



Another donation for the town hall - Hazel Stalker (representing the PROWL committee) accepts a cheque for \$500 from Mary Lippold on behalf of the West Lorne Women's Institute. OCT 1996



The West Lorne PROWL committee held a successful bake sale recently, raising about \$400 for the municipal complex project. Pictured here are: (left to right) organizer Helen Okolisan and Eileen Humphrey.

FEB. 96 (K. Robinet)



The Royal Bank recently made the first of two installments on a donation of \$2,300 to the West Lorne PROWL committee for its building campaign. Pictured here are: (back row left to right) Jerry Prince, Dutton branch Manager Gary Mills, Rodney branch Manager Peter McConnell, Manager of Business Banking in West Elgin Dave Wright (front) Rosalie Krebsz, Hazel Stalker, Area Royal Bank Manager Gary Browne, Leola Lawrence and PROWL committee chairman Ray Jobson.

April 15, 1996



Area firefighters participated in a nationwide Boot Toll to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association last Saturday. West Lorne firefighter Mike Reive was among those collecting donations from passing motorists.

(K. Robinet)



A bake sale and poor man's lunch was held at the new West Lorne firehall last Saturday as a fundraiser for the municipal complex. Among those volunteering their time and talents were: (left to right) Hazel Stalker, Sophie Howse and Helen Okolisan.

(K. Robinet)

West Elgin Nature Club hits half century mark

BY: KAREN ROBINET

It's been 50 years since the West Elgin Nature Club was organized, and club members and guests marked the occasion with an anniversary celebration at St. Mary's Hall in West Lorne last Saturday evening.

Attendance at the event far exceeded organizers' early expectations, with approximately 170 people joining in the evening's festivities.

After being welcomed by club president Marjorie Prieksaitis, guests enjoyed a meal catered by club members Joan Neil and Joanne Reive.

Following the dinner, Harold Lancaster, a charter member of the club gave a brief outline of its history. "I'm glad to see the club has carried on and expanded over the past 50 years," he said, adding that, "this club has carried on well," when so many similar clubs have failed over the years.

Club members praised Lancaster's devotion to nature and birdwatching in particular. Upon retiring back to the area 10 years ago, Lancaster began and has recently completed compiling his five decades worth of nature notes into book form. To date, Lancaster has observed 748 species, and is well-known for his catchphrase: "the bird doesn't really care if you see it or not."

Plaques were presented to a number of members, including Harold and Evelyn Lancaster, along with their daughter Sharon Stewart, who were all in attendance at that first meeting, even though Stewart was just a baby at that time.

Jim and Bob Lemon accepted an award on behalf of their late father Earl Lemon, who was the first president of the club. Dougald Murray was presented with an award. Murray made his mark

in the club with the first local sighting of a Red-bellied Woodpecker in his woodlot in 1951. Other recipients were Ron Prevett, John and Eunice McKishnie, Marshall and Dolly Field, Bill and Francis Girling, William and Eileen Stewart and Frank and Dorothy Cook. An award was also presented posthumously to Joe Schmid for his contribution of a 50-acre parcel of land donated to the Village of Rodney. Joe's Bush is located south of Rodney on Concession 12, three km west of Furnival Road. The site is open to the public, and boasts many Carolinian trees, ferns and plant species. Trails are wheelchair accessible and well marked. Schmid was a charter member of the nature club.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Friends of West Elgin Nature Club: Shirley Vojin, Curtis Hay, Charles Black, Harry Mezenberg, Graham Warwick and Iona Woolley for their contributions to the club.

A highlight of the evening was a draw for a large bird feeder, handmade by Ken Wilton. Joyce Axford was the winner of that prize. A number of other door prizes were also awarded.

New members are always welcome to join the club, which holds indoor meetings the third Thursday of each month from September through April at W.E.S.E.S. Field trips and outings are also held, and a Christmas Bird Census is done each December 27. For more information, call Bill and Marjorie Prieksaitis at 785-0176, Brad and Joanne Reive at 768-1365 or Harold and Evelyn Lancaster at 768-2566. The next meeting of the club is this Thursday at the school. Brad Peterson of the Canadian Wildflower Society in London will discuss Wildflowers.



Ken Wilton built this birdhouse and donated it to the West Elgin Nature Club to be drawn during its 50th anniversary celebrations last Saturday evening. The lucky winner was Joyce Axford

Famous wildlife artist visits West Lorne

West Lorne and area residents were treated to a rare treat at the Elgin International Club last weekend as world renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman visited our area.

The International Club was packed with art lovers as well as nature lovers anxious to get a glimpse or a chance to talk to a man who has transformed the sights of nature's wonders so easy on canvas.

The evenings festivities started with Marjorie Prieksaitis, President of the West Elgin Nature Club welcoming the audience to the Bateman showing.

Following Marjorie's welcome David Stanfield another naturalist showed the crowd a

dazzling display of nature at its finest on several slides which he called the 'Sights and Sounds' of Nature.

Robert Davis of the West Elgin Nature Club had the honour of introducing Robert Bateman who stepped to the podium to a round of appreciative applause from the crowd.

Bateman gave a short speech on how the environment has changed so drastically in the later part of this century and that we humans are the only thing that can change the environment and make it better than it currently is.

After Bateman's talk the crowd stood and gave him

OCT. 96

March 18, 1996



Among those on hand for the 50th anniversary of the West Elgin Nature Club were: (left to right) charter members Sharon Stewart, Evelyn and Harold Lancaster and current club president Marjorie Prieksaitis. (K. Robinet)



Tree planting ceremony held- Members of District 10 horticultural societies planted an Irish lace tree in celebration of the annual meeting of the district's horticultural societies. Pictured from left to right they are: Doris Montgomery from Stratford, Florence Kelly, District Secretary, Joan Greve from West Lorne, George Lippold from West Lorne, Eunice McKishnee, President of the West Lorne chapter and Carolyn Guest, President of the Rodney chapter.

(Photo by Brian Outhouse)

District horticultural societies meet in West Lorne

By Brian Outhouse

Over 100 members of the Thames Valley District 10 of the Ontario Horticultural society met recently at West Elgin Secondary for their annual meeting.

Seventeen horticultural societies from the counties of Perth, Elgin, Orford and Middlesex attended the event. Master of ceremonies for the day was Dr. Eunice McKishnee who welcomed the delegates and took them on a brief tour during the lunch hour showing them a variety of over 50 different types of trees within walking distance of the high school.

One of the guest speakers of the meeting was Laurie Scott from OMAFRA who lauded the

Master Gardeners program stating that since its inception Master Gardeners have volunteered over 28,000 hours to help beautify their respective communities.

The Flower Show was the highlight of the day with 42 entries of different flowers being submitted for judging. The West Lorne chapter entered all 8 classes winning ribbons in seven of the categories.

District Director, Gary Chittick presented a special service award to Florence Kelly of Rodney who is retiring after three years as Secretary of the District. The West Lorne chapter presented Kelly flowers in appreciation of her

hard work over the years.

To mark the 1996 Thames Valley District 10 OHA meeting four trees were dedicated to the railroad park.

After the annual meeting was over the President of the West Lorne Society and some members of the group planted one of the trees in the park. To plant the tree President Lippold used a shovel from 1906, the year the Ontario Horticultural Association was formed.

Chittick reminded members that the Ontario Horticultural Society will be celebrating its 90th birthday next year.

The annual meeting for District 10 will be held in Rodney next year.

Local Masons save a part of our heritage

The West Lorne Masons are giving the old McColl Lodge a facelift.

The old lodge was built in 1888 by the town council with the help of the Masons.

For several years the building housed the town hall on the bottom floor while the Masons occupied the top floor until 1930 when they moved to the Lemon Block.

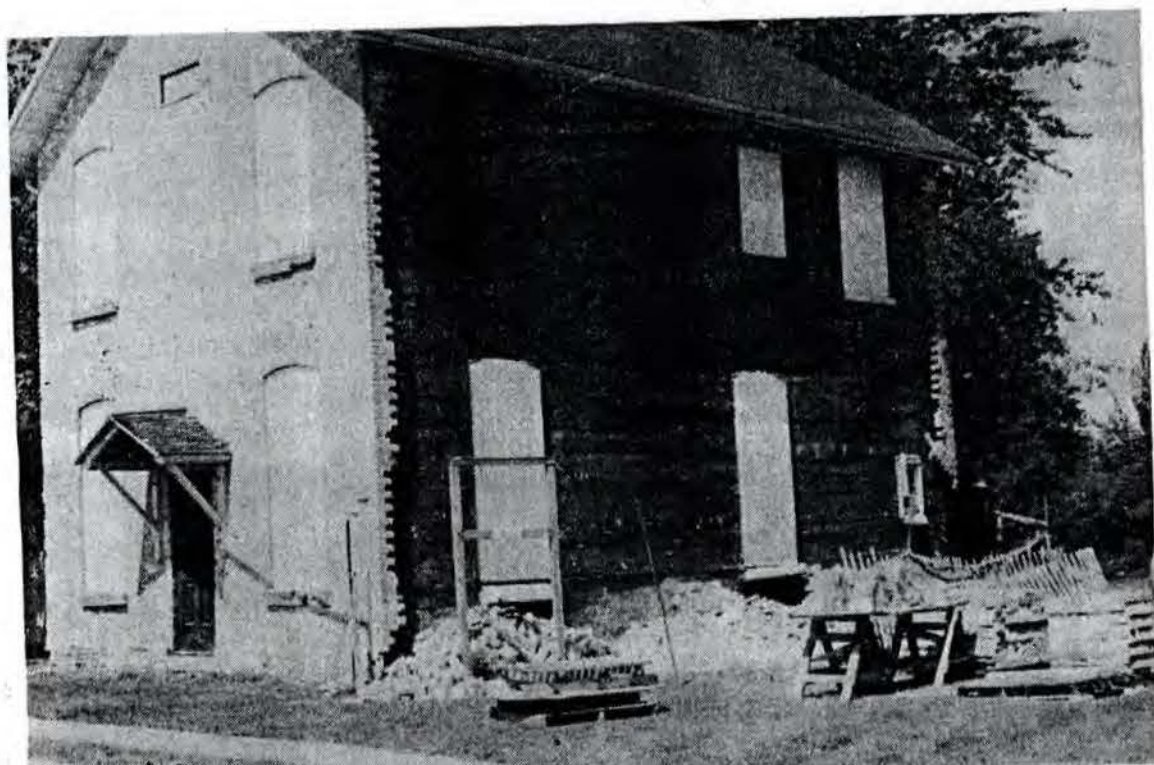
The Masons held their meetings above Lemon's store until 1982 when they purchased the old town hall and returned to their old home.

Over the years the Masons have maintained the old hall but according to DDGM Ray Jobson, and Worshipful

Master Doug Cavener, of West Lorne the building is in need of some major repairs and members felt that the old building was a part of the area's history and rather than build a new lodge the group decided to fix up the old building by making the necessary repairs and remove the brick facade and replace it with siding.

All the work will be performed by members of the lodge with a completion date set for September.

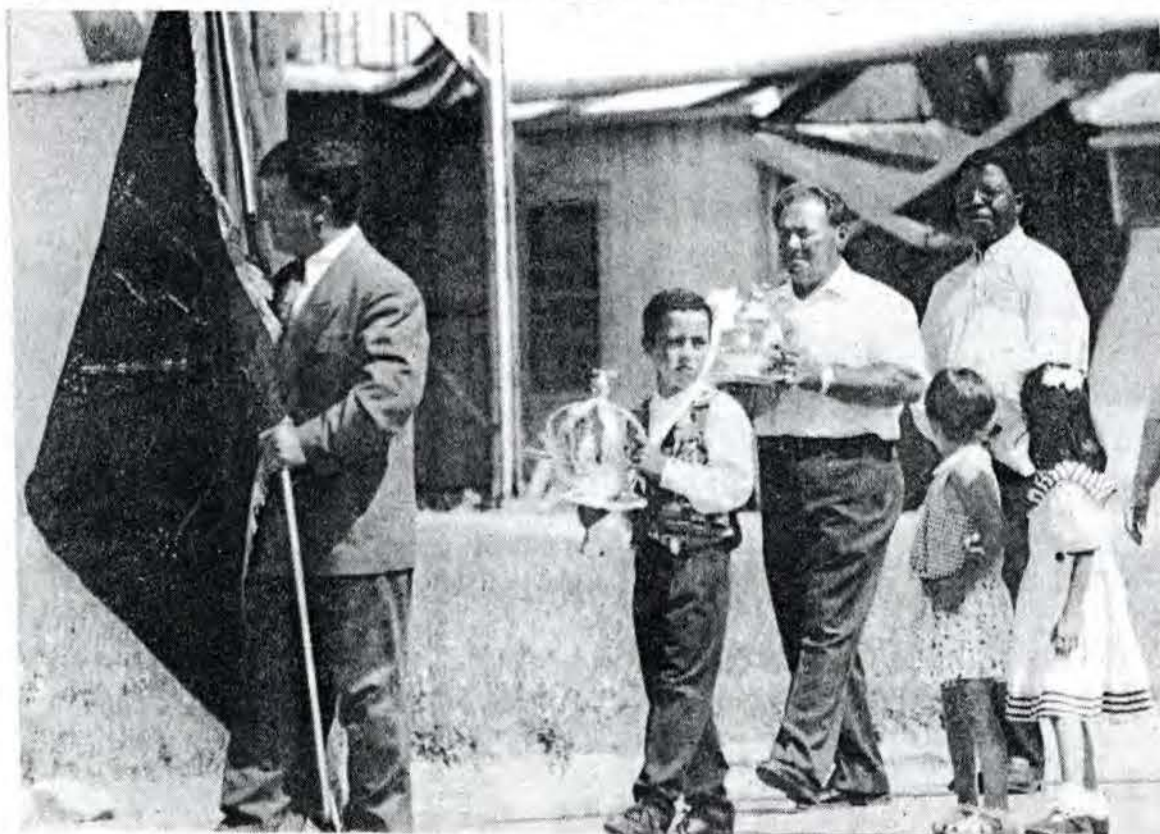
The Masonic Lodge in West Lorne has played an important role in the development of the area ever since its inception in 1879.



McColl Lodge gets facelift! - Members of the West Lorne Masons (McColl Lodge #386) are in the process of giving the old building a facelift, which will include some minor repairs and new siding. The old Lodge was built in 1888 and it use to serve as the town hall for Bismark and West Lorne. (Star Photo).

Annual Holy Spirit Fest' celebrated by Portuguese Community

AUG. 1996



A solemn march- Carlos Oliveira, (left) carries the flag of the Holy Spirit, and is followed by Jusin Azevedo and Izalino Silveira who are both carrying Crowns of the Holy Spirit. The two little girls in the picture are Tanya Oliveira and Vanessa DaCosta. (Star Photo).

The annual Holy Spirit was celebrated by the local Portuguese community over the long weekend. Portuguese communities from Listowell, London, Sarnia and West Lorne participated in the Holy festival.

The Holy Spirit festival is the second most religious holiday celebrated by the Portuguese community with the Our Lady of Fatima Festival revered as their most religious holiday.

Preparations for the festivities began on Friday with the local community setting up the arena and cooking the huge amounts of beef needed to feed the hundreds that would attend the festival.

On Saturday night hundreds attended the dance with music provided by the band Playboyz from Leamington.

Also at the dance was the bazaar where patrons took their chance on winning a prize by purchasing 20 tickets for \$1. The kitchen at the arena was in full swing during the entire event as patrons could relish the tasty Bifanas (beef on a bun), shrimp, hot dogs and coffee.

On Sunday morning hundreds of people jammed St. Mary's Church for a special mass

which was followed by a parade from the church to the arena.

The parade consisted of several hundred people marching solemnly and proudly to the beat of a marching band from Kitchener.

Once the parade reached the arena the different Portuguese communities gathered in their groups and stood silently while the band played the march of the Holy Spirit song. After the song the Holy Spirit Crowns from each community were placed on a table in the middle of the arena.

Following the placing of the crowns the crowd enjoyed a traditional meal of beef, bread, and sausage which was in the form of a soup.

After the meal the crowd was entertained by a group of traditional Folk dancers from Strathroy who performed several traditional dances from the islands.

The festivities culminated with another dance with the band Playboyz providing the music.

It was good to see several members of the community out supporting the Portuguese community during their festival.

SERVICE CLUBS 1997



West Lorne Kiwanis Club met last Wednesday to induct new officers. Lt. Governor Peter Guyitt officiated the proceedings. Pictured are: (left to right) Bob Walker, president; Guyitt; Peg Wheeler, vice president; Mary Frances O'Hagen, past president; Ray Jobson, treasurer and Win Liepmann, secretary.

OCT. 6/97

(W. Tunks)

OCT 1997



West Lorne Optimist Club installs new executive- The West Lorne Optimist Club nominated its new executive for the coming year recently. The new executive is from left to right back row: Don Boos, President Elect, John Eagleson, Director, Rose Carmichael, Director, Nancy Coburn, Vice President and Jim Carmichael, Vice President. Front Row L-R Bill Trask, Treasurer, Doug Staddon, President and Marg Varga, Secretary.

Branch 221 honor their members

The West Elgin Legion Branch 221 held their Honors and Awards night recently, honoring members for their years of service.

Those who received their medals included:

5-Year Associate Pin
Reginald Audet, Marg Cavener, Frank Gratton, Lou Ann McCallum, Sally McIntyre, John McIntyre, Scott McIntyre, Patricia Monette, Henry Mooser, Mike

Mooser, Helen Mooser, Pete Palmer, Rein Vanbrenk, Helen Vanbrenk, Louis Varga, Dana Varga, Agnes Virgin and Mike Krucz

10-Year Associate Pin
Jean Jamiesson, Anna

McCallum, Danny McCallum and Brenda Odanski

15-Year Associate Pin
Rick Falkins, Marg Varga, Duncan McWilliam and William Rogers

20-Year Associate Pin
Ian Cruickshank Jr., Don Jamiesson and Gary Jamiesson.

25-Year Associate Pin
Ed Bell and Jim Carmichael

5-Year Ordinary Members
Reginald Audet Jr., Robert Virgin and Harry Kolterman

10-Year Ordinary Member
Lenard Cline, Douglas McCallum and Harry Lancaster

15-Year Ordinary Member
Raynor Johnson

25-Year Ordinary Member
Doug Cavener, Lonnie McCallum and Ian Cruickshank Sr.

30-Year Ordinary Member
Richard Hale, Robert White, Stanley Krzywoczka, Margaret Rogers and Ozren Zivkovic.

45-Year Ordinary Member
Eric Lippold

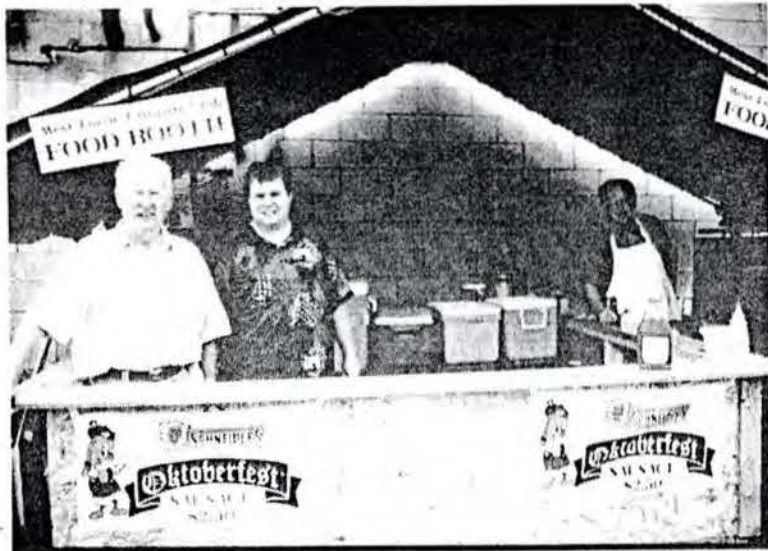
50-Year Ordinary Member
George Lippold, Edward McCallum and Stanley Oake

Past President Medal
Pete Palmer

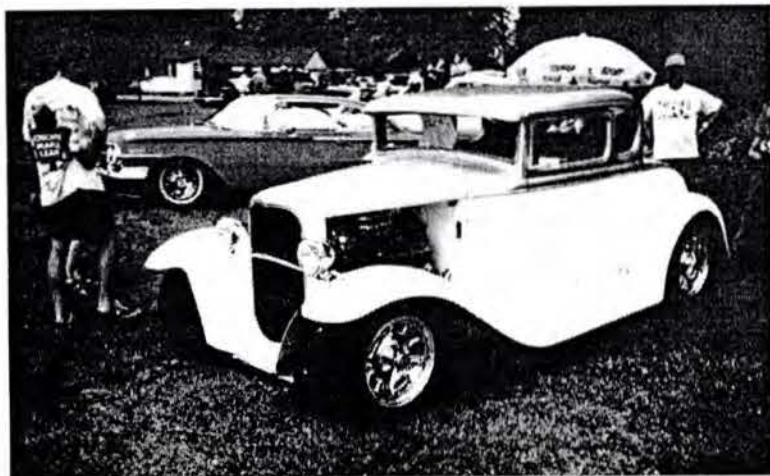


The Royal Legion Branch 221 held their Honors and Awards night recently in West Lorne. Receiving their 50-Year membership pins were, from left, George Lippold, Stanley Oake and Ed McCallum. (J. McClory)

**WEST LORNE KIWANIS CLUB
CAR SHOW**



Pictured here are Ray Jobson, Dr. Jones and Harley Lashbrook. Serving up food and cold drinks.



White - 1931 Ford Coupe owned by Ron Box from Denfield.



Ford Model T, 1916 Roadster owned by Bruce Johnson from Dutton.

SCOUTING NEWS



Here is Caw Shaw showing the Cubs the proper way for Archery

On June 5th-7th eleven West Lorne Cubs, 3 leaders and 2 helpers, former Cubs and Scouts participated in the Elgin District Challenge Camp at Camp Timken in Iona. There were numerous activities - canoeing, bronco bucking, bosun chair ride, house fire demonstration, compass course, archery, paper airplane flying contest, black powder demonstration, miniature rockets, giant and mini Jenga, Carl Ross NASCAR display, Bannok making, mud puppy, firemens hose where you pushed a bucket on a rope the fastest, raw egg race game to name a few. Each group was awarded points for participating in each activity and the West Lorne Pack met the challenge of the Camp and came in second, winning a \$50.00 Canadian Tire gift certificate. Saturday night there was a huge campfire, with

lots of skits, songs, cheers. Sunday morning Scouts Own and Camp Closing was held and awarding of prizes. The West Lorne group had several tent inspections for neatness and 1st place winner was Jessica VanVugt; 2nd Nikita VanBeers, and 3rd Andrew Simpson. Each of them received a nice crest! All participants will get a camp crest but they were not ready yet! The weather was cool, but all in all everyone had a great time! When our regular meetings start again in September we are in need of adults, age 18 or over, for leaders, especially in the Beaver Colony, Scout troop and or group committee where we need a secretary. Anyone interested in any of these positions please call group committee chairman, Walter Podebry at 768-2858 or Helena VanVugt 768-1796.

**ED McCALLUM RETIRES
AFTER 52 YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE.**



Above is President Doug Cavener presenting Ed with a spring jacket to help keep him warm on those cool nights.

THE 48TH ANNUAL KIWANIS CLUB TALENT SHOW '98'



From Left to Right Tap Dancers: Breanne Podebry, Jennie McDonald, Jay Hilliard, Brooke Roest, Meghan Morwood and Carolyn Tunks.

Wednesday April 8, 1998



Ballerina's From Left to Right: Charlotte Nodden, Meaghan Schneider, Cherie Ansems (Dance Instructor) Katie Miller and Jasmine Dyck.

APR. 8, 1998 The West Elgin Chronicle



This years recipients were, as in the picture, front, Beaver Eric Smith, Back left to right, Scout Breanne Podbry, Andrew Conway, and presenting the award, Lena Dewulf.

ANDY DEWULF AWARDS

Recently the West Lorne Scouting Family, held their Annual Banquet, and Awards night, at the West Lorne Legion Hall, which started with a pot luck supper. After all had had their fill, each section, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, entertained parents, and guests with skits and songs.

Then came the moment, for the Andy Dewulf Memorial Award Recipients, from each section to come forward. This award is presented to the youth, whom most resembled Andy in nature, and contribution to the movement, during the year.

In the back ground, in the picture, is a photo, of the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden Powell.

Guest speakers for the evening were, Elgin District President Pat Dale, Service Scouter Werner Stoss, and Scouting Partner, West Lorne Optimist Club's President, Doug Staddon, each gave a brief message, which concluded the evening. The evening was enjoyed by all.



There was some local flavor to the Ontario Legion Zone Poster/Essay Contest with four winners from the West Elgin area. Showing off their awards are, from left, Jennifer Ford - (2nd place - essay), Leanne Carroll (1st place - black & white poster), Beatrice Sacher (1st - colored poster and 2nd - essay). All the girls are St. Mary's School students but Carroll, who is from WESS. Representing West Elgin Legion Branch 221 is Michael Mooser, left, and St. Mary's staff advisor Brenda Odanski.

APR. 8, 1998



On April 1, 1998 the West Lorne Fire Department had a draw. The tickets were drawn by Councillor Trudy Balint and Fireman George Nute. First Prize was a riding lawn mower the winner was Shirley Sims of St. Thomas. Second Prize was push lawn mower won by Mike Mooser of West Lorne and Third Prize was a weed eater won by Julie Lawrence of West Lorne. The money raised from this event will go towards Uniforms. SPECIAL THANKS goes to Barb Campbell for her support and everyone who helped out.



WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS EASTER COLOURING CONTEST WINNERS.

First picture is Shelby Nielson-2 years old, from Dutton she won for her age division.



First place winners Rebecca Gray-12 years old won for her age division and Victoria Miller-5 years old.

SERVICE
CLUBS
1998

Optimist Club elects new officers!



The Optimist Club of West Lorne installed the new slate of officers for 1998-'99 at a dinner meeting on Oct. 6. The new officers are, back row from left, Ken Neil, Dick Hale and John Eagleson (Directors), Bill Trask (Treasurer) and Jim Carmichael (Vice-President). Front row from left are Julie Lawrence (Director), Gary Cassenbrood (Lt. Governor), Don Boos (President), Doug Staddon (Immediate Past President) and Marg Varga (Secretary). The Optimist Club also handed out the President's Award for outstanding service for the year 1997-'98. Here, Doug Staddon (right), as his last duty as president, presents Bill Trask with the award.



Page 2 - October 5, 1998



Original Charter!

There was a lot of excitement at the West Elgin Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 221, last week as they celebrated Legion Week. And to cap the week off the branch's original charter was located in the home of one of the members. Still in great condition, the charter was framed and put on display at the legion. Here, senior legion members Ed McCallum, left, and George Berdan look over the new found treasure.

A FEW TREES THAT NEEDED TO BE CUT DOWN DUE TO ROT.



MILLER PARK CLEAN UP

Recently phone calls came into our office about what was happening in the woods at Miller Park. Well, I contacted Charlie Cronkite and we went for a walk and he was explained the plan. Parks and Recreation has started a major clean up of the woods that maybe should have been done some time ago. Trees have been marked at some point in time by the Ministry and never removed. They are cleaning up the

underbrush and dead trees to turn the woods into a picnic area for seniors or anyone wanting to use it for family reunions or just to sit and enjoy the shade. For every tree that may be removed one or two trees will be replanted to rebuild the woods. Charlie said "We are not destroying the woods, but making it better". They have been working under the advice of a tree expert Bing Humphries. Some of the trees

are so rotten down the centre a good gust of wind may bring them down and possibly injure someone and then the Village would be sued for the mishap. The swampy portion of the woods will be tiled to take off the excess water. The undergrowth in the woods is killing off all vegetation and this will all be cleaned up and removed. Possibly wild flowers will be planted in areas of the park.

Inquiries have been made about a roadway at the end of Chestnut Street to Wood Street. This is not a roadway but a laneway off Chestnut to the soccer fields. This is to help cut down the traffic on Wood Street during the summer months. All garbage that is in the woods,

put there by others such as truck tires, an old truck and just garbage is being removed and disposed of properly. If you are interested in helping in any way call Charlie Cronkite at 768-1382 or anyone on the Parks and Recreation Committee. NOV 1998

THANKS FOR BEING THERE FOR US!

JOHN SZABO TV

191 Queen St., Rodney
Sales & Service
•TV's-VCR's-STEREOS
•CAMCORDERS
Satellite & Antenna
Sales, Service &
Installations
785-0090

REMEMBERANCE DAY CHURCH SERVICE

Rodney Legion Branch 525 and West Lorne Legion Branch 221 are holding a Remembrance Day Church Service. November 8th, 1998 at 11:00 a.m. at the Anglican Church, Dutton. Everyone Welcome

THE WEST LORNE KIWANIS

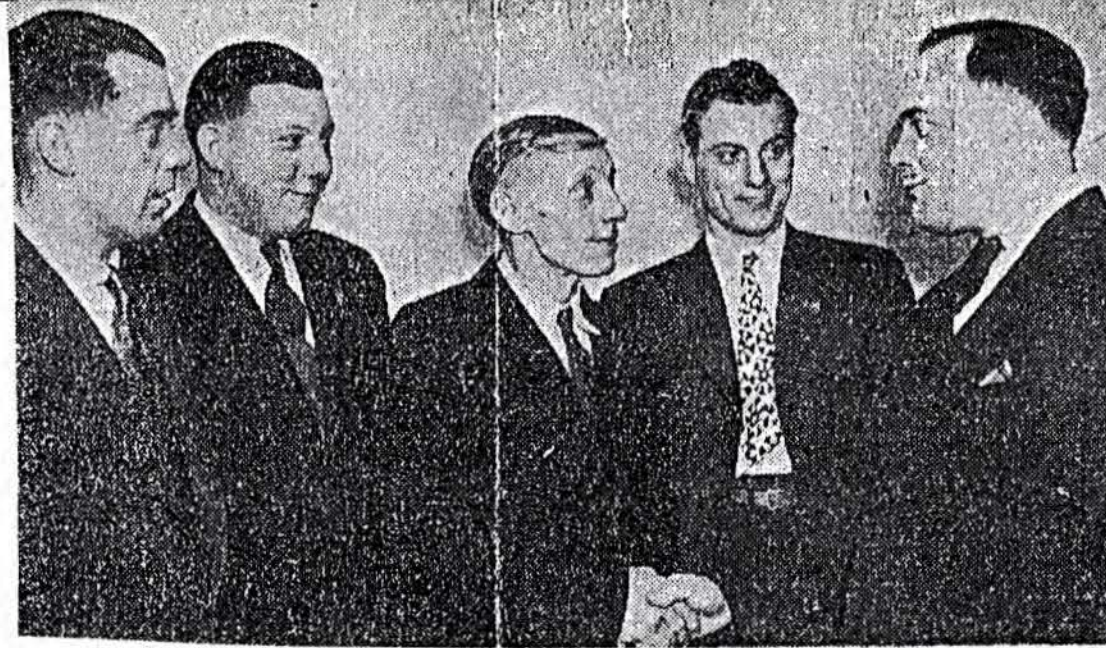
For all your Sporting Needs

SANTAROSSA SHOOTING SPORTS
Tues. - Thurs. 9-6, Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-4
Hunting Safety Course
November 6, 7, & 8 Call for Details
102 Furnival Road, Rodney 785-2322



Home hardware

Jeff and Teresa Knight and Staff
232 Graham West Lorne, Ontario NOL 2P0
Phone: 768-1840 Fax: 768-1490



A.J. De Long, vice-president of the West Elgin branch of the Canadian Legion, welcomes George G. Bell and his three veteran sons at the community's welcome-home banquet on Wednesday evening. Here they are grouped from the left, Staff Sergeant Jim Bell, who served with the Lincoln and Welland Regiment; Tpr, William Bell of the Canadian Armored Corps; the father; Pte. George Bell, who served with the Algonquin Regiment and who was a prisoner of war; and Mr. De Long. Taken January 31, 1947.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne



"Friend of Youth"

Dave McDonald Auctioneer

Household - Farm - Antiques
"We Aim To Please"
We Also Buy Estates
Call Anytime **785-0776**
234 Stinson St., Rodney

WEST LORNE FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



WEST ELGIN FREE PRESS

225 Graham Rd. West Lorne, Ontario
Phone: 768-0880 Fax: 768-0770

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*



George Bell was out out the past few days distributing poppies for the West Lorne Legion.

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you, from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*
JOHN McCRAE



SIDERITE Home Improvements

BRIAN HOPKINS
Quality Workmanship
R.R.2 West Lorne Ontario, NOL 2P0
(519) 768-2586
Mobile (519) 641-9109
1-800-354-9168

Fairles' "K" FOODMARKET

Over 70 Years Servicing Rodney, West Lorne and Area.
Meats, Groceries and Produce
Full Deli and Bakery (Fairles' for quality)
Proprietors: Brian & Clare Scafe
RODNEY 785-0670

LABADIES' CARPET CLEANING

WEST LORNE **768-2620**

West Elgin Sports Centre

188 Main St. West Lorne 768-0606
Team Uniforms
Trophies & Awards
Casual Wear
Mon. 10-6
Tues. - Fri. 9-6
Sat. 9-5

RODNEY ONE STOP CONVENIENCE & AUTOMOTIVE

Mon-Sat 6:30am - 9:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Gas Bar - Diesel - Propane - Variety
TIRE REPAIR AND 24 HOUR TOWING
Licensed Mechanic (519) 785-0160

Bob Jones Auto PRO hardware

228 Furnival Rd. Rodney, Ont.
785-2222
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00-5:30
Fr.-8:00-8:00
Sat. 8:00-5:00-



173 Main Street, Dutton, Ontario
762-0080

PETER R. GIRTY

Chartered Accountant
Accounting and Income Tax
Services for
Personal Income Tax Returns
Corporations - Partnerships
Proprietorships
Farm Businesses
178 A Main Street, DUTTON
Phone 762-2853 Fax 762-2149



ROYAL BANK
206 Main Street
DUTTON
762-2060

WEST ELGIN PHARMACY

229 Graham St., West Lorne 768-1440
Gifts - Cards
Health and Beauty Aids
Baby Needs

The Villager (Rodney) Ltd.

Featuring
SEARS CATALOGUE
AGENCY & CANADIAN
DRY CLEANERS
(Tuesday & Friday Delivery)
215 Furnival Road, Rodney, Ontario
785-0410