

# West Lorne goes 'Western' during 'Western Days'

Aug  
1996

CURRENT EVENTS

1996

Shades of the old west were evident in West Lorne over the weekend as hundreds attended the second annual Western Days Festivities.

Weekend events included a giant sidewalk sale on Friday and Saturday by cowboy and cowgirl clad merchants who had bargains galore for area shoppers to lasso unto.

On Saturday, area residents met at Dixon's Corral to climb aboard the West Lorne stage for a leisurely ride around the village with Wayne Close and his team of eight year old Belgian horses.

The horse drawn wagon rides

could carry between 15 and 17 people each trip and more often than not driver Wayne left a crowd waiting at the corral waiting for his return. Driver Close expertly led his team around the village shouting commands to his trusty steeds such as 'Haugh' (left) and 'Gee' (right) and the ever popular Woah!

One of the more popular stops on the tour of the village was the BBQ in front of the IGA store that was staffed by the West Lorne Scouts. The scouts offered area residents a menu with prices that reflected the old west, with a burger, hot

dog and a pop going for a mere \$2.50 and \$2.

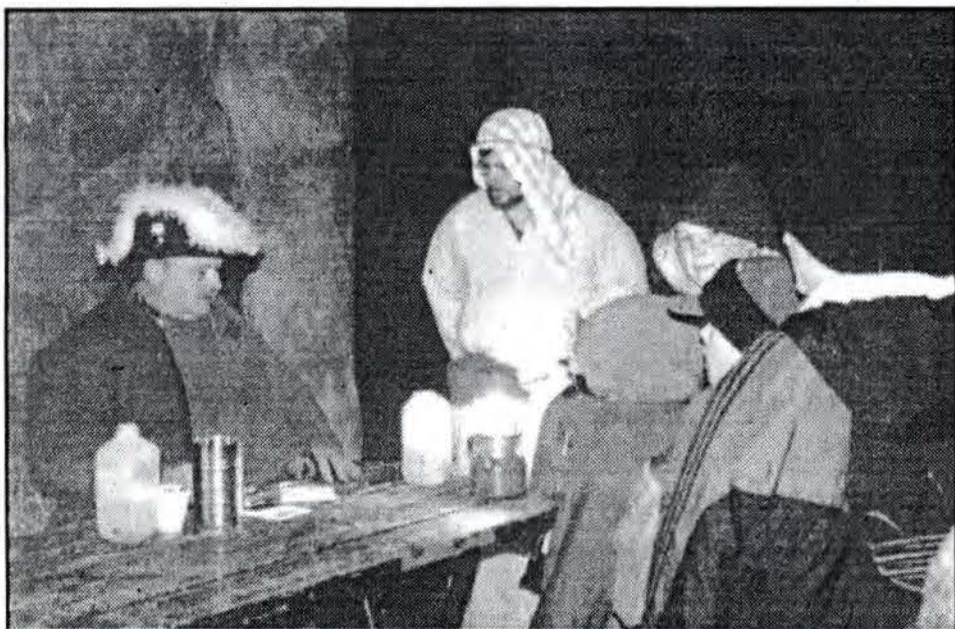
The two day event was a huge success mainly due to the efforts of Dave Dixon (Dixon's Feeds and Service and Steve Browne of the IGA.

Members of the West Elgin 4-H club were also out in force over the weekend selling tickets on a riding horse for \$2 which many cowboys and cowgirls took advantage of.

The photo on the right is Wayne Close driving his team of Belgian horses around town with a few of the hundreds of passengers he carried throughout the day.



## 1996 Journey of Love



At left, Harry Mezenberg is the tax collector, with guard Dave Page. Above, are wisemen Lyle Mann, Norma Mann and Ken Girard. Lower left is the nativity scene including Lynne Palmer, Brandie Elliott, Glenn Elliott, Joe Elliott, Nicole Elliott, Norma Elliott, Hugh Palmer and Karen Elliott. Below are Louise Verhoeven, Betty Mezenberg, Jim Verhoeven and Janneke Fleuren in a scene from the marketplace.

(D. Robinet)





## Tempers fly in West Lorne council chambers

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Last Monday's meeting of West Lorne council was emotion-charged as various council members butted heads over several issues.

On the agenda was a letter written by Councillor John Shields to Reeve Dianne Buchanan regarding personal use of the village's fax and photocopier machines. Shields wondered whether the village had been reimbursed and Buchanan responded that a tally is being kept and payment will be forthcoming.

Then Buchanan presented a prepared statement in which she stated she has been experiencing frustration at comments made by council members, and the argumentative approach of one council member in particular.

After contacting several provincial and federal agencies, Buchanan said she felt she had no recourse but to, "pursue my legal rights," for what she perceives as "workplace harassment," against Councillors Perry Willits and John Shields and Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain. Buchanan said she was tired of the constant criticism of council members and she urged them to, "stop the hidden agenda, act with responsibility and do what you were elected to do."

At that point, Councillor Helen Okolisan read her own prepared statement, saying that she had taken offense at a statement made by Shields on the "plodding" pace of the previous council. Okolisan added she is ashamed of how people all over are laughing at West Lorne council and how it runs. She expressed her desire for the council to, "work together and

get along."

Shields said he feels it's a free country and it is his right to express his opinion. He added he is comfortable with everything he has said about the previous and current councils.

Shields and Willits both said they felt it was unfair that Buchanan's statement was not on the agenda and professed that they will have their own statements at the next council meeting.

Swain told Buchanan she has never publicly made any derogatory comments about the reeve, and Buchanan ended the fiery session by stating she was, "not threatening but promising legal action if Shields and Willits don't cease workplace harassment." Willits then responded that if Buchanan would behave like a reeve, she would be treated like a reeve.

Following the meeting, Buchanan told *The Chronicle* she has no intention of resigning from her position, and asked if she feels anyone else on council should, the reeve responded with, "no comment." She added that there is too much going on now for council to be divisive. "We have got to work together as a team; we can't be pulling in different directions," she said.

Swain agreed, adding that she hopes council can put this episode behind them and move on. "We all have to pitch in together and work as partners, not as enemies. Threatening is not going to help," she said.

OCT. 96

## Municipal complex running behind, but on budget

BY: WENDY TUNKS NOV. 25, 1996

The good news for resident of West Lorne who are wondering when the new municipal complex will be open and ready for business is, that the project looks like it's within budget. Project manager Don Roughley indicated the library will be open by November 30 with "99.9 per cent of the work completed." He states, "only a few finishing touches," need yet to be done. Those finishing touches are slated to be completed on Tuesday. The municipal building proper should be open a few weeks after that with some flooring, carpeting and paint touch-ups required.

Roughley reports that the \$536,664 budget allotment has not been exceeded. And although there is still some work left to be done to the firehall and the basement of the municipal building proper, Roughley is optimistic those items will not increase costs too dramatically.

The break-downs of costs for the new building are as follows: The firehall is costing \$260,118; the municipal building & library project is budgeted at \$222,618; demolition of the old town hall cost \$30,761 and the subsurface work cost \$42,447. The total cost of \$555,944 is offset slightly by a \$19,280 rebate.

The Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program is covering two-thirds of the original total project costs of \$311,000, with both the provincial and federal governments each contributing a third of those costs. When the plan was expanded to cover the library, a larger meeting hall and kitchen facilities, the cost of the project escalated, but the provincial and federal grants remained the same. According to Diane McArthur-Rogers of the Infrastructure program in Toronto, the village has exhausted the program's funds and no more monies are forthcoming.

The provincial and federal grant will cover approximately \$207,000, with the village of West Lorne paying the lion's share of \$329,000 of total project costs.

### Becker's could be closing

While its head office in Toronto says negotiations are still ongoing, *The Chronicle* has learned that the West Lorne Becker's store could be closing as early as January, 1997.

Store manager Al Palazzo will be relocating to a Chatham Beckers, and Canada Post will look at moving its retail operations to another outlet in West Lorne if necessary.



## Community policing awaits council approval

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Constable Bob Maginnis from the O.P.P. spoke to a small but enthusiastic group on Monday evening at W.E.S.E.S. to explain the purpose, goals and format for Community Policing in West Lorne.

As of January, 1998, all municipalities are to provide adequate and effective police services. Each community is required to form a police services board comprising service groups, businesses and residents who are concerned about police matters. Maginnis explained this board will, "send a clear message for the people of West Lorne. The day the community says, 'I have had enough,' it will become a peaceful community."

There are currently 576 municipalities in Ontario not paying directly for police services. In January, every municipality will be financially responsible for providing police services, by either creating their own police, contracting an existing police service or contracting the O.P.P. Maginnis feels the first two options are cost prohibitive as minimum standards must be in place, and canine units and special crime units must be provided for.

Maginnis stated that 14.8 per cent of reported crimes of Elgin County occur in Aldborough (West Lorne and Rodney included). This may seem like a low figure, Maginnis said, but it may not reflect the true statistics if people do not report crimes. Even if an officer is not dispatched, figures are entered in the crime statistics data bank. He urged everyone to report crimes, saying, "the best weapon is a pen."

Soon a police services board will be created and Maginnis urged the group to contact service clubs, businesses and other residents. An officer for the O.P.P. is going to be set up in the municipal building, but this has been stalled due to the fact there is no council to sign an agreement.

FEB 97

THE LONDON FREE PRESS

TUESDAY, April 8, 1997

### WEST LORNE

# Municipal affairs official named to take over village council duties

The province was forced to step in after council didn't have a quorum for 60 days.

By Kathy Rumleski

Free Press St. Thomas Bureau

WEST LORNE — A non-elected official has been appointed by the province to take over duties from the embattled village council.

Kent Murray, a municipal adviser in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' London office, will conduct council's affairs until municipal elections in November, Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach announced after officially declaring the five council seats vacant.

"I'm quite honored," Murray said in an interview. "I realize it's a great responsibility representing the village."

He said a ministry appointment like this is rare. "This is the third time since the mid-'80s. The other two times were in eastern Ontario.

Leach was forced to either make the appointment or order an election after council didn't have a quorum for 60 days.

**CONSTANT INFIGHTING:** Three councillors withdrew from council Jan. 16 because Reeve Dianne Buchanan refused to resign. The call for her resignation came because of constant infighting between her and the councillors. When she refused, four councillors walked out but Coun. Helen Okolisian later changed her mind and stayed on.

Perry Willits, one of the councillors who resigned, said West Lorne has already been sold out and it doesn't really matter what happens next. "I don't have a lot of faith in the whole system now."

Willits's main complaint was that West Lorne residents did not have enough chance for public input into Elgin County restructur-

ing talks. He said in hindsight perhaps a mass resignation wasn't the solution to council's woes.

But he said a group of people who claimed to represent villagers asked the councillors to resign if the reeve wouldn't.

"The pressure was put on us. It maybe wasn't the best thing to do. There's a lot of unhappy people in town. I'll tell you that," he said.

Murray's appointment is retroactive to April 1 and he held his first council meeting Monday night.

**ACTS LIKE ANY COUNCIL:** He said he is able to pass resolutions and bylaws, hear delegations and act as any council normally would. Residents can also still appeal decisions with which they don't agree.

Murray said there may be a backlog of items to go through initially but he doesn't believe the job will require him to be in West Lorne full-time.

"The current staff have been carrying on the day-to-day operations of the municipality with the advice of their solicitors. There will be some things that require council (his) consent," he said.

John Judson, the municipality's solicitor, said ratepayers should be well served by the appointment.

"The minister's appointee will, I'm sure, do the best he can to keep things going in West Lorne until the fall. Up to this point in time, the municipality was in a state of not doing normal business. At least things can carry on and the ratepayers can be served as best as possible."

Reeve Dianne Buchanan could not be reached for comment Monday but said earlier that she would abide by any decision the government made.

### WHAT RESIDENTS HAVE TO SAY

Reaction from West Lorne residents on the appointment of a provincial official to run the village:

► "I guess anything will be better than what it's been. Maybe it's better to appoint somebody."  
**C. B. Cantelon**

► "I think somebody locally could have done the job. At least a local person understands the situation."  
**Harley Lashbrook**

► "I'd prefer to keep government out of it and run our own affairs. I wish they'd have kept it at a local level."  
**Ron Ripley**

► "Something had to be done. It saved money by not having an election but I hate to have us not have representation. Some of the councillors worked very hard but what I objected to was the constant bickering that went on. That's why things had to come to a head."  
**Rosalie Krebsz**



## Final moments for council

BY WENDY TUNKS

April 1 marks the day when the Minister of Municipal Affairs decides the political fate of West Lorne, since the resignation en masse of the majority of council two months ago. Council members resigned to protest the refusal of their reeve to resign over what they - as well as some members of the public - believed to be less than credible leadership.

The 60-day period is up on March 28, but with that being Good Friday, and then Easter Monday falling on the next work day, ministry representative John Currie said the order will probably be released on Tuesday.

Although Currie was unable to divulge exactly the plans of the ministry, he was able to say the minister wouldn't want West Lorne residents without representation. A trustee will be appointed immediately until the time an election is called. Currie said according to Section 48 of the Municipal Act, an election shall be held. Currie points out the cost of an election is an unfair burden for the residents at this time as an election is slated for November. The minister may use the November election to satisfy the election requirement.

While waiting for representation by election, a trustee will be appointed. This person will probably not be from the area and will have considerable knowledge of municipal affairs, possibly as an ex-clerk or a solicitor. The trustee will have the same power as a regular council. When asked how one person would serve on an implementation committee for amalgamation, when two are required, Currie said the person would have, "sufficient power to appoint some to attend as well."

Last words:

Former Councillor Perry Willits feels Reeve Dianne Buchanan should have stepped aside when her resignation was called for. He feels it wasn't in West Lorne's best interests to enter amalgamation talks without representation. Willits said had Buchanan stepped aside, the residents would have had a stronger voice. He added, "the right way for amalgamation would have been with Dutton and Dunwich." He also feels disappointment with those who spoke at the last West Lorne meeting in January as representatives of the community, as those people had an opportunity to serve council when a seat became vacant after the resignation of Councillor John Shields.

Former Deputy Reeve said she hopes, "the future for West Lorne looks better than the past." Buchanan and Councillor Helen Okolisan had a resounding, "no comment."

Academy Award winner's mother West Lorne native... see page 8 for interview!



*It's the end of an era for West Lorne. This week the Minister of Municipal Affairs is expected to dissolve council and appoint a trustee to manage the affairs of the village until the fall election, when West Lorne will amalgamate with Aldborough Township. Pictured here at the beginning of their term are: (back row left to right) former Councillor Perry Willits, Councillor Helen Okolisan, former Councillor John Shields (front) Reeve Dianne Buchanan, former Deputy-Reeve Tammy Swain and former Clerk-Treasurer Brenda Fleming.*

(K. Robinet)



## MUNICIPAL POLITICS

## West Lorne awaiting word on who's in charge

Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach has several choices on how to deal with the dilemma, caused by the resignation of three councillors.

By Kathy Rumleski  
Free Press St. Thomas Bureau

WEST LORNE — Bills are piling up, the budget is not approved and residents are awaiting word on who is going to administer their village.

That word is expected to come from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs this week.

Reeve Dianne Buchanan and Coun. Helen Okolisan are still attending council meetings — the next one is Monday — but the three other council members resigned last January.

"I'm going to be watching the parliamentary channel . . . to see if there is any hint (from Municipal Affairs Minister Al Leach). I haven't heard anything," Buchanan said.

The walkout of councillors came after a small delegation of residents attended a council meeting and asked for Buchanan's resignation because of constant infighting between her and councillors. She refused so the three other councillors wrote out their resignations and left the meeting.

Buchanan said Leach has several choices on how to deal with West

Lorne's dilemma.

He can dissolve council and appoint a trustee to run the village. He can leave the two present council members on and appoint another member to make a quorum or he can appoint three members who have been duly elected in the past.

Buchanan said she will abide by any decision the minister makes, but right now she continues to sign cheques for payroll and minimal bills.

**BILLS PAID:** West Lorne acting clerk Diane Van Dyk said all necessary expenses are paid up, but some items have been put on hold, including the completion of the new municipal office, which still needs shelving and a room in the basement finished. "It's going to be difficult to catch

up. We'll have to go through agendas from the past three months. It's just going to be a lot of backtracking and going through and approving the bills that haven't been approved. Most people are sympathetic and they understand the position we're in."

Buchanan said her only worry is that if new councillors are appointed, they must have a good understanding of municipal politics.

"... There are so many restructuring issues coming up fast and furious and there needs to be somebody with some knowledge. What politicians are supposed to be all about is the best for the whole community.

"Hopefully, whoever Al Leach puts in does the best for the whole community. It's a rather onerous job, especially right now."

-May 12, 1997

## A new face at West Lorne municipal office

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Rita DeWild from Aldborough Township municipal office has been appointed Deputy Clerk of West Lorne. This appointment will smooth the transition when current clerk, Diane Van Dyk is on maternity leave as DeWild will take over the clerkship at that time. Government appointee Kent Murray explained at last Monday's West Lorne council meeting it will help when Aldborough and West Lorne amalgamate at the end of the year.

Roy Lyons from the St. Thomas Fire Department was on hand to give a small presentation on a new paging system. The new system would see the use of VHF/UHF radios and the department would no longer rely on land lines. Currently, a fire request would be handled through a telephone call to Star Communications and Star would relay the location to the fire department. Lyons said radios would take over fire emergency dispatches with fire department employees directing calls. If assistance was required from another fire department, Lyons said a fire chief would "flip to the mutual aid sta-

tion," and other fire departments would be called. Lyons also explained the St. Thomas Fire Department is offering the paging system to Rodney, Aldborough, Dutton, Dunwich and West Lorne for a three-year contract with no rate increase and brand new equipment. West Lorne Fire Chief Dave Cadogan said, "this proposal has my full support." Murray said the plan deserved to be looked at and there would be further follow-up.

Elaine Gray was on hand to ask for West Lorne approval of the 'crossing buddies,' program so maps and information can be distributed to St. Mary's. Murray approved this resolution. Gray also requested signs warning people of children crossing. Road Superintendent George Nute felt this was an excellent idea, but noted since the school boards are tendering out the school routes in September, the school routes can change and the crossing areas may not be the same. A sign is to be posted at the entrances of the village urging motorists to watch for children.

Resident George McGill spoke about his ongoing problem with the municipality and parking his

truck. McGill feels he is being unfairly singled out as he says there are five or six other truckers parking their trucks and trailers in residential areas. Parking enforcement officer Marthe Rook explained to McGill that by parking his truck on the road allowance, he is breaking a by-law. Murray advised McGill to adhere to the by-law and others will be notified through the newspaper reminding them of the by-law and parking.

The issue of handicap parking was also raised. George Nute said it could take years to have two spots designated as handicap parking in front of the Health Centre. He added the signs are very costly. Nute said it was his understanding the two spots at the back of the IGA that are already designated handicap parking were going to be shared with the health unit. Murray advised Nute to further investigate.

The PROWL committee had a written request to have their Canada Day celebrations be designated a community event so a liquor licence could be secured. The request was granted.



## Local man to represent Canada at World Karate Championships

Chris Leys of West Lorne will soon be making a trip to merry old Ireland in search of Gold. No he's not trying to catch one of those elusive Leprechauns and their hidden pot of gold, he will be trying to win the gold medal at the World Karate Association Championships that will be held in Dublin this fall.

Leys is one of three Canadians in his weight class to represent Team Canada at the World Competitions. He qualified for the event by winning the Bronze medal in the recent Canadian Championships that were held in Mississauga recently.

Chris took up the sport a scant two years ago and since that time he has won many competitions, but going to the World Competitions has to be the

highlight of his Karate career.

He got interested in the sport quite by accident, when he attended a local practice session at the Bernardo Studios in London and since that time he was hooked. Chris joined the club and has advanced to the point where he has risen to the title of carrying a purple belt.

He currently works for Jones Packaging in London.

Chris states that from now until the world competitions he will be practicing intensely to keep his mind and body ready for the competitions.

As for Chris's wife and family they are behind him one hundred percent and hopes he will bring home the gold for Canada at the World Competitions.



*Just another day's work-Craig Hill, 3 Time Canadian Driving Champion finishes another successful run in a race in Italy. Piero Taruffi gives Craig a well done after driving his Formula One Cooper. Craig is in the car while Piero taruffi, "The Silver Fox" is in the centre of the picture.*

## Three time Canadian racing champ moves to West Lorne

West Lorne has a new resident, 3 time Canadian Racing Champion Craig Hill. Craig has been racing cars since the days of the old oval dirt tracks that were speckled around the country during the late 40's and 50's.

He first got interested in racing when he was going to high school. His first car was a 1937 Ford Coup with an old Flathead V-8 under the hood. At that time he raced at such tracks as Delaware, Nilestown, Brantford and many others.

After racing the dirt track circuit Hill moved up to race sprint cars and midgets during the early '60's.

Eventually his love of racing carried him to tracks all across the USA, Canada and even Europe. Craig has raced with the greatest at such tracks as Taladega, Charlotte, Mosport as other major tracks.

He won his first Professional Road Race in Canada in 1954,

driving a DT type Jaguar. The three time Champ was recently inducted into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame in Toronto.

In his heyday Craig raced for such racing teams as Leyland, MGB and Lotus.

He recalls that when he started racing it was racing in a very primitive form compared to the cars on the tracks today. In the early days it was basically a "Seat of Your Pants" racing, but today's cars have onboard computers which virtually tell the driver when he should accelerate, change tires etc.

Hill was also the founder of the Atlantic Canada racing series.

His career includes 27 years with Castrol Lubricants Canada, where he headed up the Advertising Dept., and Castrol's Canadian Motorsport Programmes.

Currently Hill keeps his hand in

the racing world by doing colour commentary for TSN on the CASCAR Circuit.

He is very glad to see that Canadian racers are doing well in the sport today and that he was glad to be one of the pioneers who paved the way for the young drivers of today.



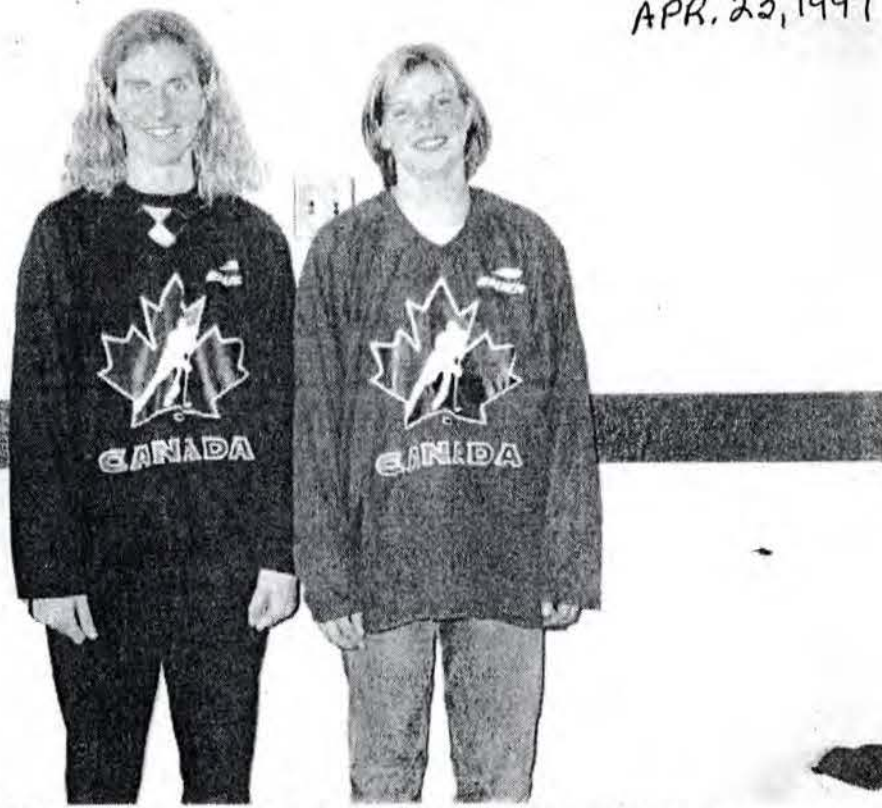
*In winning form- Chris Leys from West Lorne will represent Canada in the World Karate Championships this fall in Dublin, Ireland. Chris shows off some of the trophies he has garnered in his Karate career over the last two years.*

MAR, 1997



*Another business leaves town- Godfather's Pizza in West Lorne will be but a faded memory in the annals of West Lorne history as it closed its doors after only serving the public for a little less than one year. The giant Pizza chain closed its doors because it did not reach the intended revenue it thought it would from this area.*





**Proud Canadians-** Heather Lamont from Dutton (left) and Laura Willie from West Lorne proudly wear the Canadian team sweaters which they received recently at the Canadian Women's World Championships that were held in Kitchener. The pair were part of the in between periods entertainment at the Championship event.

## Local girls strut their stuff at the Womens World Hockey Championships

The Women's World Hockey Championships that were held recently in Kitchener may be over, but for two local girls the event will linger in their minds for the rest of their lives as they were chosen from an elite few skaters to display their skating talents in between periods of the Championship series.

Heather Lamont from Dutton and Laura Willie from West Lorne were selected by a committee from Bauer

Sportswear to represent their team and league at the event.

In the opening ceremonies Heather had the honour of carrying the Chinese flag and she also participated in the skills competition between periods of the opening game between Switzerland and Canada.

Laura Willie had the honour of skating in the skills competition in the semi-final game between Finland and Canada.

Both girls play hockey for the

West Lorne Comets which is a part of the Lambton Girls League. The league consists of 17 teams from as far away as Goderich and Seaforth. This year the team finished in 5th place and defeated Goderich in the "B" Division consolation round. The

local girls team has only been in existence for three years and is currently coached by long time local hockey advocate Alphonse Willie.

### Happy 50th Anniversary



The children of Frank & Katie Nemeth invite friends, neighbours & relatives to join us to celebrate this special occasion. Open House at St. Mary's Hall, West Lorne on Sunday May 4, 1997 - 1pm to 4pm  
Best Wishes Only Please...

## West Lorne lad meets royalty

JULY 2, 1997

Eight-year-old Philip Ouellette of West Lorne had the thrill of a lifetime Thursday, June 26, when he presented Queen Elizabeth with a pair of carnations during her walkabout tour in London's Victoria Park.

The outgoing Philip, son of Alice and Jim Ouellette of Gilbert Street, was given the opportunity to present the flowers by a London police officer working security during the Queen's visit to the Forest City.

"We were standing by the veterans because we figured she would stop and talk to them during her walkabout," Alice explained. "We were standing right behind the barricade so we would have a good view."

Jodi Sweet, from Waterdown, Ont., gave the Ouellettes a white and red carnation to give to the Queen.

"She asked the boys to do it. Carl (her 13-year-old) is a little shy and said no but Philip said he wanted to do it," she said.

As the Queen made her way along a two metre walkaway in the park, the police officer allowed Philip and another little girl and boy out from behind the

barricade to present flowers to the visiting monarch in an impromptu ceremony.

"I thought she looked beautiful," Carl recalled, as he watched his younger brother present the carnations to the Queen.

Philip, who thought the Queen was taller than she appeared in real life, said the British monarch was very gracious when accepting his little gift.

"She said thank-you," Philip beamed.

"I don't think he really understands how excited I am about it," said a proud mom Alice. "He may not understand it now but it is something he'll remember all his life."

"Of all the people there and for him to actually give the flowers to her, you're really quite in awe."

Unfortunately for the Ouellette's, they didn't get a picture of Philip's little gift giving adventure.

"My camera froze just as it was happening," said Alice.

She is hoping someone may have snapped a picture of the event and may be able to get a copy or two.



**A Proud Canadian-** Eight year old Phillip Ouellette proudly waves the Canadian Flag and the old Union Jack in celebration of Canada Day. Phillip had the honour of presenting Queen Elizabeth a bouquet of carnations during her recent visit to London on her Royal Tour of Canada.

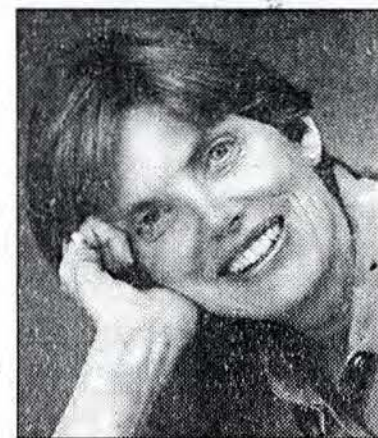


# London's Women of Distinction

January 8, 1997 -



**Keeping a beat to the music-** Area seniors were entertained recently at the West Elgin Community Health Centre during their 'Stone Soup' gettogether by the band 'The Lake Erie Woodchoppers'. Members of the band from left to right are: Earl and Betty Bobier, and Pat and Kay Waite.



**JANE PECKHAM**

"I was fortunate Fran Eberhard (now retired from UWO's faculty of education) was my mentor and role model. She really set an example in what to do and how you do it and hopefully you'll inspire other people to carry on in the field. Sport and coaching has traditionally been male dominated by virtue of the women's role as mother and caregiver but I see that changing. There's more opportunity for women now but I'd like to see more promotion of physical education in the schools and with education cuts, I think were unfortunately not moving in that direction."

**CATEGORY:** Sport, Fitness And Recreation

Jane Peckham is an accomplished teacher and coach who is acknowledged by the amateur athletic community as a leader in the field of youth sports, particularly volleyball and track. She currently teaches physical education at Oakridge secondary school. Peckham has coached a number of high school individual and team champions, demonstrating her ability to create and sustain an atmosphere in which excellence flourishes. Her contribution has been honored by the 3M/London Free Press coaching recognition program. She shares her love of teaching with dedication to development of athletes, particularly young women.

JANE WAS A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF ALICE PECKHAM A W.I. MEMBER

APR. 30, 1997

## March of Dimes raises \$3,200 in West Elgin

The West Lorne and East Aldborough March of Dimes Campaign for 1997 was successful in raising \$3,200.

We would like to acknowledge the great effort made by our volunteers. The following is a list of those who canvassed this year: Julie Begin, Alice Ouillett, Bonnie Robertson, Mary Prud'homme, Caren Walker, Geri Hind, Donna Kleinjan, Louise Harrison, Bob Carmichael, Shirley Walker, Cheryl

Verbrugge, Scott Allen, Evelyn Vandenberg, Ruth Ann Howse, Mary Belle Watterworth, Darlene Johnston, Els Huver, Frances McCallum, Dawn Cadogan, Marigold Pearce, Clara Sample, Kay Attridge, Helen Timmermans, Joyce Bree, Leola Lawrance, Mary Hogland, Paula Alves, Krista VanRaes, and Alison Beer.

As well, we thank all who donated to help disabled adults lead more active and dignified lives.

JUNE 1997



**Looking after the environment-** Members of the West Lorne Horticultural Society led by President George Lippold planted a sugar maple tree recently in the park by the tracks in West Lorne.



# A Salute to Seniors



Lois Carroll was one of 21 seniors across Ontario honoured in a special ceremony held recently in Toronto. She received an Ontario Senior Achievement Award from Hilary Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (left) and Minister Responsible for Seniors Cam Jackson.

## Local woman's efforts did not go unnoticed

Years of service to her community have not gone unnoticed, and Lois Carroll of RR1 West Lorne was recently honoured with an Ontario Senior Achievement Award.

The award was established in 1986 to recognize outstanding seniors who exemplify generosity, goodwill and commitment to their communities, and Carroll fills that description in every way.

A very active member of the Crinan Presbyterian Church, she is also a dedicated volunteer for the Canadian Cancer Society, driving patients to various appointments, and organizing special events within the community.

And, since 1969, Carroll has been an active member of the Daffodil Auxiliary, and has been a driving force behind the auxiliary's Christmas care boxes.

This award is only one of the accolades Carroll has received for her work in the com-

munity. She has previously been named Dutton-Dunwich Community Volunteer of the Year. Along with husband Lorne, she also received the Helen Keller Fellowship by the Dutton & District Lions Club. In 1996, she was nominated for an Elgin Woman of Distinction Award in 1996.

Aldborough Councillor Joann Vergeer was among those in attendance when Carroll received the award, representing the township. Aldborough nominated Carroll for the award, but the nomination was also endorsed by the Canadian Cancer Society, Dutton PUC, Dunwich Township, Rev. Ralph Fluit and Norma McMillan.

Vergeer said she was struck by the humility of the 21 recipients of the award and applauded the selection of Carroll. This year, there were almost 200 nominations received by the province for the prestigious award.

Congratulations Lois!

November 3, 1997

## New bus makes programs accessible

A new wheelchair accessible vehicle is a welcome replacement to the original Four Counties Community Transportation Service Van, which was purchased as a used vehicle.

The new van seats 12 passengers and can accommodate two wheelchairs. Cost of the vehicle was shared equally by the FCGH Foundation and the Ministry of Transportation. The Foundation provided \$35,000 toward the purchase.

Foundation chair Dale Peters said the Foundation was pleased to contribute to the vehicle, which makes it possible for clients with no transportation to at-

tend FCGH, where they participate in social, as well as health programs.

The service is also used by clients to access a number of programs within the area. Rides to medical appointments, grocery shopping and visiting friends can be arranged through the Four Counties Community Transportation Service, which started in April of 1994 with a refurbished van and services residents north to Alvinston, west to Highgate and Ridgetown, south to Lake Erie and east to Appin.

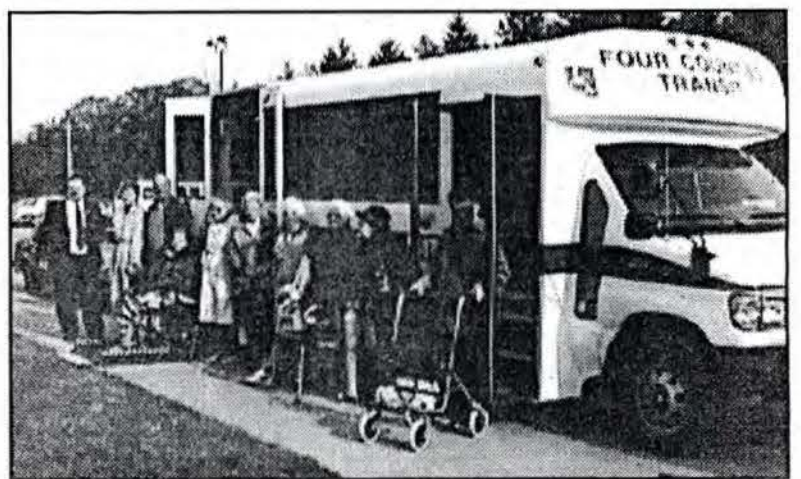
Accessible, affordable transportation improved the quality of life for seniors and assists them

to remain living in their own homes.

The sponsoring municipality is Aldborough Township, which provides administrative support for this service with a local transit board overseeing the day to day running of the service.

Duncan McPhail, chairman of the Four Counties Community Transportation Service, explained that daily operation of the non-profit service is handled by a paid driver and dispatcher.

He noted the support of area Legions and service clubs was instrumental both in starting the service and in providing ongoing support.



FCGH Foundation chair Dale Peters (left) presents the keys to a new wheelchair-accessible vehicle to Jean Phillips, Adult Day Centre supervisor, and transportation committee chair Duncan McPhail. On hand for the presentation were program participants (from left) Josie Schnekenburger, Violet Alderton, Margaret Smith, Marjorie Gillis, Margaret Clarey, Georgina Livingstone, Isabel MacLean and Alma Peckham.



MARCH 1997

## "The Best In The West"

### West Elgin's Special Person - Elaine Gray



Elaine was born and raised in Rodney then moved on to London to attend U.W.O. acquiring not only one, but 2 degrees. A bachelor of education and a bachelor of fine arts. Since then she has married and had 4 children.

Elaine started volunteering at Aldborough Public School 3 years ago where she helps with reading programs. She also helps 2 afternoons a week with a resource program at West Elgin Senior Elementary School. She further spends one hour every afternoon there supervising the craft club.

She recently took a rural outreach course to enable her to be part of an adult literacy program at West Elgin Community Health Centre.

She feels her greatest accomplishment is ensuring the safety of our children at her local bus stop. Last October when it was necessary to change some bus stops out to the main roads in West Lorne Elaine became concerned and did some research then became a Crossing Guard. Unfortunately Elaine can only be in one place so other helpers are still needed. If you can help please give her a call. Another of Elaine's projects is the wonderful mural she and a friend are painting on the hallway at the Health Centre.

**Elaine, you really are a special person...**

Nov. 26/97



**A little touch of Country-** Local musician Jay Allan relaxes in a country setting practicing one of his many songs, that have skyrocketed the youngster to the brink of musical stardom.

### Local musician to hold premiere CD release in West Lorne

Merlin may have its Country Singing Sensation Michelle Wright, but West Lorne has its own rising star in Jay Allan.

Jay got started in his musical life at an early age as his father Allan has loved music for years. And through the encouragement of his father and mother Jay started to play the guitar. He soon fell in love and started to write his own songs.

As he grew older so did his love for music and he has become a popular figure among the local residents as he has gained quite a following of music lovers.

Jay's natural musical talent plus a voice like Bing Crosby's makes him feel at ease when performing in front of a large or small audience.

In the past year Jay's career has skyrocketed, so much so that he has recorded his first CD entitled "Please Don't Change". To celebrate this momentous

occasion in Jay's career a premiere showing of the CD and his musical talents will be held at a gala New Year's Eve Party at St. Mary's Parish Hall in West Lorne.

Jay's success has not come easy as several local musicians have helped nurture the teenager along the right road. Those talented people offered advice, friendship and a few skills of their own to this budding star. Some of those who have helped Jay are Rodney's own Larry Cote, Tony Meriano from Chatham, Frank Yankovich, Mike Houston, Marie Begin from West Lorne, James S. Kovach from West Lorne, R. Steven Hicks from Lambeth and Bill King from New Glasgow.

It isn't often that one of our own holds a premiere opening in West Lorne, so if your into watching a rising star perform attend Jay's New Year's Eve CD release at St. Mary's Hall.

## Local man pens book on Aldborough history

Local history buff Bob King has turned author by penning his first book entitled "I Will Be King Someday". The book contains the history of some of Bob's ancestors who were some of the first settlers of Aldborough. The book explains in great detail the trials and tribulations that these early pioneers encountered in settling Aldborough.

His writings also trace the histories of eight families: the Kings, Lalondes, Huffmans, Gaynors, Friedrichs, Steins, Gutmans and Slovaks which are all ancestors of Bob's. The history of these families dates back some 350 years.

Most of the families described in the book are still living here in Aldborough. The book is rich in history with old tales, stories and pictures of people and places that have faded into the pages of Aldborough's history.

According to King the book was a labour of love and that he had fun doing it. He also stated that the most interesting part of doing the book was interviewing the older members of the families featured in the book and interviewing them, getting their recollections of past events. In chatting with some of these people King stated you could almost see the pictures of past events flashing through their mind and eyes as they described in great detail the happenings of years ago.

The book will be available shortly for area history buffs to purchase and thanks to Bob another piece of Aldborough history is saved through his tireless efforts to research and gain the information used in this book which will preserve for eternity the history of the King's.



**Local man turns author of local history book-** Bob King local history buff has turned author by releasing a book called "I Will Be King". The book is about the history of his family tree and encompasses over 300 years of history.