



47th ANNUAL



KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Mallory Peternel proudly displays her first place award for winning the spelling bee in her division at the recent Kiwanis Music Festival that was held in West Lorne.



Wind Instrument Duet Award Winners- Front row left to right: Connie Small and Jennifer Moss, (Back row left to right) Amanda Breen and Stephannie Cushman (Trumpet), Lindsay Hull (Clarinet) and Mallory Peternel (Trumpet).



Winners in the Keyboard category for ages 8-11 were from left to right: Julie Oliveira 1st, Jennifer Pinder 2nd, and Ashley Woolsey 3rd.

JULY 2, 1997



Getting ready for the Great Space Race- These four youngsters were just a few of the area's youth who have entered the summer reading program at the West Lorne Library. From left to right they are: Justin Walker, Krista Walker, Tina Cowell (Librarian), Shelby Pyka, and Tanya VanRaes.

Area youngsters enter the 'Great Space Race'.

Twenty five youngsters from the area were busy making their wallets and getting ready to play the Great Space Race Game at the West Lorne Library's Summer Reading Program that is held every summer at the library. The idea of the program is to get the youth of our area interested in reading books during the summer months. Children

receive coupons for every book they read which they can build up, store in their wallets and exchange them to play games at the library's annual carnival.

The librarians at the library help to make reading fun for the kids by playing the great space game, which is a huge board at the library and everyone gets a man and moves around the board

until they reach the finishing line. Children are introduced to a number of different areas in their summer reading program.

It is a fun time for both the staff and children and in the process the joys of reading and stimulating those young minds are met through the wonderful world of books.

APR 1997
**Great ride and stride for cancer
 A success for West Elgin**

Although the weather was a little on the cool side things warmed up in West Elgin for the Canadian Cancer Society as riders and striders gathered at the arena in West Lorne and in Dutton to raise an astounding \$4,800 for the society.

In West Lorne a group of over 40 people gathered at the arena for the jaunt to Dutton and back to raise funds for the society. The West Lorne group raised \$2,958 while Dutton raised \$1,870.

Prizes were awarded in West Lorne for the following categories: **Youngest Participant**- Sara Peternel, **Most Senior**: Ann Schaeken, **Most Family Members**: John Thompson **Family**, **Best Decorated Bikes**- Caitlin & Tonya Van Raes, **Rollerblades**- Katrina Mark, **Rider raising the most Money**- Helen Mooser, **Best Dressed Lady**- Rosalie Krebsz, and **Best Dressed Gentleman**- John Thomson.

The draw winners were: Mary Jane Milne, Sara Peternel, Phil Marks, Penny Knapp, David Van Raes, Nicholas Knapp, Cathy Mark, John Thompson, Trina Lusse, Connie Mark, Marsha Knapp, Bobby Marks and Peter Thompson.

The West Lorne Branch of the Cancer Society would like to thank the following businesses for making this year's run such a success: P.J.'s Pizza, West Elgin Pharmacy, Modern Beauty Salon, Rosa's Beauty Salon, Judy's Hair Loft, McDonald's, West Lorne Star, West Lorne IGA, Krebsz Jewellery, West Elgin Arena Staff, Kiwanis Club, Rick White, West Elgin Legion and a special thanks to all the riders and stridders and sponsors who took part in this year's run.

The results of this year's run meant that West Lorne has reclaimed the trophy from Dutton who won it last year.



Making strides for Cancer research- This trio of local women participated in the Great Ride for Cancer that was held recently in West Lorne. From left to right they are: Florence McCallum, Rosalie Krebsz and her dog along with Shirley Sewell.



West Lorne Great Ride 'n Stride a resounding success!

Thanks to the great weather and 47 riders and striders, and their sponsors, a total of \$2,958 has been raised to date. A number of prizes were awarded:

Youngest participant, Sara Peternel; most senior, Ann Schaeken; most family members, John Thomson family; best decorated bikes, Caitlin and Tonya Van Raes; roller blades, Katrina Mark; rider raising the most money, Helen Mooser; best

dressed lady, Rosalie Krebsz; and best dressed gentleman, John Thomson.

Draw winners were: Mary Jane Milne, Sara Peternel, Phil Marks, Penny Knapp, David Van Raes, Nicholas Knapp, Cathy Mark, John Thomson, Trina Lusse, Connie Mark, Marsha Knapp, Bobby Mark, Peter Thomson.

Many thanks to all who donated prizes.



Riding for Cancer- Residents from the surrounding area climbed aboard the big red 30 seat bicycle at Four Counties Hospital to raise funds for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The bike also made a run earlier in the day in West Lorne.

Area cyclists ride for Heart & Stroke Foundation

The Heart & Stroke's big red 30 seat bicycle was busy in West Elgin recently raising funds for the association. Members of the community in West Lorne rode the bike in the morning and in the afternoon the bike journeyed to Four Counties Hospital where area residents climbed aboard the big red machine to raise more funds for the association.

In West Lorne the ride raised over \$1,800 for the foundation.

Verbrugge Realty from West Lorne had the greatest number of riders on the bike as Dennis Lee, Paula Verbrugge, Michelle Verbrugge, Linda Verbrugge and Paul Verbrugge rode in the fundraiser. Other bike riders were: Jim Holdaway from W.G. Thompson's, Rosalie Krebsz, Krebsz Jewellery, Marina Lundigan & Ralph Fluit from the Health Centre, Wendy Vergeer, Bank of Montreal, Karen

Cormier, West Elgin Star, Debi Seed, Doug Parent for Ripley & Giles Motors, Bill Graham, Kiwanis Club of West Lorne, Janet Given, Barb Page, P.J.'s Pizza, and Deb Skorbowski from TLC.

May 5, 1997



Lila McGill and Sharon Gilchrist of Knox Presbyterian Church in West Lorne were busy selling baked goods at the annual rummage and bake sale held last Saturday.

(D. Robinet)



Cooking up a storm- Members of West Lorne's Block Parents Association held a BBQ in front of the CHC recently to raise funds for the organization. Mr. & Mrs. Bobier are seen sampling one of the delicious dogs that the group were serving up to the public. Workers at the BBQ were Sharron Mosher, and Heather Johnston (head cook). The group raised \$200 at the cookout and they would like to thank the West Lorne Legion , West Lorne IOGA, and the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit for their donations towards the BBQ fundraiser.

JULY 2, 1997

August 18, 1997



The family and friends of the late Roy A. Brown presented the Village of West Lorne with a Robert Bateman print in his memory. Pictured from left to right: Aaron Brown, Shirley Brown, Shirley Ecker Brown, Carla Brown and Don Bobier. Brown's five acre bird sanctuary was home to more than 175 types of birds and every year migrating birds stopped there. Neighbour Don Bobier collected money for flowers when Brown passed away in 1994. The money left over, with the village matching a donation, was put towards the picture that will hang in council chambers. Mr. Brown is survived by three sons, Robert, Harley and Gary, daughter Bonnie and wife Betty.

- December 17, 1997.

Angel tree comes aglow at annual lighting ceremony in West Lorne



Despite the cold bitter temperature over 75 people gathered outside of the West Lorne Town Hall to take part in the Angel Tree Lighting.

The festivities started off with Prayers by Father Joseph Nevett who also later performed mass and read a poem. Pastor Savic and Margaret Murray also read a poem during the evening. This special ceremony is in memory of area loved ones who have been called home. Special poem was read by the crowd called the Angel Tree:

"THE ANGEL TREE"

Just beyond the dark of night lies the break of dawn. And though to us the path is blocked. There

the light of God's own love has gathered to His throne in gentlest arms of tender care. The ones we called our own. May it somehow bring you peace To know they're not alone but God above who knows what's best has simply called them home.

After the ceremony the crown gathered on the steps of the town hall to listen to Christmas songs sung by the Interdenominational choir and the organ was played by Shirley Walker.

All those remembered in this poem are:

Sid and Josie Authier, Katherine Lynn Alderton, Abigail Kate Bandeen, Mathew Earl Bandeen, Christopher Beer, Joey Beer,

Michelle Beer, Christopher Cowan, Pam Cowan, Shane Cowan, Timothy Cowan, Daniel Cowan, Andy Dewulf, Lloyd Cicil Doan, Michael Doan, Marnie Fleming, Michael Gammon, Jason Kayelites, Ashley Ann Murray, Margaret McColl, Jeremy Robinet, Willie A.R. Merks, Sonia Oliveira, Aleisha Marie Tomczyk, Elaine Watterworth, Patty Winter, Janet Oakey, Donna Smeljanich, Munroe McMillian, Nickie Lipon, Sophie Lipon, Sam Lipon, Grace Havens, Ken Okolesan, Jim Shostale, Bill Griffin, Lorne McGill, Hohn Hulai, Yancy Begin, Justin Ray Bell and Bob Carroll.



A moment to remember - These three youngsters joined in on the festivities of the Lighting of the Angel Tree in West Lorne.

Be on the lookout: big cats spotted in area

BY: KAREN ROBINET

At least one local family is hoping for a speedy end to a frightening episode in their lives. Last Monday evening, Tim and Marilyn Howse were relaxing in their hot tub on Queen St., just south of Highway 76 when they noticed two large cats, about 20 feet away, ready to attack their

dog Tyson.

Tim screamed at the cats who then retreated into the woods. The following day, he found large tracks confirming his suspicions that one of the animals is a cougar or lion. Reports of a large cat or two large cats have been widespread across the area in recent weeks, and the other animal may be a jaguar. Speculation is that the cats may have been raised together, as pets, then abandoned into the country when they became too large

or unwanted.

Local hunter Rae Axford has been asked by Aldborough Township to try and capture the cats and he has placed a trap at the Howses' home. Axford calls the situation "bizarre," and said he's not anxious to kill animals that have been raised as pets.

However, Tim Howse says he's worried about the safety of his family and pets, and has forbidden his two sons to play in the woods for now. He said he also urges parents to be cautious when their youngsters are outside playing or waiting for the bus.

"They're really quiet," Howse says of the animals, and adds the whole episode has really shaken him up. He also reports that a neighbour has noticed a number of barn cats disappearing recently.

The animals are causing fear and confusion around the area, with reports of animal attacks, and widespread sightings of one or both of the cats.

"A lot of people are scared," said Axford, adding the outlook for the animals themselves is grim.

Axford says that even if captured alive, they would be ill-prepared to survive in a zoo or similar environment.

So far, the animals have eluded capture and Axford says he's not overly optimistic of the chances of being able to capture or kill the animals.

OPP conduct aerial search for big cats

The investigation is ongoing into reports of one or two large cats thought to be in Aldborough.

As of press time Friday, the cats had not been captured, and local hunter Rae Axford was continuing to work with the OPP in an attempt to apprehend the animals.

While rumours abound, there is no official statement on where the cats might have come from. There is also some skepticism as to whether or not the cats even exist. The OPP have contacted a number of exotic animals experts, including those from the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo and African Lion Safari as part of their investigation. The Ministry of Natural Resources has also been contacted.

Sightings have been reported in Aldborough, Dunwich and Ekfrid, and calls have been received from as far away as Ingersoll. OPP are warning that improper traps could be a threat to public safety and they ask that any sighting be reported to the OPP Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122.

Last Tuesday, the OPP's helicopter was flown in from Sarnia after a large, black cat was spotted in the area of Thomson Line and the Kerr Road in Aldborough. The animal was seen running across the middle of an open field as several tobacco workers were on a break. Axford was also on hand, helping with a ground search.

At that time, OPP were warning the public to stay out of the area, and also took castings of pawprints found in the area.



Tim Howse points to one of the many tracks found on his property. (See closeup right).



OPP officer Rob Jamieson runs for the helicopter which will take him up to do an aerial search for the cat(s) believed to be in Aldborough. An aerial search last Tuesday didn't turn up the cats, but police did spot some marijuana plants.

(K. Robinet)



The Rodney-Aldborough Interdenominational Church service was held Sunday in the community centre with a large attendance. Among those on hand were: (left to right) guest speaker Gus Ayim; fair president Barbara Bijker and service co-ordinator Rev. Wilbert Zavitz. (photo supplied)

Reflections of the Past

A Chat With Mrs. Russell Reid

By Alan Youngash



A conversation with Mrs. Agnes Reid, as promised in the last edition of "Reflections" proved enlightening and her memories of our community, as it existed 50 years ago, is truly an inspiration.

Firstly, the featured crest...this crest is a keep-sake of Mrs. Reid and belonged to husband, Russell. The Athletic Society of 1943 had its meetings in the old town hall and was responsible for the goings-on of sport in the community. Our ball diamonds are a result of the efforts of this group.

From 1947-1958 Mrs. Reid was the proprietor of The Shirley Shop which specialized in Ladies ready-to-wear fashions and then expanded to include children's wear. The business operated in what is now Mr. Jack Ripley's shop "Ripley's Quality Home Centre".

In 1948 Russell Reid bought the grocery business from Milo Campbell who moved to Chatham to live. The business was situated in part of Norman Thomson's "Men and Boys

Clothing Store". This shop became Prim Fashions.

The Grocery Store was an old fashioned store with a stove and a chair on each side. People would come into shop but also but there were many that just came in to sit and have a visit....Agnes tells me that some tall tales were shared, friendships made, and memories created that have lasted a lifetime.

It was during this time that Russell developed a fondness for Agnes and the two became partners in business and in life.

Russell Reid's brother, Cecil Reid, had the butcher shop on the other side of Graham Road next to the Hardware Store first owned by Campbell and Craig and then Fisher and Kemp as recalled by Mrs. Reid. Joe Weiss worked in the butcher shop for many years eventually going to the Superior Store in the newly renovated Theatre run by Allan Ross Sr. and then by Allan Ross Jr.

Russell Reid's grocery business was not self serve. Customers

were given the royal treatment and their every need was catered to in a real old-fashioned hospitality style business. Sugar, dates, raisins, and potatoes (to name a few products) were bagged and cheese was cut from a large slab. Bacon and cold meats were cut as the customer waited. Cookies and candy were out in the store in open boxes and canned goods displayed neatly on the shelves.

Frozen food counters were just getting popular when Russell Reid sold his business in 1964. This allowed Mr. Thomson to enlarge his store.

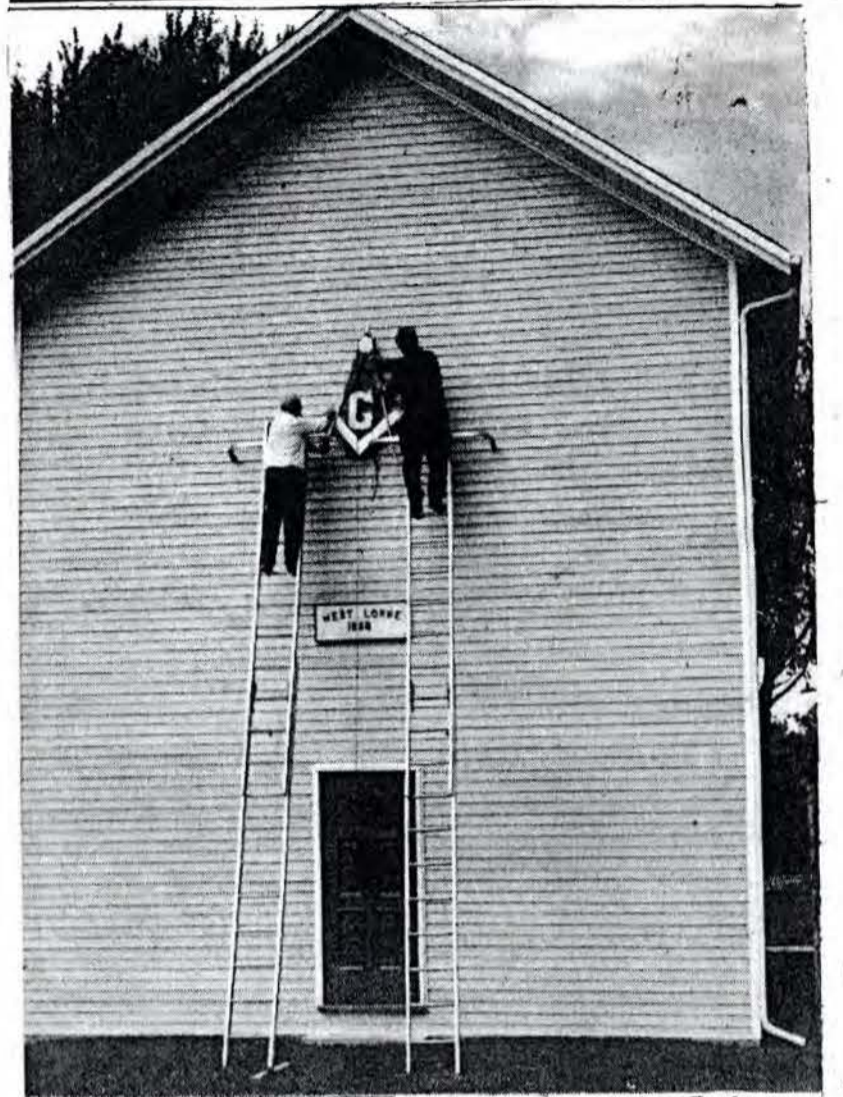
The community once had 4 little grocery stores but the population and the times seemed to provide a living for all.

Much of the above script was prepared in a hand written document by Mrs. Reid. The Star and the writer would like to express our appreciation for a nice visit and a pleasant conversation on an era that still is reflected in the commerce of 1997.....some 50 years later.

OCT. 1997

50th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to John & Alma Perger on their 50th Wedding Anniversary March 20, 1997. Best Wishes from your family.



Putting the finishing touches on a long standing tradition - The Old Masonic Temple (McColl Lodge 386) located on Frederick Street has just gone under some extensive renovations by Lodge Members. The Lodge was first built in 1880 and at one time it was the Town Hall and the Jail for West Lorne. The Secretary of the Lodge Bill Graham (left) and Past Master Doug Cavener put the finishing touches on the renovations by hanging the Lode Crest on the front of the building. The Past District Deputy of the Lodge , Ray Jobson was also on hand for the final touches of the building.

NOV. 10, 1997

Milner-Rigsby working to curb emissions *Municipal building one step closer to completion*

BY: WENDY TUNKS

By-law enforcement officer Marthe Rook was on hand to discuss the Ministry of Environment's findings from residents' complaints at West Lorne council meeting last Wednesday.

She said the MOE representative only had time to investigate complaints involving Milner-Rigsby and was going to come back to meet with Erie Flooring officials.

Rook said the MOE representative looked at soot, noise and smoke emissions from Milner-Rigsby. The company has been asked to voluntarily look for solutions for soot and noise complaints. Rook said the company is already investigating an increased maintenance schedule and better dampers.

The company was also advised to hire a private consultant to address the noise complaint as the MOE is swamped and unable to handle the problem at this time.

As for the smoke complaint, the source of the smoke is wood-burning and sawdust. The representative felt the height of the smoke stacks were irrelevant and wind direction would determine how area residents were affected. Since the emissions are not toxic, no action could be taken.

The company has been given four to five weeks to prepare a report on recommendations to improve the soot and noise situation.

Rook also informed Kent Murray that Milner-Rigsby's parking lot does not comply with the town's by-law. She said there was inadequate parking for the employees. Rook said the company would investigate this further.

Building contractor for the new municipal building, Don Roughley, was on hand to give an update on the completion of the building. He said electrical deficiencies should be corrected by Dec. 2.

The source of a crack in the foyer tile

floor is a mystery to both him and the manufacturer of the floor, Roughley said. In the final analysis, the conclusion has been drawn that the wood frame of the building was left exposed to inclement weather for five weeks in the early stages of construction due to a backorder of the trusses. In the winter, the wood frame would expand, causing the crack to become more pronounced. In the summer, the crack is hardly noticeable.

Roughley said most of the building deficiencies have been corrected. The steps to the front entrance need to be increased by 3/8" to pass inspection. Also the handrails need to be installed. Building inspector Lorne McLeod said he is awaiting the final reports from Roughley so he can sign off the building.

Kent Murray said the next council meeting, slated for Dec. 17 at 10 a.m., would be his last as the new council of West Elgin would be in place for Jan 1.

Local students win in recent 'Farm safety poster contest'

Elgin County Rally met at Yarmouth Centre Fire Hall No. 2 for the November meeting. Mrs. Pauline Lindsay presided, assisted by Lillian Larson. Correspondence included an appreciation letter from our scholarship winner Ann Doelman.

Suggestions as to future Farm Safety Poster regulations, and from Elgin Farm Safety Council as well.

It is possible this will change with restructuring in the county. Guest speaker Steven Parsons, Fire Prevention Officer spoke to the group about Fire Safety awareness. He also suggested that students are the number one avenue of taking information home to parents. Do not play with matches, lighters, etc as these are not toys.

Small extinguishers are not sufficient in preventing fires. Stop! Drop! & Roll! if clothes catch fire. In a smoke filled area crawl as close to the floor as possible. Have an escape plan in your home, draw this plan including a meeting place and call from a neighbour's home. Poster award winners were:

Kindergarten- Poison in Kitchen Cupboard

Brian Pelez- Aldborough Public School, Second place entry.

Grade 1 & 2- Poison in Father's Garage

1st. Robert Wilkins of Aldborough Public School.

2nd. Tracy Donaldson of Dutton Dunwich P.S.

Grade 3 & 4- Poison around

the Farm

1st. Natalie Gash of Aldborough Public School.

2nd- Jennifer Drummelsmith of Dutton Dunwich Public School.

Grade 5 & 6 - Poison in the Community

1st. Jane McGill of Aldborough Public School.

2nd Jessica Ambrose of Dutton Dunwich P.S.

Gifts were awarded to these winners by Pauline Lindsay of the Women's Institute and Shirley Bechard of Elgin County Farm Safety.

OCT 97 Area WI members to visit Toronto's Casaloma

The Elgin County Women's Institute Rally Social was held on Tuesday evening in Knox Presbyterian Church, Fingal hosted by River Road branch.

The chairman Pauline Lindsay led the Institute Grace before the bounteous six-thirty pot-luck meal.

The program arranged by chairman Pauline was on the 100th Women's Institute anniversary celebration held in June in Hamilton. Those taking part included Grace Campbell, Will Johnston and Pauline. Twenty-two countries were represented at this convention. Of several interest were two tapes: one from the Sussex federation, first organized in

1915 with 6000 members in their 151 branches - a second tape was of church bells being tolled on Feb. 19, 1997 the 100th anniversary of the founding of Women's Institute. The branches in Great Britain sing Jerusalem to open their meetings. In Canada we sing the Institute Ode.

The Erlana Lee Museum Home are filling a time capsule with commemorative articles of the 100th anniversary to be opened in 2047.

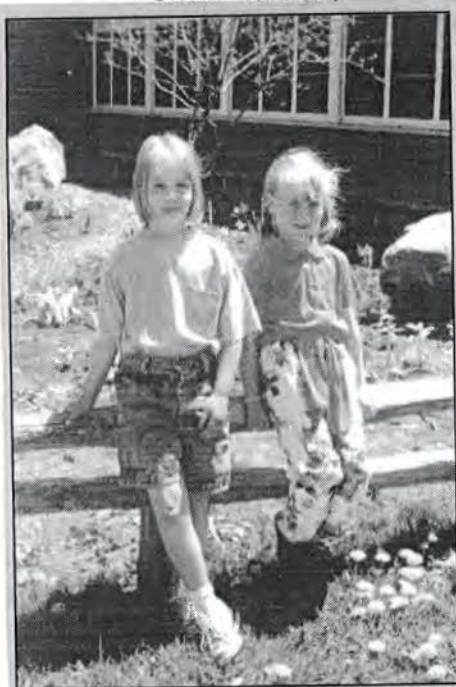
Special events were announced by several branches. River Road is hosting a coffee break Nov.6 9:30-12:00 a.m. at the home of Mary Veenstra. Calton are hosting their annual bazaar

Nov.17, 8p.m. in the Calton Hall.

Betty Rodgers chairman of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum Voluntary committee announce the Museum are sponsoring a bus trip to Casaloma in Toronto on Nov. 21st. The Dec. 5 coffee break is 9:30-11:30 with Elgin East District in charge of the Kitchen and server at this event. Pauline reminded the group of Lady's Day at the Royal Winter Fair Nov. 7.

The next rally meeting is Nov. 8 at Yarmouth Firehall #2 north of Yarmouth Centre at 2p.m. with farm safety awards presented at 2:30.

Nov. 1997



Melanie Scottwoods and Amanda Russell of Aldborough Public School stand in front of the butterfly garden.

Butterfly garden awaits winged visitors

Over 30 volunteers met at Aldborough Public School last Sunday to plant the butterfly garden.

The project initiated by Susan Petemel and Pat Watterworth is a huge undertaking to beautify the front of the school whiel giving students of the school a firsthand learning tool to observe the life cycle of plants and insects.

Plants and shrubs that are high in pollen were donated by residents and groups to encourage butterflies to make their home in the garden. If you would like to become a Friend of the Butterfly Garden, the group is still taking cash donations and plants. You can contact Petemel at 768-2842 or Watterworth at 768-1657.



Meeting their goals- These two local members of the TOPS organization were recently bestowed with 'The Best Achiever Award' at a TOPS rally in Dorchester recently. From left to right they are : Sina DeHaan from Wardsville and Olive Chambers from West Lorne.

TOPS hold CTC rally in Dorchester

Our Challenge to Change Rally was well attended with 85 present from the areas of Huron, Perth, Elgin and part of Middlesex. Our area Captain Pam Baddams is kept busy watching over the 28 chapters involved.

The "Area Best Achiever" award was won locally by Olive Chambers of West Lorne. with her loss of 68.25 lbs. and Wardville's Sina DeHaan lost 50.25 lbs. for runner up. Both ladies hold KOPS (Keep off Pounds Sensibly) status with Sina celebrating her first anniversary on Nov. 6.

Jean McRae of Ont. # 792 a 7 year KOPS received an award for "No Red Mark" on her 1996 weight chart. Judy Tunks was recognized as a "Backslider" with a loss of 37.50 lbs. with 3.5 lbs. to go. Way to go Judy. Colleen from the same chapter Ont. # 4589 has lost 27.5 lbs. since July.

Rally Day afforded us a great motivational speaker, Mike Moore who explained that while we are laughing it's impossible to worry- laughter is the best medicine.

Many recognition awards were given out during the day that

harmonized well with the singing, skits and comradeship shared by all.

This months TOPS Program focuses on our "Super Seniors" with a discussion on the changing expectations of fitness and how exercise wards off the effects of aging.

Staying socially active by volunteering and talking to children to bridge the generation gap will help give seniors a productive, healthy and mentally active life. To contact TOPS call

1-800-932-8677.

NOV 1997



Christmas is in the air- Karrie Vandenberg and Florence McCallum were the organizers of the third annual Christmas Craft Show at the Eagle Adult Community Centre recently. Once again the showe was a tremendous success as shoppers had a wide varirty of items to choose from. Patrons had the choice of buying many hand crafted items, including Christmas decorations, woodworking items, and country craft collectibles.



The family of Fred & Frony Redinger of West Lorne were blessed to be able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 25, 1997.



The family of Ed & Anna McCallum invite you to attend the celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, May 31, 1997 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm at the West Elgin Legion Br. 221, West Lorne. Best Wishes only please...



On hand for the ribbon cutting on Friday were: (left to right) Elgin County Warden Harry Mezenberg; Gail Ure, Regional Director, Long Term Care Division; Dan Newman, MPP Scarborough Centre - Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Health; Fred Boyes, Director/Administrator, Elgin County Homes and Rien Van Brenk, Chairman, Homes for Senior Citizens, Elgin County. (K. Robinet)

"...a beautiful day in Elgin County!"

BY: WENDY TUNKS

Rain didn't dampen the spirits of the residents and guests of the Bobier Villa's official opening ceremonies last Friday.

The opening, originally planned as an outside event was held in the beautifully decorated auditorium.

Fred Boyes, Director/Administrator said September 11, 1977 marked a milestone in Elgin County history when Terrace Lodge in Aylmer opened. He praised the same commitment then as today. "Today we can look at the Bobier Villa with the look of commitment and leadership." Boyes offered words of praise to the politicians, architect, contractors and other members of the committees who worked over and above a working day to complete the building.

Warden Harry Mezenberg opened his remarks with, "it really is a beautiful day in Elgin County, even if it is raining outside." He commended the planning committees and volunteers for a well thought-out building. He also thanked Boyes: "If it weren't for the dedication of the staff, we wouldn't be here today and that thanks goes to Fred Boyes." Mezenberg also said the project was brought in on time and on budget.

He said people proved there is

a commitment in West Elgin. Mezenberg closed his remarks with a call to the residents of Elgin County to start realizing the need for a senior's home in central Elgin. It is his hope a new building will be realized within two years.

Dutton Reeve Hugh MacGinnis said it would take all day to thank the many people involved with Bobier Villa. He felt the best day was when the residents moved from the old Bobier home into their new quarters.

MPP for Elgin county, Peter North said, "it is the character of the residents of Elgin to contribute to such a project."

The 57-bed, \$5.7 million building was constructed under the Canada/Ontario Infrastructure Works program. The federal and

provincial governments each contributed \$484,000 with the county providing the remaining \$4.3 million. Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson, who was unable to attend, sent his comments with his assistant Eva Richardson.

"I am very pleased to join my infrastructure partners in the official opening of Bobier Villa. As well as being a haven for convalescent seniors, it offers a wide range of home support services that make it possible for seniors to remain in their own homes.

"I congratulate all those who have worked so diligently to bring it to completion. It is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when governments work together to benefit the local community," said Knutson.





Mother nature unleashes her fury- The residents who live in this house on Graham St. in West Lorne awoke on Friday morning to discover that the tree in their front yard was resting on their truck and the front yard was littered with fallen debris. They were only one of the many residents in the area who had fallen trees and branches on their property after the ice storm left the area. (Photo By B. Skeldoch). MAR. 97

Ice storm cripples West Elgin leaving many residents without power for days

Mother nature visited West Elgin and the rest of Southwestern Ontario with a vengeance last week by putting an icy grip on everything as we experienced the area's worst ice storm in years. Fortunately her icy grip released during the daylight hours, but as residents awoke last Friday morning they were astounded to see the number of trees and branches that collapsed under the weight of the ice. Roadways were blocked by branches and limbs, well several thousand area residents woke to find that they were without hydro. For

some it was a cold icy vigil of over 24 hours as hydro crews worked around the clock to repair fallen lines and restore service to area homes and businesses. In Rodney most of the downtown core closed its doors because of the lack of power. Some area businesses benefitted from the storm as the local gas stations (TLC, & the Dutton PennyPincher) sold record volumes of gas as the service centres on the 401 were shut down because of the blackout. Area tree removal and tree

trimming services were swamped with calls from residents to remove the fallen debris of trees, limbs and branches from their properties and area heating companies strived to keep up with the demand to get oil, gas and propane furnaces going again after the blackout. It took area residents a few days to clean up the debris left behind by Mother Nature's icy blast but just think according to the calendar spring is just around the corner, but which one!



Another first for West Lorne- Figure Skating Coach Patsy McGill (left) stands proudly beside her young pupil Diann Vergeer as the pair get ready to compete in the All Ontario Competitions in Waterloo later this month. MAR. 1997

Local figure skater to compete in All Ontario

For the first time in recent memory West Lorne has a member from its Figure Skating Club competing in the All Ontario Competitions and that person is Diann Vergeer, who has skated her way to the prestigious event which will be held in Waterloo on March 15 & 16. Diann recently placed second in the qualifying round on Saturday at the Western Ontario Competitions that were held at Jordan (near Niagara Falls) and

then on Sunday she placed third which gave her a final finish in the top three which entitles her to top compete in the All Ontario Competition. She will compete at the All Ontario competition as a member of the Western Ontario Section Team. Diann is the daughter of Harry and Joanne Vergeer and her skating coach is Patsy McGill. We all wish Diann Good Luck at the All Ontario Competition.



Moving up to the big leagues - Ryan Rivard, from West Lorne proudly wears his new colors of the OHL Owen Sound Platters. Rivard was picked by the OHL club early in the 4th round draft recently.

Local hockey player drafted by OHL 'Platters' JUNE 1997

The Red Wings have just won hockey's most coveted treasure "The Stanley Cup" and they have players like Stevie 'Y', and the Russian line but West Lorne has Ryan Rivard. Rivard was drafted last week in the underage draft by the Owen Sound Platters of the Ontario Hockey League. The move up to the Platters is a dream come true for the West Lorne native who has always dreamed of playing in the OHL, and maybe just maybe the NHL. Last year Rivard plated Tier II Jr. A hockey with the Quinte Hawks. Rivard plays right wing and is 6'

3" and 185 lbs. can throw his muscle around with the best of them. He reports to the Platters on June 26 for fitness tests and will also be joining them at their hockey camp which opens Labour Day Weekend. To get in shape for the bigger leagues Rivard is currently taking some conditioning training from Dave Vowel and is also doing some power skating with the help of Wally Black to make sure he is in step with his teammates come this September. We all wish Ryan all the best in the upcoming hockey season.

CURRENT EVENTS
1997

February 19, 1997



Another lucky winner- Members of the PROWL Committee recently drew the winner of the limited edition Peter Robson print that was donated to them by Godfather's Pizza in West Lorne. The draw the Bank of Montreal and the lucky winner of the print was Shirley Walker of RR #2 West Lorne. The Committee generated \$586 on the sales of tickets that will be donated to the Community Complex. Shown drawing the winning ticket are PROWL members from left to right: Rosalie Krebsz, Alberta Jones, Ray Jobson, Veronica Sewell from the Bank of Montreal and Hazel Stalker.

- July 7, 1997



Ed Woelk of Leamington with his 1949 Ford pickup.

West Lorne Canada Day



Bargain hunters checked out the specials at Krebsz Jewellery as part of the Friday/Saturday sidewalk sales. Marg Varga was among the shoppers helped by Rosalie Krebsz and Julie Begin.



It all ended with a bang.



AGRICULTURE HALL OF FAME:

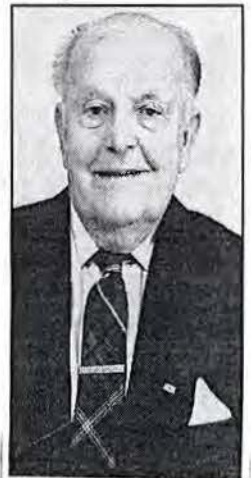
Three names were added to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame at the annual banquet. Ed Segsworth, left, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, was on hand to congratulate those inducted into the Hall of Fame, including Kenneth Watterworth and Giles Hume. At right is Paul Mistele, president of the EFA. (T-J photo)

Three residents to enter EFA Hall of Fame

The Elgin Federation of Agriculture (EFA) will induct three local residents into the EFA Hall of Fame this weekend at a banquet in St. Thomas.

Receiving plaques will be Giles A. Hume (RR #2 Springfield), Mrs. Dorothy E. Futcher - deceased (formerly of RR #1 St. Thomas) and Kenneth D. Watterworth (West Lorne).

Watterworth, 82, has had his hand in farming since the age of five and it wasn't until recently that he retired. Over his 77 years in the business, Watterworth dealt in cash crop, cattle farming and egg farming.



Kenneth D. Watterworth

Three join Elgin's Ag Hall of Fame

BY MARG BERRY
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

Three new names were added to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame at the federation's annual banquet on Saturday.

About 350 people attended the 1998 annual dinner and dance, which EFA president Paul Mistele said was meant to be a fun night for people to enjoy.

The EFA Hall of Fame recognizes those who have contributed outstanding service to agriculture in Elgin.

"Often these people are not appreciated in their home town," Mistele explained. "So we have three individuals each year that we like to recognize for endeavors in the realm of agriculture."

The three new names to be inscribed on the Hall of Fame plaque this year are Dorothy Futcher, Kenneth Watterworth and Giles Hume.

Futcher received the honor posthumously for her service to agriculture which included her involvement with the Women's Institute, her major role in founding the Elgin County Pioneer Museum, and her service as a director on the University of Guelph board of directors and the Royal Winter Fair Board. Two of her adult children, Al Futcher and Isabel (Futcher) Martin, were in attendance Saturday. Her two other adult children are John Futcher and Robin (Futcher) Jeffrey. Watterworth received

his honor because of his expertise and success in the cattle industry. In the 1950s he sold a bull to the Japanese for breeding stock. He also served on the Chicken Board of Ontario.

Hume was recognized for cultivating leadership among the youth of Elgin. He was heavily involved with the promotion of the 4-H Club program, and helped organize a 4-H camp. Mistele said Hume was also a top producing dairy farmer in his day.

Ed Segsworth of Milton, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, was at the annual banquet. Before the dinner he said he was pleased to be there. "I have met the inductees,

and they are very fine gentlemen," he said. "They are well-deserving of the award."

In his speech to those in attendance, he said the OFA would continue to lobby the government to reinvest in agriculture in Ontario. He also talked about the devastation of the January ice storm on farm communities in the east. "That's high on our priority list right now," Segsworth said.

On a lighter note, special guest speaker Neil Aitchison talked about nonsense and how beneficial it can be. He delivered some tips on how to handle change and stress. "We have to learn to take ourselves much less seriously," Aitchison said.



Elgin County has received additional funding from the provincial government to help fund highway maintenance and bridge repair on the roads that have been transferred

from provincial to municipal control. Here, Elgin County Warden Perry Clutterbuck, left, accepts the cheque from Middlesex MPP Bruce Smith.

Elgin gets \$6.7m - but want more

Elgin County received a third instalment for highway maintenance and bridge repair this past week with a cheque for \$1,044,578 from the provincial government. But that's not enough according to county officials.

The latest cheque brings the total received from the province to \$6.7 million. The funding is part of an initiative to assist municipalities with their new responsibilities for highways which have

been transferred from provincial to municipal control.

But Elgin County Manager of Engineering Services Clayton Watters says the \$6.7 million isn't enough.

"We figure we need \$16.8 to cover the work needed on the roads that are now our responsibility," he says. "If we don't get it from the government it would have to come from the taxpayers."

A total of 135 kilometres of highway

were transferred from the province to Elgin County. They include Highways # 3, 4, 19, 73, 74 and 76.

Watters says the money given to Elgin County was a certain percentage for the roads they received. The money is needed for road maintenance and capital work.

Elgin County officials will be meeting with Transportation Minister Tony Clements this Tuesday to request additional funds.

Pipeline project moving ahead

Paul Mayne
The Chronicle

St. Clair Pipelines and TransCanada PipeLines are still more than a year away

from laying the first pipe in the 146 kilometre Dawn-Lake Erie Pipeline Project, but the next step, which is to finalize the preferred route and make an official application to the National Energy Board (NEB), is being done.

All parties involved in the \$178 million project were in West Lorne recently as part of a public forum to answer questions and address any concerns that landowners on the route may have. There are

approximately 125 properties on the proposed route affecting about 100 landowners.

The most important concern of landowners were agricultural features, along

diagonal severances were also important factors brought up in many of the forums held along pipeline route.

And that's what Bill Wachsmuth of St.

Clair Pipeline says the route will attempt to do.

"We're making the attempt to talk to those who are affected by the pipeline and assure them that we're not going to do something that will hurt them," he says. "None of these plans are set in stone. That's why we have these forums - to get input. Every concern is legitimate."

Once approval is given from the NEB, construction will



with environmental and socio-economic features. Minimizing disruption to agricultural land, tile drainage and avoiding

given from the NEB, construction will begin in

West Elgin Council Briefs

WE tax bills running late

You may be wondering why you haven't received your tax bill yet. Don't worry, it's on its way.

There have been some difficulties at the municipal offices in printing the bills. However, the problem has been solved and bills will be sent out beginning today (March 16).

Due to the fact the bills were late getting to residents, the return deadline has been extended. The previous deadline of March 23 has now been extended to April 6.

employee.

VanVaerenbergh, who began work Feb. 23, brings close to 20 years experience to the roads department.

Park proposal in West Lorne

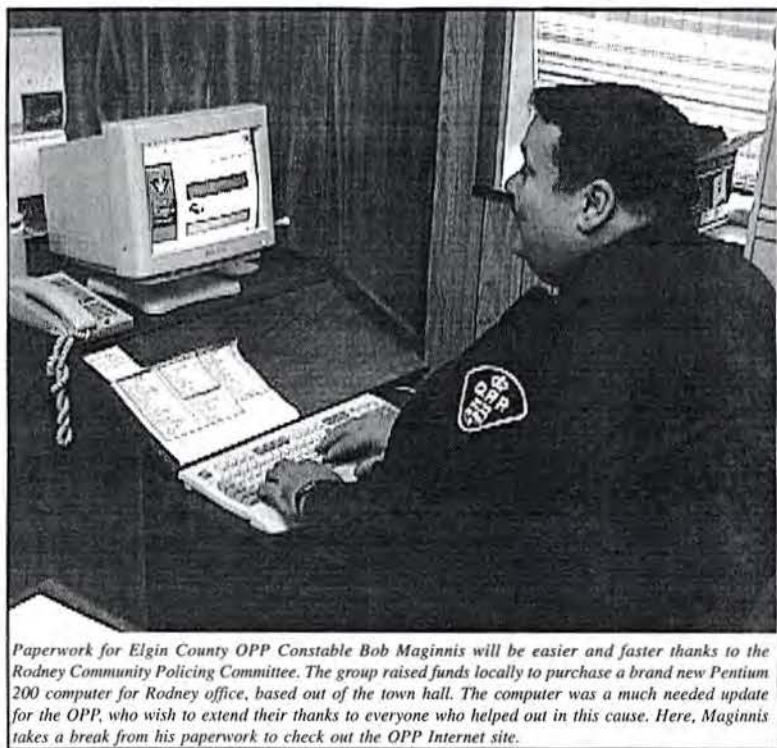
West Elgin Council was in agreement on a request to use the area along the railroad in West Lorne for a conservation park.

The request was made by Harold Lancaster of the West Lorne Horticultural Society. Council suggested that the railroad company be contacted to see if they have any concerns.



West Elgin's newest fire station is beginning to take shape. The five-bay station, located next door to the West Elgin Municipal offices, is scheduled to be complete in mid-May. Here, Bill Smith of William A. Smith Construction cuts plywood for the roof.

February 23, 1998



Paperwork for Elgin County OPP Constable Bob Maginnis will be easier and faster thanks to the Rodney Community Policing Committee. The group raised funds locally to purchase a brand new Pentium 200 computer for Rodney office, based out of the town hall. The computer was a much needed update for the OPP, who wish to extend their thanks to everyone who helped out in this cause. Here, Maginnis takes a break from his paperwork to check out the OPP Internet site.