

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



*In honour of our 50th Wedding Anniversary we would like to thank our family for the Dinner and Trip to Vancouver.
Jack and Grace Vowel*

A 50th Anniversary



*The family of John & Carolyn Smith invite friends and family to an open house in honour of their parents 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, August 15, 1998 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at Highgate Hall.
Best wishes only please.*

August 31, 1998



West Elgin's Charlene Carroll was on top of the world recently as she was named the 1998 CNE Ambassador of the Fairs. Here, Carroll receives a quilt that was given to her by some of the past CNE Ambassadors who were at this year's competition.

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT



Mrs. Winnis VanLierop is pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of her daughter Christine to Mr. Douglas Kernaham. The marriage will take place September 12th, 1998 at Knox Presbyterian Church, West Lorne at 2:30 p.m.

Carroll named the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs

Paul Mayne
The Chronicle

Charlene Carroll has performed on stage many times in her young career, but her latest accomplishment has thrust her into the spotlight, and her biggest role to date.

With her beauty, poise and articulate personality, Carroll earned herself high marks by being named the 1998 CNE Ambassador of the Fairs. The three-day competition was held Aug. 21-23 in Toronto.

It was quite the experience for the 18-year-old Carroll, who'll be entering OAC this year at WESS.

"This is just so incredible. It's unbelievable," says Carroll in a phone interview from Toronto, where she remain until Sept. 7. "This is something I'm not going to soon forget." Carroll, who won the 1997 Rodney-

Aldborough Fair Ambassador, approached the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs competition with the thought of just enjoying the experience. And what she ended up experiencing was the furthest thing from her mind.

"I went to Toronto thinking 'there are 84 other Ambassadors there, what are the chances of them picking me' and I think that helped me relax and really enjoy the three days," says Carroll. "I met so many nice people, other Ambassadors, exchanged addresses; I wasn't there to win but to have a good time. If I were preoccupied with simply winning I wouldn't have enjoyed myself as much as I did."

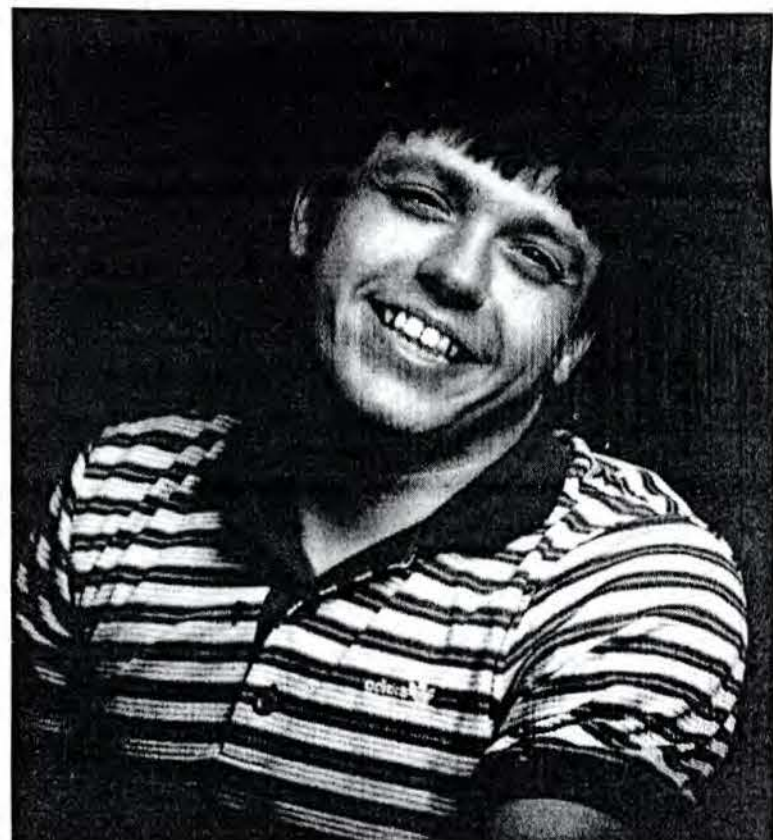
But the calm and relaxed state Carroll had possessed throughout the last



"THE FAIREST OF THE FAIR"



Winner of the Ambassador of the Fair, Cynthia DeWild is pictured with 1st runner up, Jennifer Flemming.



Come and Pledge Mark at the Rodney Fair

Mark Quinton is a young man confined to a wheelchair due to the fact he has Cerebral Palsy.

Mark has given himself another challenge in life and that is to support Jesse's Journey "A Father's Tribute".

With the help of Jesse's Journey staff, Parkwood Hospital Physio staff, his parents George & Janet and friends, Mark has undertaken to raise funds for this worthy cause.

On October 30th 1998 Mark intends to accomplish 100 km on the power trainer. A piece of gym equipment designed to help strengthen the arms and legs, Mark has been riding this bike for about a year now. Six weeks ago when Mark decided to take this challenge on he has been in training.

I asked Mark why he decided to do this and Mark's answer was

"When I needed help the community was always there and so was my friends it's my way in giving back to the community and saying thank you."

Mark moved from home when he was 21 years of age to Parkwood Hospital in London. To Mark that was a big challenge. Talking with Mark I came to the conclusion that no matter what it is and how big the challenge is Mark takes them head on.

Mark is accepting pledges towards his 100 km ride, his goal is to raise \$1,000 for the Jesse's Journey Fund. You can support Mark in his efforts by sponsoring this important event. Mark will be at the Rodney Fair and pledge sheets will be available, you also can pick one up at the West Elgin Free Press.

GOOD LUCK MARK

September 14, 1998 - Page 13



West Elgin's own Charlene Carroll is back in town - and she had a pretty nice ride to boot. The OAC student at WESS returned home with the CNE Ambassador of the Fairs title she won in Toronto Aug. 21-23. The 18-year-old returned home not only with her crown, but with a handful of fabulous gifts - most notable a 1998 Chrysler Sebring convertible she gets to drive for a year. Carroll will be on hand at the 144th Annual Rodney-Aldborough Fair this Friday night to help crown the 1998 Rodney Ambassador of the Fair, which gets underway at the grandstand in Rodney at 6 p.m.

LONG TIME RESIDENT LEAVING



Long time resident George Berdan of West Lorne is staying with his daughter in Newbury until he moves to the Bobier Villa in Dutton. He is seen in the above picture seated in the middle of the front row. The neighbors, relatives and friends wished him a farewell on Saturday October 10th at the West Lorne Legion. Mr. Berdan in his 89th year worked at Fords for four years and then joined the navy. When he returned he moved to West Lorne and worked at McKillops and then Erie Flooring. He has been a Legion Member for the past 53 years.

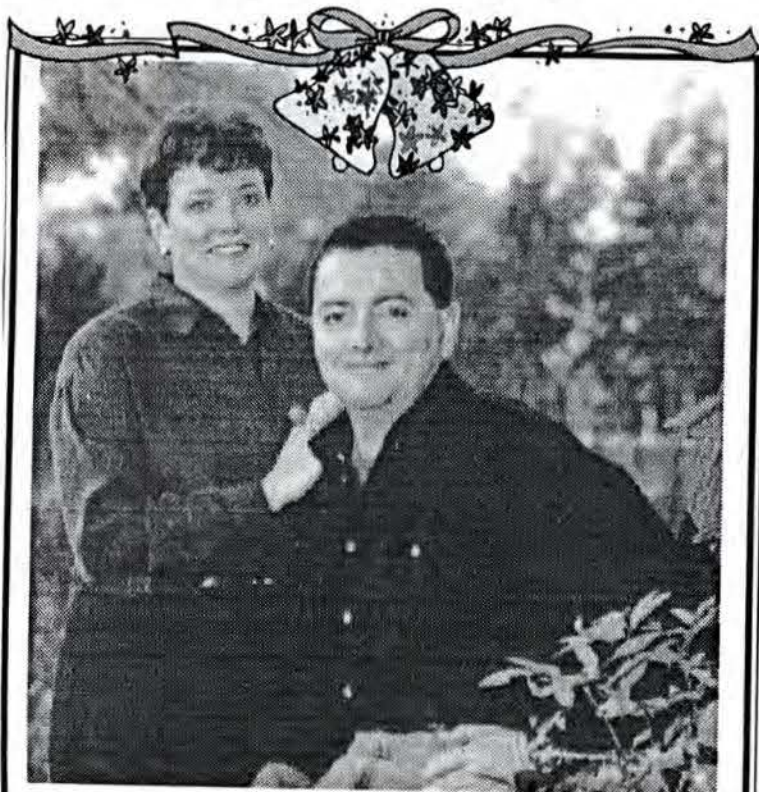
Congratulations
Alice Humphries

80 Years Young
Love from your family.
Come help us celebrate Saturday, November 21st, 2 to 4pm at the West Lorne Baptist Church. Your presence will be your gift.

*"Her Love Shines
On All Of Us"*

Welcome to
Beatrice Hoglund's
80th
Birthday Celebration.
St. John's United Church, Dutton
Sun. Oct. 18th • 2-4pm
Best Wishes Only...

Wedding Announcement



Shirley Lashbrook and Earl and Sylvia Sherman are happy to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Jane and Sandy on December 19, 1998.

Page 2 - October 26, 1998



Inspiration Night

It was a night of appreciation and inspiration for TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ON792 West Lorne last week. A number of TOPS members were honoured for their achievements. They included, seated from left, Jean McRae (eight year numeral pin for consecutive years maintaining weight loss), Loraine Tunks (ribbon for inspiration and assistance to TOPS), Florence Pascu (ribbon and gift for completing 13-week KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) program) and Twila McWilliam (charm for remaining below goal for four consecutive weeks). Standing from left are Sandra Reid, Mary Lou McMillian and Marie Reynolds (ribbons for recognition of good progress). As a group TOPS ON 792 West Lorne has lost 155 pounds this year. Absent from photo, but honoured, were Mary Liepman and Sharon Nielson.



FRED REDINGER
90th Birthday • November 24th, 1998
Promise of Peace

Lord make me an instrument of peace,
Hear me, when I call your name.
Reach out for me in kindness,
When the heart is silent.
Sing unto me, a new song.
Let me know the thoughts,
Help me rise and capture the heart.
The wind that echoes God's word
The strength that heals the beat
Of His own song of perfect love.

Welcome me as your own child,
Set my heart upon your heart.
For I am for your peace,
As you are for my love
The light upon my soul.
Amen
With Peace and Love,
your daughter Shirley

**"Happy 90th Birthday
Dad & Grandpa"**
From your family

Forthcoming Marriage



Mr. & Mrs. Al Palazzo and Mr. & Mrs. Dan Carr are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Karrie Anne and David Gary. The couple will celebrate a December Wedding at St. Mary's Catholic Church in West Lorne.

Miller Park to expand and improve

By Denise Helmer

Land around Miller Park that is not presently being used is going to be cleaned up and the park will be expanded to encompass a larger recreational environment.

Presently there is land at the back of the park that is not being used for anything specific but has the potential to be transformed into park land. "Why is staff just going out there and cutting grass?" was the question that the recreation committee and chairperson Phil Mark asked themselves.

The Recreation Committee hopes to expand the park to better accommodate recreation in the village. The hope of the committee is to create "a safer

environment for ball players and soccer players," said Mark.

Presently there is a conflict on the front field between baseball and soccer. Mark said when the older, stronger players get on the ball field that their game often interrupts the action on the soccer field. He said it posed a safety risk.

Also, there is a great need in the village for soccer facilities. With 150 youth soccer players on 11 different teams "field availability" has become an issue in West Lorne. "West Lorne used to have three large fields out there but the back ball diamond took one away," said Mark. For this reason the committee looked to the land that wasn't being used. "What we should be able to accom-

plish back there are two large fields," added Mark.

So last Christmas, with the help of West Lorne Minor Soccer, the West Lorne division of Scouts Canada, the Girl Guides and other volunteers, clean up and removal of old, dangerous trees began. Although the clean up of the land has started, there is still some stump removal and drainage that has to be done.

As well as installing new soccer fields the committee is planning on shifting one field down about 50 feet to create a "safer buffer" between the baseball diamond and the soccer field.

There are also plans to move the soccer field near Jessie St. (behind the lawn bowling

greens). Presently it is situated too close to a fence. The field currently runs north and south but it will be moved so that it runs east and west, away from a nearby fence. According to Mark, this is much safer for the younger children that use the field because they often bump into the fence as they play.

Other improvements to the park include dug outs on the front field and a shaded tree area behind the Scout Hall that can be used for a variety of things. "It makes a nice shaded, picnic area out there at the back," said Mark of the wooded area. He said the area is a good, outdoor nature plot, with trees over 100 years old, right within West Lorne that the residents can enjoy without having to go any

distance.

Mark also said that the new expansion and changes could allow for a pavilion if someone decides to take on such a project in the future.

According to Mark, there is \$3,000 in the budget for "development of park land". The money from the budget will be used and money is also expected to come from donations. West Lorne Minor Soccer has already committed itself to the project.

Not only are people from minor soccer volunteering for clean up, minor soccer is also going to foot the bill for stump removal.

The park should be completed sometime in 1995.

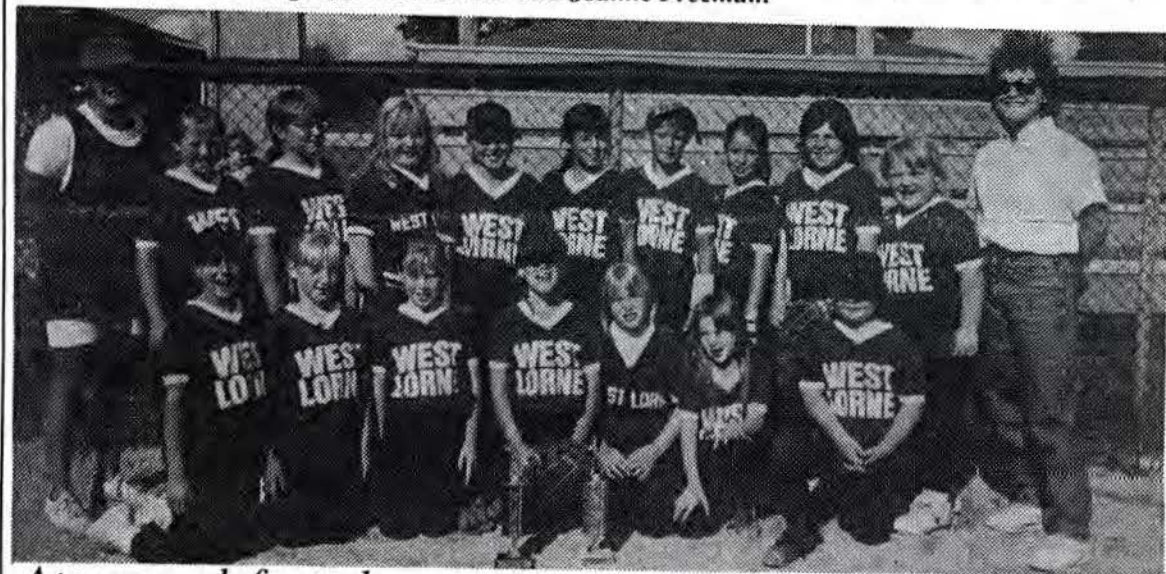
SEPT. 21, 1994

September 28, 1994



Squirts are season and tournament champs

The Squirt girls were Tournament A champions as well as regular season champs. Pictured here in back, from left are: Coach Gerry Minten, Marsha Knapp, Terri Schnekenberger, Leanne Carroll, Carla Brown, Stephanie Tobias, Colette Tobias, Jill Chevalier. Front row: Sarah Minten, Amy Mezenberg, Dani Cadogan, Krista Mooser and Joanne Freeman.



Atoms undefeated

The West Lorne Atom girls had an excellent year finishing undefeated going into the playoffs, which



The West Lorne Comets Bantam travel team was the Shamrock 'D' championship team this year. Pictured here are: (back row left to right) Coach Ray Pavey, assistant coach Bob McLachlan, Jason Vojin, Jarett Hoglund, Jamey McLachlan, Jason McDowell, Justin Mezenberg, Jarrod Charron, trainer Wayne Hoglund, manager Bob McDowell (front) Rob Tait, Darren Stafford, Shawn Szabo, Tyler Arvai, Shawn McCallum, Jason Chase and Josh Derraugh. (photo supplied)

April 8, 1996

WEST LORNE NOVICES BRING HOME OMHA GOLD



The West Lorne Novice Travel Team defeated Ayr in three straight games, clinching the OMHA 'DD' championship on March 27. Pictured here with their trophy are: (back row left to right) manager Nick Coates, head coach Pete Mezenberg, assistant coach Henry Dryfhout, trainer Jim Knowles (middle) Wade Munn, Jamie Knowles, Scotty Mezenberg, Jamie Kirschner, Jonathan Woolsey, Craig Hoglund (front) Andrew Coates, Jonathan McDowell, Jonathan Dryfhout, Jeff Okolisan, Jeff Walker and Greg Arvai. Absent was Justin Walker. (D. Robinet)

Oliveira looks forward to NHL draft year with Kingston

BY: DONALD ROBINET

Special to The Chronicle

Just four years out of the West Lorne peewees, Mike Oliveira is about to enter his most crucial season yet.

Oliveira, 17, is enjoying some rare time at home this summer as he prepares for his sophomore season with the Ontario Hockey League's (OHL) Kingston Frontenacs, and while there is always a sense of anticipation before every season, this year is extra special, since he is eligible for the NHL entry draft in June.

The OHL is arguably the best amateur hockey league in the world, but Oliveira took it all in stride last season, netting 11 goals and 27 assists on a team that many consider to be a contender for the Memorial Cup national championship this year.

"It was great," says Oliveira of his rookie campaign. "It was a good year." He added that it was a bit of an adjustment playing in the OHL, where the regular season is 66 games long and long bus trips are the norm, but Oliveira thrived under the intense system of practices, training, games and 10:30 p.m. curfew, all while adjusting to a new city and completing Grade 11.

And even though it was his rookie season, the Frontenacs showed confidence in him by placing him in crucial situations.

"I played on the powerplay quite a bit," said the offensive-minded centre, who also found time to work on his defensive skills. "I got the chance to play on the first line, second line. I was really happy."

Kingston is not the only organization that is showing confidence in Oliveira's abilities. He now has an agency working on his behalf, and not just any agency, but one that also includes Wayne Gretzky among its clients. Oliveira was approached by former Detroit Red Wing goaltender Eddie Mio of the International Management Group (IMG) while he was still playing for the Sarnia Bees of the Western Junior 'B' League. Mio is a good friend of Gretzky's and was the best man at his wedding when both played for the Edmonton Oilers.

Along with a few other top prospects, including Joe Thornton and Daniel Cleary, IMG showed the young players a taste of what to expect if they make it in the NHL. "I went to LA for eight days," said Oliveira. "They wanted to show us what we have in front of us."

The young players were guests of Wayne Gretzky at his home, and they dined out with the all-time point leader, played golf, and also met other established NHL players including Alexander Mogilny and Russ Courtnall.

"They treated us real good. He's

(Gretzky) a real nice guy," Oliveira said. Of his experience, he added, "it's amazing; I couldn't believe it."

Yet even though his successful career has taken him to the brink of professional status, Oliveira has both feet firmly planted on the ground and knows that there is still a lot of work ahead. He faithfully follows the daily training regimen given to him by the Frontenacs, and is

required to report on his progress every two weeks. He also recently attended a two-day mini camp in Kingston. He reports to the regular camp at the end of August.

Now, in this crucial season, Oliveira is set to work harder than ever, and prove to the NHL scouts that he belongs in the big time.

"It's all up to me," he summarizes.



Mike Oliveira.

MEET YOUR 1997 ALL STAR



5 Andrew Hentz
Wallacetown
Position: Right Wing
Born: 1984
School: St. Mary's, West Lorne
Parents: Mike & Ingrid



11 Brett McGill
West Lorne
Position: Centre
Born: 1984
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Mark & Patsy



4 Joe Hentz
Wallacetown
Position: Defence
Born: 1983
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Mike & Ingrid



31 Derek Debie
Rodney
Position: Goalie
Born: 1983
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Bill & Val



17 Lee Wilson
West Lorne
Position: Centre
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parents: Stan & Marie



9 David Rivard
West Lorne
Position: Centre / Left Wing
Born: 1984
School: WESES
Parents: Mike & Marg



6 Joe Lyons
Dutton
Position: Centre / Right Wing
Born: 1984
School: WESES
Parents: Louis & Lucy



10 Jeff Hyslop
Rodney
Position: Defence
Born: 1984
School: WESES
Parents: Bill & Shelly



7 Mark Vergeer
West Lorne
Position: Right Wing
Born: 1983
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Harry & Joanne



14 Daniel Lee
Rodney
Position: Defence
Born: 1983
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Dennis & Edna



8 Nathan Woolsey
Rodney
Position: Right Wing
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parents: Bob & Wendy



18 Dwayne Munn
Rodney
Position: Defence
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parents: Gerry & Debbie



30 Tyler Arvai
West Lorne
Position: Goalie
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parents: Louis & Marlene



15 Jonathon McCallum
West Lorne
Position: Right Wing
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parent: Linda McCallum



Michael Hentz
Wallacetown
Duties: Manager



Tim Horvat
Rodney
Duties: Assistant Coach



Paul Duarte
West Lorne
Trainer



Rob Schnekenburger
West Lorne
Duties: Head Coach



16 Adam McCallum
West Lorne
Position: Defence
Born: 1983
School: WESES
Parents: David & Laura



12 Matt Mezenberg
West Lorne
Position: Left Wing
Born: 1984
School: St. Mary's
Parents: Pete & Cathy

1996-97'
OMHA 'DD'
CHAMPS

West
Lorne
COMETS

MICHAEL PALAZZO GOING TO THE PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Michael Palazzo - #14 and his team the Delaware Dodgers are ready for action for the Provincial finals being held in Richmond Hill Labour Day weekend.

Michael 15, is the only player that is not from Delaware. Palazzo was given a chance to play for the team and he fit right in with the rest. Michael is usually 2nd baseman but also can pitch a few innings when necessary.

The Delaware Dodgers Select Bantam baseball team won the London and District CBL Regional Playoff Tournament to earn the right into the Provincial finals to be played in Richmond Hill on Labour Day weekend.

Michael, 2nd baseman for the Delaware team, hit .592 with 8 RBI's including a 2 run 350' home run to lead the Delaware team to convincing 6-0 and 12-2 wins over a strong Belmont team in the finals.

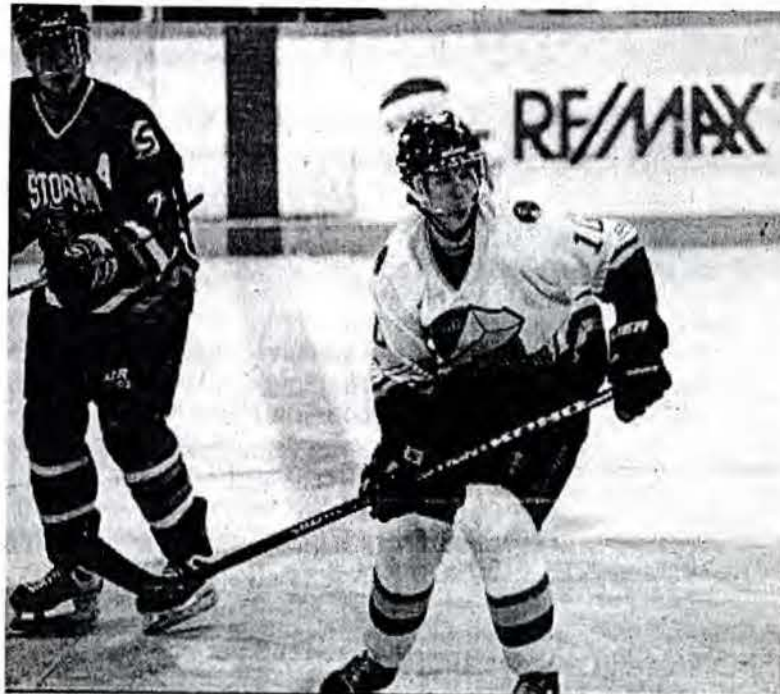
Other teams representing the London and district CBL were North London, Oakridge, EBBA, Southwest, Woodstock, and Poplar Hill.

The season record of the Delaware team is 39 wins and 4 losses, including a great game against Daytona Beach, the top Bantam team from the USA, who is now playing in the International Tournament in China.

At the upcoming provincial tournament there will be a chance for Michael to stand out for the more than 37 scouts that will be in attendance, including university, college and pro scouts and other scouts looking for players to fill spots on the provincial midget team.

We are sure that everyone in the West Elgin Area wishes Michael and the team the best of LUCK AT THE PROVINCIALS.

RIVARD TRADED TO KINGSTON



West Lorne resident Ryan Rivard was traded to the Kingston Frontenacs. Drafted by the Owen Sound Platers a year ago, Ryan received the phone call from GM and Head Coach of Kingston Larry Maverty of the trade. The trade consisted of veteran Jan Sulca and a 6th round draft pick to Owen Sound for Rivard to Kingston. Rivard will join another West Lorne resident. More details next week. NOV. 1998

August 24, 1998 - Page 9

Da Costa nabs bronze at Ontario Summer Games in Guelph

Paul Mayne
The Chronicle

To win a bronze medal at the Ontario Summer Games is quite the accomplishment. But to win the medal in a sport you just started taking seriously this past spring is even more astounding.

That's just what Teresa Da Costa did this past Aug. 13-16 as she competed in the Ontario Summer Games in Guelph.

Da Costa ventured back into the world of shotput approximately five months ago on the advice of a coach. Prior to that, the last time she did shotput was in grade school.

"I was able to throw pretty far when I was in grade school but at that time I just assumed that everyone else could probably throw farther," says the outgoing 16-year-old.

But after finishing second this past year at OFSAA, the WESS student, who will enter Grade 12 this year, saw that she had the potential. Her toss of 11.06 was 10cm behind the first place finisher.

"I had a great time at the summer games," says Da Costa. "I met a lot of people and the competition was great."

It was also a bit intimidating at first. Many of the almost 3,000 competitors had coaches with them. The two girls who finished ahead of her shared the same full-time coach. Da Costa trained on her own.

"It wasn't that great at first but I got to know my roommate

and her friends it got a lot better. I didn't want to go home at the end," she says of her new friends. Da Costa also picked up a few pointers from some of the coaches which she gladly took.

But she was all business when it came to the competition. Her toss of 11.11 was just 4cm short of the silver medal.

"I like to dream really big. I want to go far with my shotput abilities," she says. "A year can make a big difference in how much you improve."

Da Costa plans to work out and train over the winter months and is thinking of joining a track club in either St. Thomas or London. But with her school work and a part-time job, her time is already limited.

The future may hold the possibility of a scholarship to a U.S. college or university for Da Costa, but he admits she won't jump at the first offer.

"Education comes first for me," she says. "Whether it a full scholarship or partial, I want to make sure the school offers the classes I want."

So the obvious question to ask would be "Do you want to go to the Olympics someday?" And of course she would, but Da Costa is also realistic.

"There are women throwing them like 22 and 23. That's like double what I'm doing now," she says astoundingly.

But with the work ethic and competitive edge Da Costa has, that may not be out of the question.



Teresa Da Costa shows off the bronze medal she won for shotput at the Ontario Summer Games in Guelph.

JULY 22,
1998

J.J. WROBEL'S STORY TO FAME

SPORTS 1998

J.J. Wrobel's dream in the hockey stage finally came into play a few weeks ago. J.J. age 22 was recruited by the Columbus Hockey club from Georgia in the Central Hockey League. However his climb to the top was a hard and rocky one.

Wrobel started early and participated in West Lorne Minor Hockey till he was a Bantam. During these years J.J. lead most of his teams in major championship. The first coming when he was at the Novice age where they won the region consolation Silver Stick. Later in Atom and Peewee J.J. was strong enough to play on two teams. In 1989-90 J.J. lead the Bantam team in the OMHA finals against Flesherton at the Pee Wee age. J.J. remained in West Lorne for one more year to play a very successful season playing both Bantam and Midget.

In 1991 J.J. signed with the St. Thomas Stars in the Western JRB hockey league, though his duties were to be used on the affiliate team the Belmont Bombers, a local JRD club. Times were hard and J.J. decided to leave the squad to return home for OMHA play downs. It seemed his future was in doubt, however J.J. bounced back to join the Elgin Middlesex AAA Midget team. There he won the scoring race and was brought up to play for the St. Thomas Stars in the playoffs. Later in the fall of 1993 J.J. signed with cross town rivals,



HERE J.J. HOLDS ONE OF THE TROPHIES HE HELPED WIN

the Alymer Aces. During his successful season with Alymer. J.J. was sought by a handful of JRA clubs, but J.J.'s concern was perhaps a scholarship in a Prep US College team. The next season many hockey fans from West Lorne were happy to see J.J. join Michael Oliveira, Drew Felder and the Sarnia Ranson, JR. Bees. Both J.J. Wrobel and Michael Oliveira team up on the ice and gave a spectacular performance for the local fans. At the end of the season J.J. lead the scoring race and Michael a close second.

The next season poor new man-

agement in Sarnia left the team in shambles, were J.J. Wrobel and Drew Felder were given no alternative but to ask for trades. Both found themselves in St. Thomas and gave the team a big boost as they went on to the finals. 1996-97 was J.J.'s last JR season. He seen in the past his local team mates Michael Oliveira in Kingston, and Drew Felder in Windsor.

But for J.J. Wrobel it was his best achievement ever. He lead the scoring championship in the league. He also participated in the annual All Star game and come away with the MVP of the

game. The topping on the cake was that J.J. Wrobel was selected as the Most Valuable Player by the players of the St. Thomas Stars and the Western JRB Hockey League.

For the next season J.J. refused scholarship offers to join the new SRA club the London Admirals.

Here he had another successful season where he led the club into the Bolton Cup and the Allen Cup. One of the most prestigious Championships in all of hockey.

This summer J.J. sought employment as a councilor for kids in Major Hockey Camps through out the United States. Camps from states such as New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts. J.J.'s experiences in hockey impressed organizers so that they promoted him to coaching instructor. Here J.J. coaches U.S. kids from all over the United States, were the age varies from 5 to 17. His stay was for three weeks, however organizers prolonged it for a number of more weeks. During his adventure J.J. joined Boston Bruin Joe Thorton and ex-line mate Ryan St. Clair of the St. Thomas Stars, in a Roller Hockey tournament in Boston. After his employment in the States J.J. will return home for a brief stay and will report to the Columbus hockey club of the Central Professional Hockey League. Negotiations are not confirmed but it will be a good substantial salary. He will report to camp in September to join the

club in Georgia, and stay throughout the season till his return home in April. Columbus won the championship last season and are thrilled to have J.J. join its squad.

I'm sure that the proud parents of J.J., John and Anne Wrobel are also proud, as well brothers Trevor, Kevin and David.

Personally I really am proud that this individual has achieved what most hockey players dream of doing. To me I did have the chance to coach J.J. in hockey as well as soccer, and it will be one I never will forget. Congratulations J.J. Wrobel, you've done well, not only for yourself, but your family, close friends, as well the general community. Way to Go.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

by Roy dos Santos

This summer Lee Wilson of West Lorne led Forest United Under 15 boys soccer team of London to the Ontario Cup to claim soccer's greatest prize. Lee, age 15, began playing soccer at the early age of four for West Lorne Minor Soccer. He played many years for the organization until 1995 when London Youth lured the young superstar to their squad.

He then joined the Forest United Soccer Club which played against teams such as Woodstock, Blue Water from Sarnia, and Strathroy Portuguese. This season Lee played 15 league games and notched an amazing nine goals. With his position as sweeper, which is a defensive role, Lee still managed to make the strong runs through the midfield and attack, a system that earned him respect from his coach Tony Tamblirio. This summer Forest United entered several major tournaments throughout the province in places like Burlington, their

own Forest United tournament in London, and the most famous one of all, the Henderson Tournament, in which Lee's team won all.

Their ride to the Ontario Cup Competition began in Hamilton as they became winners of their group by defeating Milton, Oakridge, Sarnia and Burlington. In the semi-finals Forest United demolished North Mississauga Hurricanes at Centennial Stadium in Etobicoke 4-0. That set the stage for the final at the Soccer Centre in Vaughan, against the Scarborough Panthers. Forest United came away with a 1-0 win to become the reigning new champions of all Ontario.

Not only does the kid have time for a lot of soccer he also participated in Summer "AAA" hockey with the South Blades from Mt. Brydges. Under Coach Bill Wells Lee led the squad in the Stars Of Tomorrow Tournament in St. Thomas by winning it all and collected eight points in four games. This of course, along with his past success in

hockey in West Lorne caught the eye of many hockey scouts throughout the area. In 1997 Lee, as Captain, led the West Lorne Pee-Wees to the O.M.H.A. championship. The Dresden Jr. Kings of the Great Lakes JRC Hockey League cashed in and signed Lee "hands down". In just the first four games Lee has scored an amazing 10 points. Dresden coach Al Houston is pleased with Lee and expects a lot of great things from this youngster. With this busy summer in soccer and hockey Lee also worked in tobacco for Dennis Fisher.

Lee's future ambition is to return to Forest United and defend the Ontario Cup. He also hopes to play JR. B. hockey. Down the road he would like to play in the OHL but would be equally happy with a scholarship in either hockey or soccer.

Lee's parents, Stan and Maria as well as sister Chelsey are very proud of Lee's successes in both sports. Way to go Lee, congratulations and good luck in the future!



Pictured here Man of all Seasons Lee Wilson holding the Ontario Cup Trophy

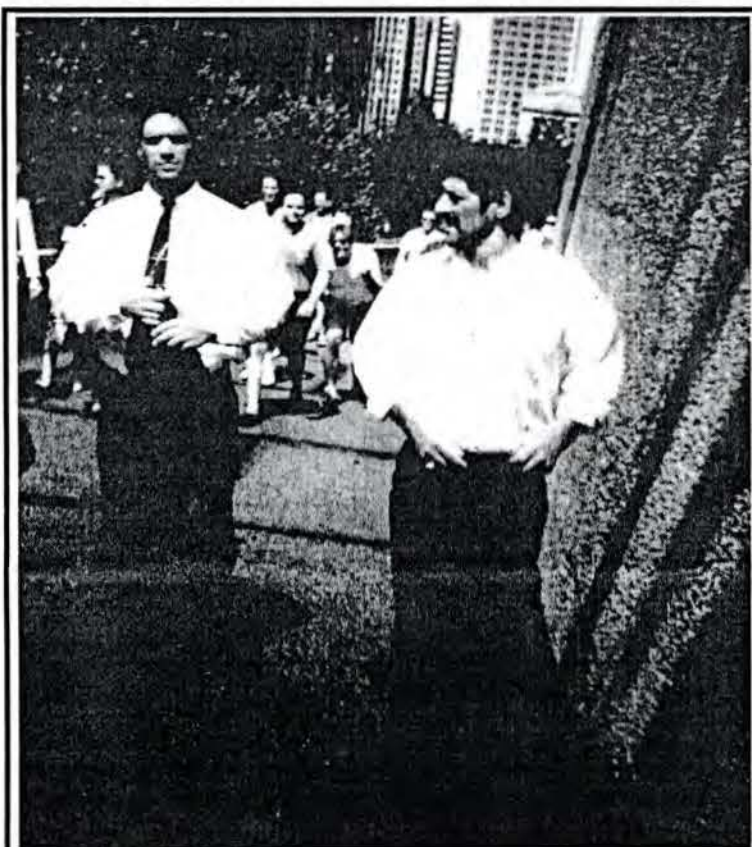
MICHAEL OLIVEIRA STRUCK BY LIGHTENING

For reasons that defy explanations Michael Oliveira did not get drafted in 97 nor 98 by any OHL teams. However his run for the show seems the long way.

Oliveira age 19 (the Phenomenon, as his adopted name around this area in hockey) finally got his break to show his talent to a professional NHL team. Still young and firmly established as the best player ever from the West Lorne area, has his shot in placing a spot on the Tampa Bay Lightning Organization. Not only is Tampa interested in this young superstar as well other pro teams throughout the league. Teams such as Edmonton Oilers, Nashville Predators and San Jose Sharks just to name a few. In fact Oliveira was offered an AHL contract a few weeks ago for the Hamilton Bulldogs, the farm team of the Edmonton Oilers. The contract had to be terminated only because Management found out Oliveira was only 19, and to be signed by a AHL club the minimum age is 20.

Though his step is in the right direction, the climb to this offer has been a long awaited one.

Since 1992 Oliveira has been a curiosity through out South Western Ontario. During the Summer of that year Oliveira played for the Southwest Hawks, a Summer "AAA" team with the best of the best throughout the area. Oliveira "The Captain" played along side with Joe Thorton, Drew Felder, Jack McCracken, and my favorite Dennis Williams from Strat-



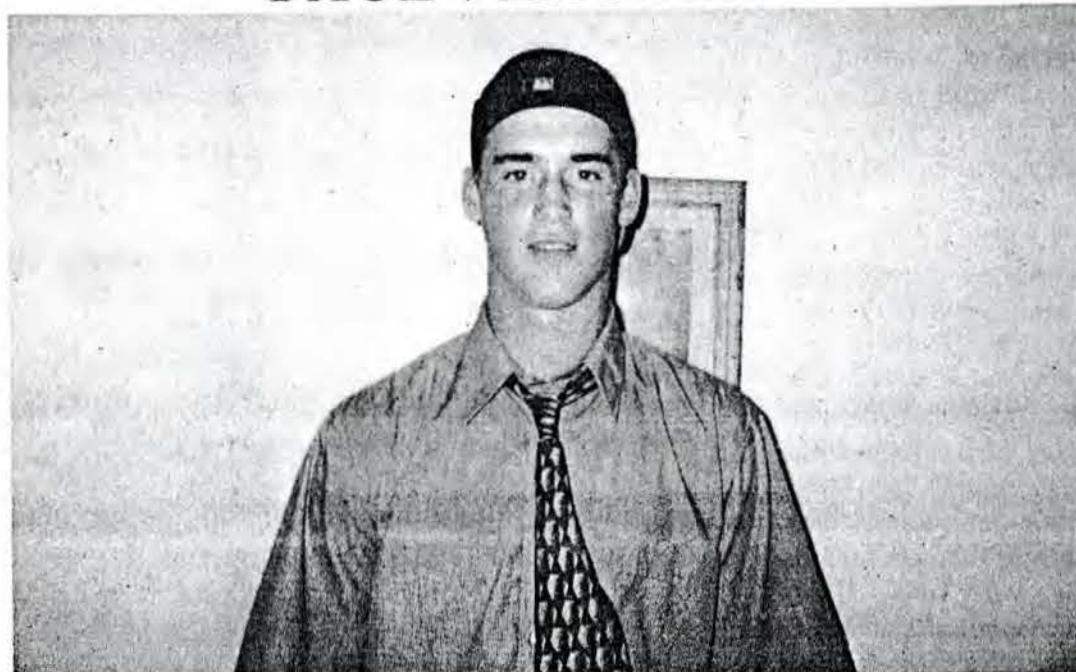
Michael's father "Tony" gives Mike a pep talk before one of Michael's games.

ford.



Kingston's Michael Oliveira during an OHL game is ready for the show as he flies out to Tampa Bay's training camp for September 11th.

PAUL VERGEER



Paul Vergeer off to the Strathroy Rockets in the Western J.R. B Hockey League.

Once again another one of our hometown heroes has entered a higher level of competitive hockey. Paul Vergeer, age 17, has signed with the Strathroy Rockets of the Western J.R. B. Hockey League. Pat Stapleton, expro hockey player and Director of Hockey Operations of the franchise, was pleased with their discussions and signed Paul on Saturday afternoon. Head Coach Richard Kemp has confidence that Paul will play a valuable role in their coming season. Strathroy Rockets believe that they will be in the final four and having Paul Vergeer on their team is a big, big, bonus.

Paul began playing hockey at the early age of four. He was one out of three that played three years of Novice Travel in West Lorne starting at age seven. In his first year he played a huge role in helping to win the 1988-89 OMHA championship. The next season Paul led the squad

to the finals but fell short, losing to Port Stanley. Three years later, in his last year in West Lorne, Paul played a major role and led the West Lorne Atoms to the Regional and International Silver Stick Championships and to top it all off, the OMHA Championship against Haliburton.

Following that Paul joined the Elgin Middlesex "AAA" at the early age of Pee Wee. During his second season under Coach Bill Wells, Paul, as Captain, led the team to the Provincial Finals, only losing to the eventual winners, Lambton Lightning. In his last year with Bantam Paul was top scorer in the entire "AAA" Alliance League. This opened many doors for his future in hockey.

Last season was an excellent one for Paul as he joined the Mt. Brydges Bulldogs in the Junior Development league. In his

rookie season Paul played 32 games and produced an astounding 41 points. This caught the eye of many J.R. B. clubs for the 1998-99 season. However, since Mt. Brydges is an affiliate of the Rockets, that meant that Strathroy would have the first pick for Paul, and they went for it.

Paul feels it is going to be a competitive team, perhaps in the top four within the league. He also looks forward to playing against his old teammates from West Lorne, Darryl Arvai and Garrett Littlejohn.

Paul's future ambition is to succeed even further in competitive hockey and he hopes to receive a college scholarship from a U.S. team. His parents, Hank and Mary are very proud of Paul's success in hockey, as well as his sisters Kathy, Lisa and his brother Nick.

Way to go Paul. Congratulations and Good Luck.

Roy dos Santos

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