Block Parents to West Lorne to talk to children at area schools about the program and what

they should do if they feel they need help.

The response at the local schools was overwhelming according to local organizer Sharon Mosher as kids asked several key questions, but in the end they left feeling safer that the familiar red and white signs would soon be displayed in windows of various area homes and businesses.

Block Parents last had an organization in West Lorne over 20 years ago.



**Making the world a little safer-** West Lorne Block Parent Organizers Marg Weed (left) and Sharon Mosher (President of the West Lorne Chapter) stand with Ontario Chairperson of the Block Parents program Marianne McBride and executive member Ric Whyte at a recent meeting for area parents at the West Lorne Legion.



MAY  
96

**Digging-In-** Area politicians are seen breaking the ground for the new 57 unit Bobier Home which will be built in the near future. From left to right they are: Eva Richardson, representing Gar Knutson's office, Bob delaPenotiere, representing Peter North's office, Gordon Flum, Harry Mezenberg, Warden of Elgin County and Rien Van Brenk. (Photo by Brian Outhouse)

## Sod turning ceremonies held for new Bobier Home

By Brian Outhouse

Hundreds of area residents braved the cold winds and chilly temperatures to watch the long awaited sod turning ceremonies for the new 57 bed Bobier Home which will be constructed in Dutton in the near future.

The Old Elgin Band from St. Thomas filled the air with music before the ceremonies got underway.

Master of ceremonies for the ground breaking ceremony was Fred Boyes, current administrator for the home who introduced a gaggle of politicians that included the Warden of West Elgin, Harry Mezenberg, Eva Richardson,

who represented Gar Knutson, MP Elgin/Norfolk, Bob delaPenotiere from Peter North's office, MPP Elgin, Rien VanBrenk, Homes and Social Services, Past Warden Vane Chute, Hugh MacGinnis, Reeve of Dutton, and Peter Hentz, Reeve of Dunwich.

Also on hand for the momentous occasion were David Harvey, Program Supervisor for the long term care division of the Ministry of Health and Mrs. Leta West, Chairperson for the fundraising committee for the new home.

After the speeches by the politicians were made, Rev.

Evelyn McLachlan gave the blessing and urged everyone to toss into the wind the mustard seeds that were passed around to the crowd by volunteers which symbolizes strength and growth for the new facility.

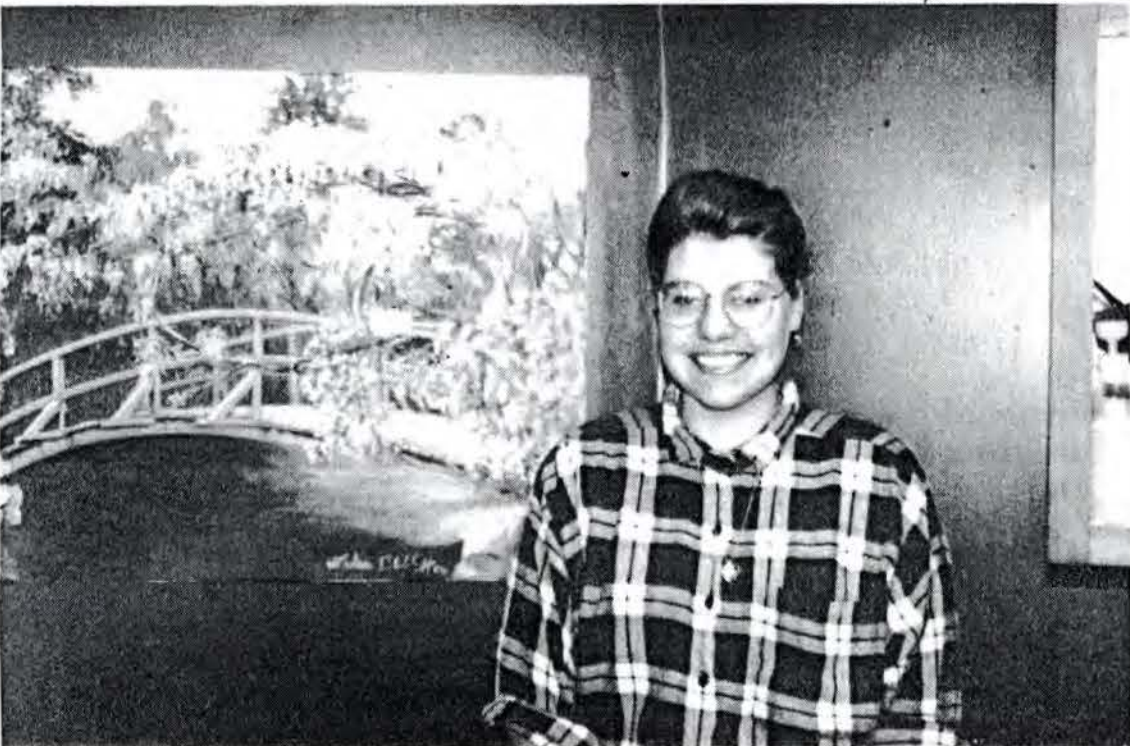
The fundraising for the new facility got an immediate jump start as Jean Edwards, President of the Resident's Council for the home presented a cheque for \$1,000 to the fundraising chairman.

After the ceremonies residents and dignitaries adjourned to nearby Colonial Gardens where tea, coffee and an assortment of baked goods were enjoyed by all.

SEPT. 1996



A camera crew was at Port Glasgow last Monday morning to complete filming of the Scottish coming ashore in 1818. The tall ship Pathfinder was also in the area to help with the 45-minute production, which is being made by a group of Scottish people in Lambton and West Middlesex. Former Lambton-Middlesex MP Ralph Ferguson (plaid shirt) was overseeing the filming. (K. Robinet)

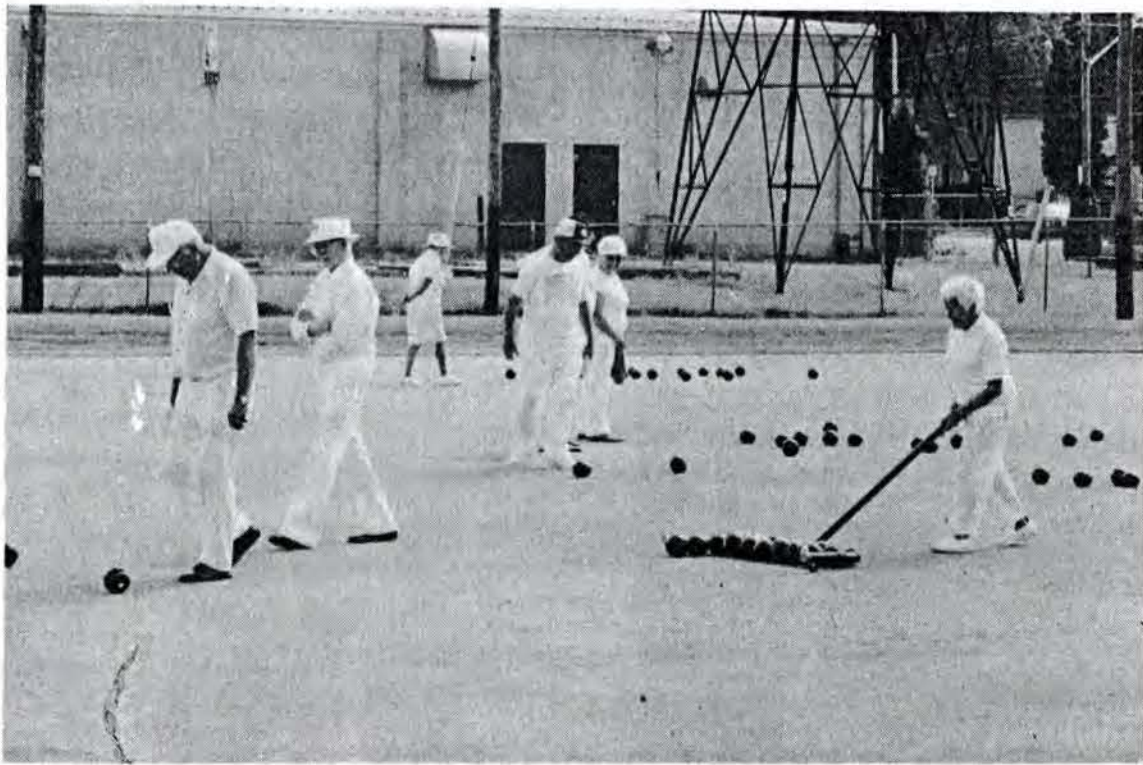


**Another 'Monet' on the way? - Julie Beech, local artist displays one of her most recent works entitled "The Passageway". The bridge in the picture is from Monet's garden. Julie's work is available at Modern Beauty Salon in West Lorne. (Photo by Brian Outhouse).**

She recently won the Remembrance Day Poster Contest sponsored by the West Elgin Legion and went on to the Zone competition where she placed second. Her artwork hasn't gone unnoticed at the Rodney Fair either as she has won several first place finishes for her paintings. Julie likes to work with acrylics but she specializes in

working with oils. She prefers to paint natural scenes such as landscapes, animals and even some abstract pieces. When she paints Beech uses 5 colors, blue, red, yellow, white, and brown. To get other colors she mixes them together to get the desired colour. Her average painting takes her over 40 hours to complete. Beech is currently taking lessons from local artist Harry Wilkinson and she is going to further her art studies at college. Her work is currently on display at her mother's Beauty Salon in West Lorne and all her paintings are for sale. So visit Modern Beauty Salon and purchase one of these original works of art before she makes the big time. You could be buying a valuable piece of art.

September 23, 1996



**The West Lorne Lawn Bowling Club was a hot spot last Wednesday as 60 bowlers competed in the club's annual M&M Tournament. (K. Robinet)**

October 28, 1996



**Members of the West Elgin Environmental Group are shown here with the garbage they recently collected from part of Highway 76. (photo supplied)**



**Winning family-** The Ocolisan family from West Lorne brought home their share of awards at the Beef-A Rama '96 competitions that were held recently in Lindsay, Ontario. Showing their trophies are : Dennis Ocolisan and his sister Paula in the back row while little brother Wyatt and sister Kanda display their winning ribbons. *JULY 96 (Photo by Brian Outhouse).*



**Rocking the day away-** Members of the Eagle Adult Club along with other seniors in the area rocked away in their rocking chairs at the West Elgin Community Health Centre to raise funds for the Bobier Home. Some of those rockin the day away were from left to right : Edna Lorch, Helen Timmermans, Shirley White and Ken Watterworth. The group raised \$600. *OCT. 96*

## Mezenberg to serve second term as warden

BY: KAREN ROBINET

Area residents were in a win-win situation when it came time to elect the 1997 Warden of Elgin County last Tuesday.

Both candidates for the position were from the west end of the county as the incumbent warden - Aldborough Township Reeve Harry Mezenberg - squared off against Village of Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis.

No new contenders came forward at the meeting and both men addressed county council.

MacGinnis told council he has had to make difficult decisions in the past and said he would be able to make difficult ones in the future. He called the 1997 term a period which, "will affect the quality of life for all of Elgin." He urged council to work together for the betterment of the county.

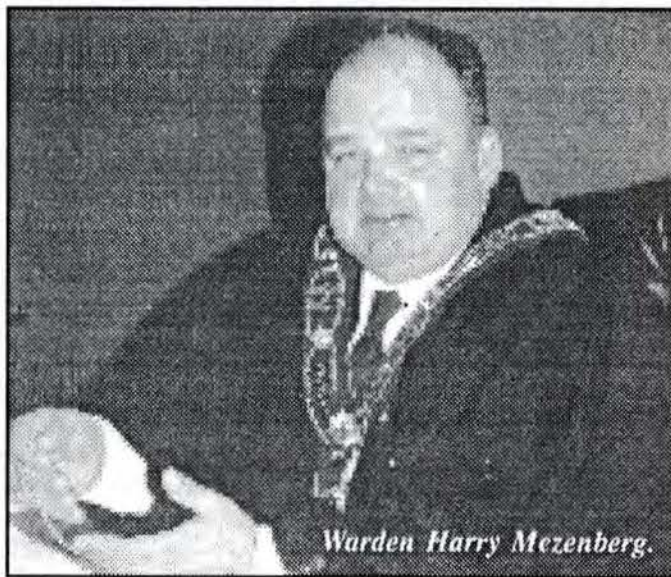
Mezenberg said that with all the changes anticipated for the coming year - most notably county restructuring - continuity will be more important than ever before. He said the county's time frame is shrinking to come up with a local restructuring solution, and he said, "the provincial government will not tolerate indecision." Mezenberg added, "I'm not prepared to gamble with the fate of Elgin County."

Following a secret ballot election, Mezenberg was declared the winner and was sworn in to his second term as warden. He was then presented with the chain of office, the Lord Elgin watch and the gavel of office by Past Warden Vane Chute. In presenting the gavel, Chute told Mezenberg that, "with the matters of seriousness we'll be dealing with in 1997, you just may wear this out."

Mezenberg then congratulated MacGinnis for a well-run race and thanked those who had supported him. He said, "1996 has been a year of challenge and uncertainty," and said that the

coming year will be one of decisions. "We'll have to diligently work together to form a structure of responsible government for all ratepayers in Elgin.

Mezenberg said the county will have to work closely with the City of St. Thomas in the coming year. "We may be heading to the altar," he said. "Let's hope it's not a shotgun wedding." He said council is going to have to be aware of the impact of their decisions on staff throughout the county system, and also acknowledged there will be a reduction in the number of municipal councillors. "We'll have to do a lot of soul searching and we'll probably have to make the toughest decisions in the history of Elgin County," he said.



Warden Harry Mezenberg.

*DEC. 96*



Janice Henderson and son Michael stand in front of a '54 Ford Crestliner at the Show & Shine Car Show in West Lorne.

## Thousands attend West Lorne CanadaFest

Despite the hot humid weather thousands of people flocked to the West Lorne arena grounds to participate in the first annual CanadaFest put on by the village.

The weekend was filled with many different activities which were geared to please both young and old.

Lyn Hanley and her line dancers got the festivities off to a rousing start at the arena. Lyn and her dancers put on a dazzling display of footwork and teamwork and before long half the crowd joined the troupe on the floor in a lively dance routine.

Following Lyn and her dancers the band "The Ozarks" from London rocked the rafters of the old arena playing a variety of country music by artists such as Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson. It was a real toe tapping affair.

Also on Saturday night the PROWL committee held the draw for the Wayne Gretzky jersey with Shannon Grogan of Watford winning the autographed jersey.

On Sunday the grounds of the West Lorne Arena were graced with over 100 of the finest mass produced cars that ever emerged from Detroit.

Thousands browsed and oogled over the old cars and for some the old vehicles carried them back to a time that was dear to them, perhaps they owned a car just like the one at the show and seeing one again would be like seeing a long lost friend, triggering emotions and memories long forgotten.

Entrants for the Show & Shine Car Show came from as far away as North Bay. Trophy winners for the car show were: Morris Jones from St. Thomas

for his 1940 Packard (People's Choice), Brad and Shirley Wade from Mt. Brydges for their 1937 Ford Pickup and Miller Motors won a trophy for their entry.



While patrons were drooling over the vehicles outside a number of vendors were busy selling their wares at the giant flea market that was going on inside the arena.

To coincide with the flea market at the arena downtown merchants held a giant sidewalk sale of their own, offering area residents bargain basement prices.

Hundreds of residents lined the flag draped streets to watch the Canada Day Parade. The parade stretched from one end of Graham to the other and it featured many different floats, bands and local organizations.

Like the pied piper of olden days the crowd followed the parade to the arena grounds to view the antique farm machinery on display and for some to compete in the log sawing competition.

In the afternoon the Lambton-Kent Mini- Tractor pullers put on quite a show as hundreds cheered their favourite tractor across the finish line.

Inside the arena Cam Milliken, and his team from 1996

Cycle Path put on a death defying show of bicycle acrobatics, leaping through the air and performing jumps over ramps.

As Monday evening approached the crowd gathered to watch the finals of the baseball tournament.

The weekend festivities ended with a bang as hundreds watched the best fireworks display the area has seen in years.

The draw for the Mini-Monster truck was held also on Monday night with John Baillie winning the truck.

It was a great weekend for West Lorne and it was a great Birthday Party for our country. Happy 129th Canada!!



Flying high- West Lorne PUC workers are seen raising one of two banners that herald the announcement of the upcoming Canada Fest celebrations in the village.

# Why Not Marathon makes stops in West Elgin

The Why Not Marathon wound its way through Elgin County recently making brief pit stops in Rodney, West Lorne and Dutton.

The caravan of six vans and an ambulance along with a police escort rolled into West Lorne with Gilles LeBlanc, from St. Thomas bearing the torch from Rodney who then passed the torch to West Lorne Reeve Diane Buchanan.

While the marathoners stopped in West Lorne Reeve Buchanan welcomed the group and stated that the world needed more groups like the Why Not Marathon that supports the Para-Olympics and that we can make a difference.

The Reeve was presented with a silver medal for her fundraising efforts (\$635) and Amber Ogilvie from St. Thomas was presented with a gold medal at the small

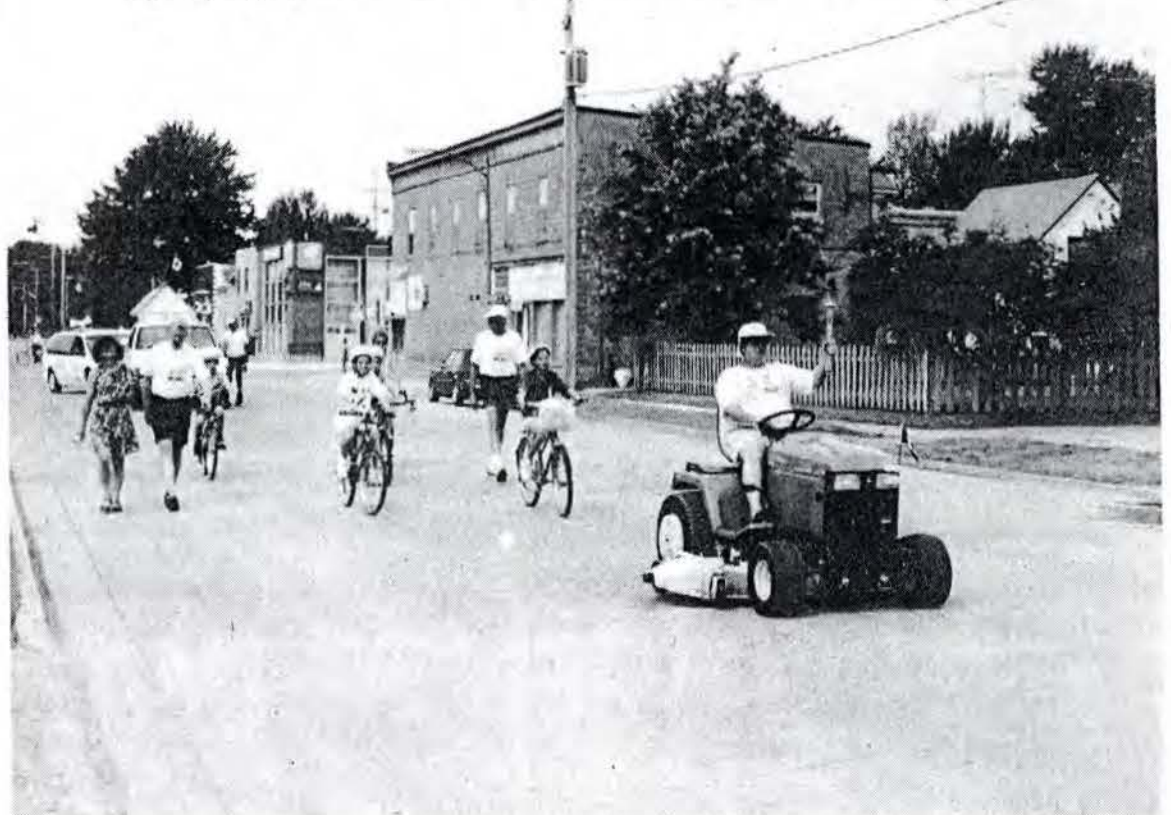
As the caravan left West Lorne the Reeve donned her John Deere riding Lawnmower tractor with torch in hand and proceeded to lead the procession from West Lorne to Dutton. Following the Reeve were a number of bikers from West Lorne.

Upon arriving in Dutton the Village Town Crier (Dave Phillips) welcomed the group and read a decree from the village fathers.

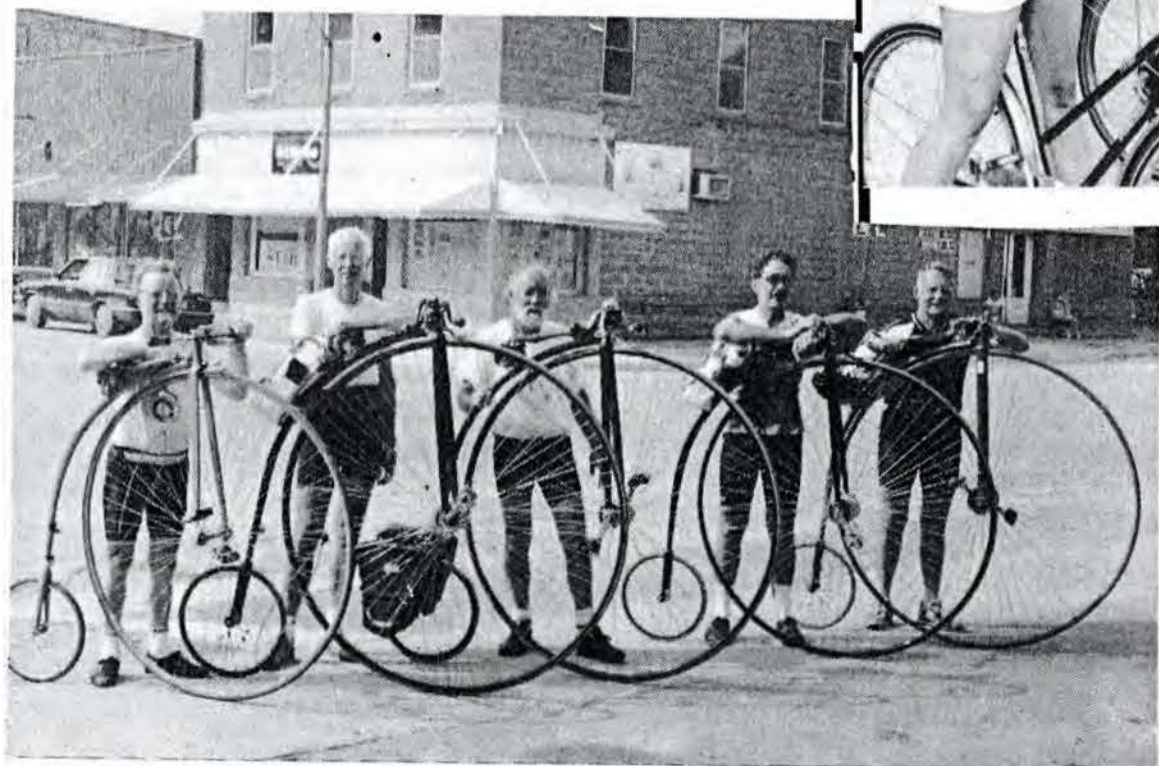
As the entourage departed Dutton little Nicole Sanford who has Cerebral Palsy proudly carried the torch out of town.

The Para-Olympics are held each year, two weeks after the

regular games and this year over 140 Para-Olympians from Canada will be competing with other athletes from 120 countries in the Para-Olympic games that will be held in Atlanta.



**Carrying the torch-** West Lorne Reeve, Diane Buchanan proudly carries the "Why Not Marathon Torch" out of West Lorne on her riding lawn mower while in the bottom photo (left to right) Marg Weed, Julia Mosher, Heather Weed, Adam Weed, and Matt Weed prepare to join the marathoners in their quest to raise funds for Para-Olympians. (Star Photo).



**A trip back to the gay nineties?-** These five bikers call themselves the "Wheelmen". The five are headed to Ohio from Toronto on their late 1800's "Penny Farthing" bicycles. From left to right they are: Pete Matthews from Dublin, Ireland, Glen Norcliffe, from Maple, Howard Barclay from Niagara On the Lake, Larry Strung from Aurora, and Ron Miller from Maple. The cyclers made a brief pit stop in West Lorne on their journey. July 1996 (Photo by Kim Lyvang).



## Local father-daughter combination win big in Ohio competition

by Brian Outhouse



*Flying high-* Campbell Milliken, of West Lorne leaps through the air on his BMX bike at the recently held "Buckeye Nationals" in Akron, Ohio. Milliken placed second overall at the event.

While most five year old girls are content to play with dolls and play house or skip Kristen Milliken of West Lorne, has another interest... bike racing.

Kristen got the bike racing bug from her father Campbell who is a professional BMX rider.

The father and daughter racing duo recently travelled to Akron, Ohio and competed in a National racing event.

Despite the intense competition and the large field of riders young Kristen has that natural born instinct to race as she placed 6th overall at the "Buckeye" competition. Each race consists of 1 lap of 1/4 mile with the riders going full tilt (12mph) over various hills and jumps.

When asked what she wants to do when she grows up her reply was "A Professional bike rider like her father".

Kristen's next competition will be in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she will get a chance to add to her overall point standings.

While Kristen is honing her racing skills and learning from dad, he has made his own mark in the bike racing world by becoming a three time Canadian National Champion, a three time Eastern Canadian Champion, and he also holds 13 Provincial titles.

Campbell has been racing for the last 16 years and his goal is to some day compete in the world nationals. He hopes to qualify for the Grand

Nationals on Labour Day, which are held in Louisville, Kentucky this year.

Milliken and his daughter travel far and wide to compete and he has recently gained Cycle Path as a corporate sponsor.

In addition to his own racing, Milliken has taken on the responsibilities of coaching a five man racing team for "Cycle Path". The group also performs demonstrations of bike riding at various events and they are going to perform here in West Lorne on the Canada Day weekend.

I'm sure we haven't heard the end of Kristen's racing history as this is probably only the beginning of her rise to the top of the bike racing world.



*The Great Bike Ride-* These thirty bike riders climbed aboard the Heart and Stroke Foundation's big bike recently and made the trek between Eagle and West Lorne raising over \$2,000 for the foundation. They are seen here giving a hearty cheer to passing motorists along the way.

(Photo by Brian Outhouse).

## Area cyclists raise over \$2000 for Heart & Stroke

by Brian Outhouse

Despite the chilly temperatures and the threat of rain thirty area people climbed aboard the "Heart and Stroke's thirty passenger bicycle and peddled their way from Eagle to West Lorne.

The cyclists took about 45 minutes to make the trek between the two villages and raised over \$2,000 in pledges towards for the Foundation.

Kiwanians Ray Jobson and Vin Liepmann escorted cyclists between the two villages.

Upon returning to the Community Health Centre in West Lorne the group refreshed themselves from their journey with pop and juice which was donated by

McDonalds and IGA, and goodies baked and prepared by Catherine Lee.

The ride was organized by Patricia Potter, Program Coordinator for the Community Health Centre in West Lorne.

Riders for the big bike were: Bruce Sweetman from P.J.'s Pizza, George Okilsan from Pine Creek Gallery, Dennis Howard from the OPP, Steve Browne from the IGA, Bill Graham from the Kiwanis Club, George Nute and Robert White represented the West Lorne Fire Department, from WESS, teacher Jim Ryan and students Laura Lackey and Rob Smith, Doug Parent from the On Your Feet Club, Anna Silva

from Donut Delite, Alcina Paiva from West Elgin Pharmacy, representing the Health Centre were, Dr. Steven Jones, Robert Taylor, Iona Wooley, Patricia Potter, Paula Alves, Theresa Roos, Mary Fluker from West Elgin Walkers, John Ross, Bruce Pierce, Earl Bobier, and Karen Cormier from the West Lorne Star.

The big bike is one of four bike's that the Heart and Stroke Foundation use for fundraising across Canada and the bike that was used in the West Lorne ride, raised over 900 million dollars for the Heart and Stroke Foundation last year.

Nov. 1996



*The West Elgin Dramatics Society will open its fall show on November 29. The group is performing two one-act plays: Gift Of The Magi and The Nutcracker. Here, Sharon Nielson and Martin Joldersma are shown in a scene from Gift Of The Magi, directed by Evelyn McLachlan.*

(K. Robinet)

# Lynn Lashbrook remembered for his newspapers, his community involvement



Lynn Lashbrook

**By Laurie Lashbrook**  
Lynn Lashbrook, former publisher and owner of the *Rodney Mercury* and the *West Lorne Sun*, died March 20 at Four Counties General Hospital. He was 72.  
Lynn started his newspaper career as a printer's devil under his father, who published the *Rodney* paper, and became a full-time employee in 1941. He graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 1949 with a B.A. in Journalism. Having operated the *Mercury* each summer while at university, Lynn purchased it from his father upon graduation. The following year

he acquired the *West Lorne Express*.  
His career as a publisher and journalist was a distinguished one and his achievements were often lauded by his peers with national awards for editorial excellence and for publishing the best all-round weekly newspaper.  
He was active in the community newspaper associations, both provincially and nationally, for more than 20 years. He served as president of the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association in 1963 and in 1977 was elected president of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.

Best known by his readers for his "One Man's Opinion" editorials, he offered up his incisive and often caustic comments each week on a wide range of issues of local concern.  
He viewed the best interests of the community as inseparable from his own. Through the pages of his newspapers, he encouraged what he believed to be right and never hesitated to voice outrage at what he felt was wrong for his community.  
Lynn was dedicated to boosting the local economy and worked in many capacities to bring industry and tourism to the area. He served

on Aldborough council for two years.  
He was a charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Rodney and dedicated many hours toward the realization of a number of community projects such as the Rodney pool and seniors' apartments. He was recently made an honorary life member.  
Despite his love of Rodney, he was often struck with wanderlust and travelled widely with his wife and family whenever possible.  
Lynn Lashbrook will be sadly missed by the communities of Rodney and West Lorne.

- June 3, 1996



Members of the Eagle Adult Club prepare for their annual walk to the lake.

(D. Robinet)

July 1996

## Longtime Aldborough clerk passes away

C.I. (Charlie) Black passed away last Monday, July 8 at Four Counties Hospital, Newbury in his 77th year, following a short illness.

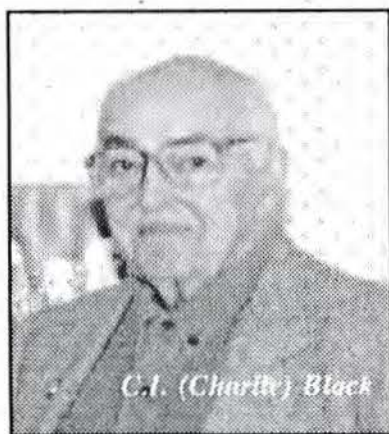
Black was born in Ireland and came to Canada in 1930, settling in Toronto. Three years later he moved to Aldborough Township, and served as Clerk, Clerk-Treasurer and Chief Administrative Officer from 1943 to 1984. He also served as Reeve of Rodney.

Black is survived by his wife Jean, daughters Carol and her husband Winston Wong, and Jan and her husband Tom Weiss, all of London. He is also survived by grandchildren Jennifer and Danielle Weiss, as well as a brother, Vincent Black and sister Kathleen MacArthur, both of St. Thomas. Black was predeceased by a brother James (1986) and granddaughter Allison (1995).

Black was a member of the Masonic Order, Past Master of Rodney Lodge A.F. & A.M. #411, Past District Deputy St. Thomas District 1963, and a life member of Royal Arch Masons.

Following cremation, a memorial service will be held at Grace Anglican Church in West Lorne this Wednesday, July 17 at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Meurig Lloyd officiating.

At last week's Aldborough council meeting, Councillor Graham Warwick said Black will be missed: "He had a good sense of community and a good sense of politics."



C.I. (Charlie) Black

## Annual walk held

Sunny skies prevailed for the Eagle Adult Club's annual trek to the lake last Saturday.

Those taking part in the walk were: Aileen MacGregor, Mary Rose, Bruce Rose, Ken Watterworth, Peter Timmermans, Helen Timmermans, Francis Graham, Mary Payne, club president Shirley White, Harold Lancaster, Madeline Wilton, Reeve Harry Mezenberg and Deputy-Reeve Duncan McPhail.

While they walked, Anna Baker, Edna Lorch and Mary Belle Watterworth waited back at the community centre.