

# Chronicle Year in Review

Con't from Page 2

death of three residents. No such problem occurred in Elgin.

## RODNEY REC CENTRE TRASHED

Often the victim of mindless vandals, the Rodney Recreation Centre received its worst hit yet when vandals caused substantial damage to the interior of the building, along with stealing a number of items.

Several of the interior doors were damaged, vents were kicked out, the storage cupboards were broken into, fire extinguishers were discharged in the building, the recreation storage area was trashed and the office areas were broken into, including the Fair Board storage area.

## MISTELE WINS PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Rodney area farmer Paul Mistele was honoured with the 1998 Pork Producer of the Year award from the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

As part of a rally at Queen's Park in Dec. '98 to protest low hog prices, Mistele initiated the "Donate-A-Hog" program which brought 58,000 pounds of pork to Toronto's food banks.

After receiving the award at a February banquet, Mistele was named President of the Elgin County Pork Producers Association.

## KALITA ENTERS HALL OF FAME

Years of hard work and quality farming saw West Lorne farmer Ed Kalita named to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Kalita came to Elgin County in 1962 as a tobacco farmer, which he maintained until 1983. He continues to grow corn and soybeans.

## RODNEY LIBRARY EXPANDING

The Rodney Library went from talks of possible closure a couple years back to announcing they are looking at almost doubling its current size. It will be the first expansion the library has seen since first being built in 1951.

Estimated cost of the shelving, furniture and fixtures, phone and computer cabling is approximately \$300,000.

## STADDON GARNERS GOVERNOR AWARD.

West Lorne Optimist Club member Dorothy Staddon was recognized for her dedication to the high level of success as lieutenant-governor for Optimist Clubs in the zone she was responsible for.

Staddon received the Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award at the Southwestern Ontario District of Optimist International banquet held in Wallaceburg.

## HEART DISEASE HIGH IN ELGIN

A study released by the Institute for Clinical Evaluative

Sciences and the Heart and Stroke Foundation confirms that Elgin County has one of the highest rates of death from coronary heart disease in the province.

The age/sex mortality rate in Elgin from coronary heart disease is 29 per cent higher than the provincial average. Residents are found to be extremely susceptible to heart attacks.

## FIVE BOATERS GO MISSING ON LAKE ERIE

The warm and sunny month of August will forever have a black cloud hanging over it as five local boaters left the shores of Port Glasgow in a 14 foot fibreglass boat, never to return.

Andy van Koevorden, Steven Vaterlaus, Charles Dodge, Dennis Dodge and Jamie Schneckeburger were last seen Aug. 14 when they went out on to waters of Lake Erie. After being reported missing two days later, a massive search was undertaken.

OPP boats, Canadian and American coast guards, a Hercules rescue plane and Labrador helicopter from Rescue Coordination Centre in Trenton, the London Naval Reserve Unit and a number of local boaters who wanted to help in any way they could.

Family and friends held a daily vigil at the waters edge for a number of weeks. After police officially ended their search after a week, family and countless volunteers continued to search the vast and unpredictable waters of Lake Erie.

As family prayed for any sign of their loved ones, their worst fears were met when the body of Jamie Schneckeburger was found Sept. 1. Over the next two-and-a-half months the bodies of the remaining boaters were located, bring closure to family members who endured indescribable pain and suffering for so long.

Tragically, Wilson Pete Dodge, the brother of Charles and father of Dennis, died just days before he was to bury his son.

## PETERS NEW MPP

In one of the closest races across the province, Liberal candidate and St. Thomas Mayor Steve Peters ousted Conservative candidate Bruce Smith to take the newly formed riding of Elgin-Middlesex-London.



Steve Peters

Although Mike Harris and his Conservatives hold on to the province, when the votes were counted in Elgin it came up red as Peters grabbed 46 per cent of the vote, compared to 43 per cent from Smith.

## RABIES CLINIC ENDS

It was a service local residents counted on for the past 20 years, but it is now a thing of the past.

The East London Animal Clinic told West Elgin Council that due to downsizing the won't be offering the service to West Elgin residents. Approximately 200 pets were vaccinated in 1998.

Some council members, along with many local residents, felt it was a "money thing" on behalf of the veterinarians - a way to get pet owners into their office.

But veterinarians say just a rabies shot it not enough and, in fact, a rabies shot alone may do more harm than good with pet owners assuming it is the only shot their animals need.

## MAN KILLED IN SNOWMOBILE WRECK

West Lorne's Tony Krebs was killed March 6 after he was thrown from his machine and struck by a second snowmobile. The accident occurred along the west ditch of Highway #76 (near



Friends of one of the missing boaters consoled each other as police and coast guard searched Lake Erie signs of the five West Lorne residents.

Queens Line).

## JUNIOR GIRLS WOSAA CHAMPS

The WESS Wildcats Junior Girls Volleyball team marched their way through the Elgin County championships, eased their way past the Elgin-Oxford title, and took care of Dorchester in two straight games to bring the WOSAA title back to West Elgin.

## FCHS RECRUITS QUEBEC DOCTORS

With an evergrowing concern over the lack of family physicians in rural Elgin County, Dr. Stephen Jones attended a job fair in Montreal where he talked to a number of physicians interested in practising outside Quebec, including four interested in Elgin.

To date, no physicians from Quebec have agreed to come to Elgin County.

## THE CHRONICLE LAUNCHES WEBSITE

The West Elgin Chronicle joined the World Wide Web this past April with the launching of its own website. By going to [www.execulink.com/~chronicl](http://www.execulink.com/~chronicl), you can now keep in touch with local news and events by simply logging on. Keep in touch with West Elgin, no matter where you are.

## DR. ESHAGHIAN ARRIVES AT FCHS

With only four full-time doctors with active privileges at Four Counties Health Services, hospital officials were ecstatic with the arrival of Dr. Farhang Eshaghian.

Coming from Manitoba, Dr. Eshaghian eases the burden a bit for the hospital which is still vastly underserved. Later in the year, Dr. Eshaghian opened up a two-day a week family practise at the Newbury Clinic.

## POLICE OFFICER HIT ON HWY. 401

A simple traffic stop for Elgin County OPP Constable Jaison Gibson turned into a brush with death May 10 after another vehicle struck him as his was talking to another motorist on the shoulder of the highway near Rodney.

The 32 year-old Gibson received two broken legs, injuries to a knee cap and wrist and a number scrapes, bumps and bruises. He was taken to University Hospital in London where he underwent surgery. Gibson is expected to make a full recovery.

## HOUSE FIRE DEEMED DOUBLE HOMICIDE

A fatal house fire in Southwold Township Feb. 2 that claimed the lives of two adults was soon treated as a double homicide by Elgin OPP. Roger Lee Smith, 40, and his common law wife Wendy Jean Haveron, 45, were found by Southwold Volunteer Firefighters in the early morning blaze. Police soon determined the fire was set in an attempt to cover up the murder.

## BOATING MISHAP KILLS MAN

A June 6 boating mishap took

the life of Southwold Township resident Harold Mark Burton. His body was recovered two days later approximately 300 metres from where he was last seen.

Burton and his common law wife had gone boating, deciding to anchor the boat and wade ashore to a small beach. The anchor slipped and the boat started to drift. Burton went after it and got into difficulties and went under.

## A TAPESTRY OF TIMELESS TALES

The students at WESES, along with a group of West Elgin seniors, but in a lot of hard work and dedication to produce a book of stories told to the students by the seniors.

As part of a project to celebrate the Year of the Older Person, a book release was held at WESES. The stories were written in hopes to offer the younger generation a better understanding of our local past.

## SMITH CROWNED

WESS student Lisa Smith was crowned Fair Ambassador at the 145th Annual Rodney-Aldborough Fair.



## HOG WILD

The building of a intensive hog barn operation on Marsh Line this past summer raised concerns from residents over its proximity to other households. Its location in regards to the Village of West Lorne was also brought up as a potential smelly concern.

Another hog barn stirred up the same emotions later on the same year, this time the concern being the barn being built extremely close to the waterfront. Its potential problem with affecting the water intake for the community was the major problem many residents brought up.

In both cases, the company building the barns have met all necessary requirements.

## BIKER GANG SHOOTING IN IONA

The Western Region OPP arrested a total of eight individuals thought to be involved in the Oct. 22 shooting incident along Iona Road near Hwy. 401. Police determined the occupants of one car were shot at by the occupants of a second car. More than 75 charges were laid against RR#4 Iona Station residents Wayne Earl Kellestine and Tina Fitzgerald. The case is still before the courts.

## MCPHAIL NAMED ELGIN WARDEN

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail was elected Elgin County Warden for the year 2000, defeating Aylmer Mayor Bob Habkirk.

# Great Lakes levels continuing to fall

CURRENT  
EVENTS  
2000

Water levels on all of the Great Lakes are expected to remain below average this summer. In particular, levels on Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie have dropped dramatically over the past two years and are at their lowest levels in 35 years.

Lake Erie, for example, is 30 to 35 centimetres lower than it was in April of last year, and 90 to 95 centimetres lower than it was in April of 1998. Recreational boaters, marina operators and others who live and work along the shore will be impacted by these low levels.

Based on Environment Canada records going back to 1948, the warmest year in the southern Great Lakes area occurred in 1998. The second warmest year occurred last year.

"This warm weather accelerated rates of evaporation from the lakes as well as from the surrounding lands," says Environment Canada representative Peter Yee. "As a result, less runoff was available to replenish the lakes. In addition, exceptionally warm late-winter weather, combined with below-average snowfall, has further contributed to the decline in water levels."

The Environment Canada seasonal forecast for this summer projects average temperatures, with average to below-average precipitation amounts. Although water levels are expected to rise in the Great Lakes over the next several months by about 10 centimetres, depending on the actual rainfall, they are not expected to reach their average summer levels this year.

"The rapid drop in water levels over the past two years on the middle Great Lakes, including Erie, will affect some marinas and boaters as well as some cottages who draw their water from the

lakes and connecting rivers," says Yee. Several marinas have found it necessary to undertake dredging in order to maintain access to their facilities. Recreational boaters will need to exercise caution, as areas that have been safely navigated in previous years may be too shallow this year.

On the positive side, Yee says the lower water levels will increase beach sizes and

are buried in the mud, will germinate and grow readily and increase the amount and diversity of vegetation in the area.

Yee adds that it's very difficult to determine whether the decline in lake levels is due in part to climate change. However, it is anticipated that the unusually warm weather of the past two years and low water levels in the lakes will occur more frequently in the future as a result of climate change.

"While the recent conditions might not be due to climate change, they are a graphic display of what the future may hold," says Lee.

The current Great Lake levels are low, but not the worst in their history. Lake Superior is 40 centimetres above its record low in 1926; Lake Huron is more than 30 centimetres above its record low in 1964; Lake Ontario is more than 60 centimetres above its record low in 1935; and Lakes St. Clair and Erie are 60 to 65 centimetres above their record lows which occurred in 1934. APR. 2000



reduce the risk of flooding and shoreline damage.

Wetlands and marshlands are expected to benefit in several ways. Seeds, which

July 10, 2000 - Page 3

## Happy Birthday Canada

There was no shortage of activities this past Canada Day weekend in and around West Elgin. Whether you spent the day in Rodney, right up to the fireworks, enjoyed the food and fun in Dutton, or checked out some fancy cars in West Lorne, Canada's 133rd birthday celebration was one to remember.



There were more than 100 classic cars in West Lorne over the Canada Day weekend. Ken and Mary Ward of Vienna took a liking to this 1935 Thunderbird, owned by West Lorne's Don Otting.



There were even pint-size classic cars in West Lorne. Brother and sister, Keegan and Hollie Grimmick, of Glencoe, cruise in a 1964 Thunderbird while their other brother Shane enjoys his 1958 Corvette. Their dad, Dave, built the cars.



## Drawing Attention July 2000

Things were picture perfect last week during the West Elgin Art Camp at the West Elgin Arena. Local children are given the opportunity to hone their artistic skills during the week long camp thanks to instructor Annette Sullivan of Annette's Signs. Here Sarah Johnston, 10, left, and Kevin Greenfield, 10, both of West Lorne finish up one of their many projects. The week of July 17-21 is the last week for the art classes. To register, call Trudy Balint at 768-2987.

## A rollin' good time at West Elgin derby

The weather couldn't have been better for the second annual West Elgin Downhill Derby Days held recently in West Lorne.

There were numerous local children on hand who got out their cars and went head-to-head, vying for top spot in their respective categories.

The top winners included:

### Division A

1st - Elizabeth Newman

2nd - Trevor Meunier  
3rd - Shawn James  
4th - Tim Waite

### Division B

1st - Colin Newman  
2nd - Greg Wemp  
3rd - Shawn McLachlin  
4th - Kyle Lucier

### Division C

1st - Shane Lucier  
2nd - Ashley Stewart  
3rd - Brad Bogart  
4th - Troy Cook

### Division D

1st - Shawn Scott  
2nd - Andrea LeClaire  
3rd - Matthew Westlake  
4th - Thomas Rowe

There were other awards handed out, including Best Car (Shawn McLachlin), Best Commercial Car (Jobson Photography), Best Home-made Car (Ashley Stewart's water tank car) and Best Pit Crew (Justin Walker's Wire Tie pit crew).

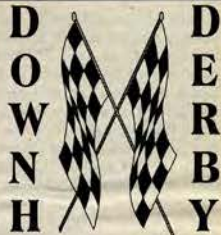


## Running Water

The National Trans Canada Relay 2000 will be making its way through West Elgin on the morning of Aug. 16 (along Highway #3) as part of its cross country tour that will end in Ottawa Sept. 9. Water from the Arctic, Pacific and Atlantic Ocean are being carried across country in celebration of the 16,400 km Trans Canada Trail that is being constructed to literally trace a true path across our country. Here, local organizer Trudy Balint, left, shows off the 'Relay 2000' flag that will be flying in West Elgin during the celebration to local resident Rita DeWild, who is one of the local water carriers. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Highway #3 at the Elgin/Chatham-Kent border. The public is invited to line the route and cheer the walkers, bikers and even those on horseback. The event will continue into Dutton-Dunwich with a reception planned for the Backus-Page House beginning at 10 a.m. **July 2000**



Kyle Mezenberg, left, and Christopher Huver are neck 'n' neck as they head down the ramp in one of the downhill derby races.



Please, please, no... Pleading didn't help Maureen Campbell who was victimized a number of times during her stint on the dunk tank.



Chevy Blue bass player Richard Szewczyk keeps the beat going during the dance held in the IGA parking lot.

## Church vandalized

Vandal(s) have now sunk to the level of taking out their frustrations on a local church, as the interior of St. Mary's Parish in West Lorne was completely covered with the residue of spent fire extinguishers last Wednesday evening.

"It's just some kids with too much time on their hands and no respect for others," says Fr. Joe Nevett. "It could have been worse. They could have busted the stained glass windows or knocked over statues."

Since there is no money in the church and damage was minimal, robbery is not figured to be a motive.

The vandal(s) did not have to break into the church before making a mess. A funeral was held at the church that afternoon so the doors were open.

Parishioners did not let the action of a few dery their spirit. A number of members were on site first thing the following morning with buckets, mops, vacuums and cloths to clean the mess.

"The church needed a good cleaning anyway," says Harry Mezenberg, trying to make the best of the unfortunate situation.



Els Huver was busy last week vacuuming up the damage caused by vandals last week at St. Mary's Parish.



Bill Besley of the Graham Crackers was unsure what to expect when he faced the always curious Rick Falkins of the West Elgin Legion Hooters during the baseball tournament.



Andrea LeClaire keeps her head down as she flies towards the finish line in the downhill derby.



Residents took a trip back in time during the annual Cruise Night in West Lorne. Led by a '57 Chevy, the more than 60 classic cars enjoyed a leisurely drive through West Elgin before parking in West Lorne to show off all the hard work that went into them. And to keep with the classic theme, the music of the Spin Doc'ter filled Main Street.

## CHRISTMAS OF THE FUTURE



Have you ever stopped and wondered what Christmas would be like in the future? Hologram Christmas trees? Flying cars? Well, West Lorne and area residents got a little taste of what it might be like at the annual Santa Claus Parade last Friday night. It may be hard to predict what the future will truly be like, but according to all the parade entrants there will definitely be plenty of bright lights, music, candy and, of course, Santa Claus.



Photos by Paul Mayne



1999 By Craig Hoglund

As spring is underway and the warmth is here, WESES students continue to be involved.

On April 8 and 9, the Rodney Ambulance crew visited our school to educate the Grade 8s on the vital life saver - CPR. We appreciate them for this crucial support.

Talented speakers from each class volunteered to recite their speech at our public speaking contest on April 13. With this year having a different format, rather than placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., it was judged on levels with level four being the highest and level one being the lowest. We would like to thank our community senior citizens for evaluating the speakers.

While speaking of our elders, they will be returning this week to edit the anecdotes that the Grade 8s wrote about them for the book. CFPL-TV will accompany them on their visit.

The Grade 8 students will be attending a theatrical performance on today of "The New Canadian Kid" at the Grand Theatre involving their English and Geography units. Following this they will be dining on African cuisine.

The photographers will be at our school on April 21 and 22 to take class and individual portraits. Be sure to dress appropriately.

Our member of Parliament, Gar Knutson, will be a guest at

our school on Friday (April 23). Parents are welcome to attend. Our school fund-raiser of selling cutie pies is still underway.



## 3-on-3 Champs!

FEB. 22/99

St. Mary's School held its 3rd Annual 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament recently with six teams, made up of Grade 7 and 8 students, vying for top spot. The overall champions was the team of Ashley Clements, left, Stacey Oliveira, Carla Oliveira, Greg Howse and Jay Hilliard, all Grade 8 students.



## Flakey Fun!

The students at Aldborough Public School knew that if they were patient the snow would come. The school's annual Winter Carnival was postponed after the heavy rainfall, but just days later the white stuff returned. And no one could be happier than Grade 1 student Andrea Roodzant who was literally jumping for joy during one of the many snow-related activities throughout the school.

## Aldborough Public School Funfest

FEB. 1999

Aldborough Public School was the place to be Feb. 19 as the Aldborough Volunteer Parents Association (AVPA) presented the annual Funfest activities. There were games, food, activities, crafts, prizes and just about everything else that promised a good time for all. Hundreds of children, parents and grandparents took part in the activities which helped raise funds for the AVPA. The money will go towards school related activities and programs. Here, Grade 3 student Robert Nute shows off some of his temporary tattoos he received at Funfest.

MAR. 1999

# Teen View

"A tear jerking goodbye"

By Joshua De Boer

Can you believe that after 29 long, and most likely frustrating, years of teaching, Clifford McCullough Loughheed (aka Mr. Loughheed) has finally decided to end his teaching career?

After this semester comes to an end, Mr. Loughheed, or "Mac" as he is referred to by his fellow teachers, is planning on enjoying a well-deserved retirement.

Mr. Loughheed has taught many subjects during his career, such as business courses and consumers education, and enjoyed directing his pupils within the latitude and longitude lines of geography. He also taught economics to which he originally earned his degree in.

I was one of the lucky students who got the chance to enjoy one of Mr. Loughheed's classes. I took part in listening to his untamed stories and laughing along with his enormous sense of humour.

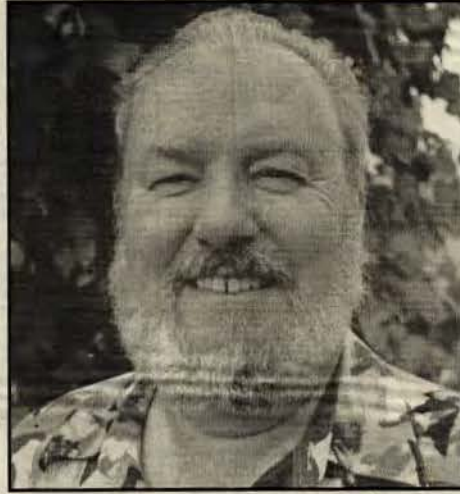
I was also lucky enough to have gotten a chance to enjoy his unique and unforgettable way of teaching, all of which were jammed packed into an exhilarating science course where sparks of magnesium mixed and took our class' wide-eyed gaze into that short bright white light of amazement.

I asked him what his most memorable moments were and he had trouble bringing up any specific memories. When I asked him why he couldn't think of anything that "stood out" in his memory, he told me that "there were just too many fantastic period within my career."

"All of my classes had their ups and downs, so I'd have to say that my most memorable moments were when the classes enjoyed themselves and completed their work," says

Loughheed. "In my eyes that's what teaching is all about, having fun and learning."

So I decided to twist my questions a bit. I asked him what his most regretful incident had been, and his instant reply was "having such a poor memory for



Clifford Loughheed JUNE 1999

names."

To my amazement, when I asked how many different schools he had taught in over the years, his response was "just one."

"I came here to WESS 20 years ago only planning to stay for a year and then leave," he says. "Then I got the chance to stay for two years and when my wife and I finally started to pack up our bags to leave, I went and bought our house."

relaxing and enjoying the rest of his life.

relaxing and enjoying the rest of his life.

# EDUCATION 1999

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## Jump for Cash

Aldborough Public School jumped their way to raising \$8,024.60 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation with its Jump Rope for Heart campaign. Here, jump rope co-organizer Wendy Olson, left, presents the cheque to Heart and Stroke representative Angela Horbanuk, along with top student fund-raiser Courtney Tunks and jump rope co-organizer Jane Jarvis.

The West Elgin Chronicle



## Calling All Computers

The police were called to Aldborough Public School last week. Nothing criminal was taking place, however it gave students a chance to say thanks for the three computers the school received courtesy of the West Elgin Community Policing Committee. Here kindergarten students Kevin Gibson, in front, Mitch Kuska, Jonielle Wilson and Krista Vaterlaus show policing committee secretary R. J. O'Connor and Elgin County OPP Constable Bob Maginnis some of the programs they are able to use thanks to their donation. MAY 24/99



## Medival Fair JUNE 28 1999

Jokers, princesses and knights were roaming the yard at St. Mary's School last week as the Grade 4 class hosted a Medival Fair for the students. Face-painting, jousting and dancing were just some of the activities that kept everyone in a medival mood. Here, 10 year-old Clinton Hilliard protects the school grounds from any enemy attack.

JUNE 14  
1999



## Tropical Prom

There was a causal look to this year's WESS Prom Night as students came dressed for an island adventure. Here, Prom King Terry Weed, back left, and Prince Grant Karn enjoyed a wonderful evening with Prom Queen Jennifer Arvai, left, and Princess Kristen Beattie.

Photo courtesy of Bonnie's Photography

EDUCATION 1999



## Limo Lunch

APRIL  
1999

If you're heading out for lunch you might as well go in style. That's just what a handful of WESES Grade 8 students did last week. The students sold chocolate bars to help fund-raise for their year-end trip to Camp Celtic. During the two-week campaign any student who sold 100 chocolate bars or more was eligible for a free limousine ride with Cliff's Limousine, compliments of New Horizons Fund Raising Consultants Ltd. in Dutton. The lucky students included Dennis Nash, Meghan McLandress, Kyle Chouinard, Danielle Collins, Nathan Newport, Celina Leblanc, Dan Barry, Greg Arvi, Jeff Walker Rob Bedford and Mike Kimble. Coordinators for this year's campaign were teachers Ms. Race and Mr. Lawrence.

## WEST ELGIN LEGION, BRANCH 221 HONORS ZONE A7 CONTEST WINNERS



Legion Education Chairperson Helen Mooser and Vice President Robert White are pictured with Simone Loeters, Teresa Simpson, and Ashley Dinga following the awards presentation.

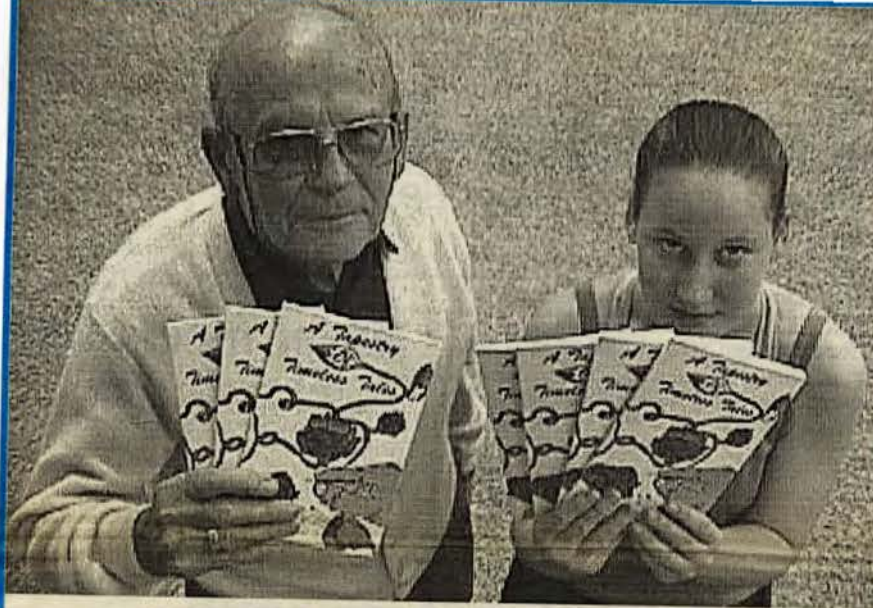
At a recent meeting of the West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, three St. Mary's School students were awarded certificates and prize money for their achievement in the Remembrance Day Poster and Essay Contest. Simone Loeters placed first in the Essay Contest and received a certificate and \$30.00. Teresa Simpson placed 2nd in the Poems category and received \$25.00 and her certificate and Ashley Dinga placed 2nd in the Black and White Poster contest and also received a certificate and \$25.00. Having placed first with her Essay, Simone Loeters will be advancing to the provincial level at Dominion Command in Aurora Ontario. We extend our congratulations to the three girls and wish Simone the best of luck in the next division.



## Athletic Awards

West Elgin Secondary School paid tribute to a handful of Wildcats as the annual athletic awards were handed out. In top photo, the Athlete of the Year awards went to Catherine Schneider (Jr. Female Athlete), left, Craig Dupuis (Jr. Male Athlete), Jenn Arvai (Sr. Female Athlete) and Adam Ecker (Sr. Male Athlete). At left, the Heart and Hustle awards were given to Amanda Guy and Terry Weed. Other MVP award winners included Reg Hessman (Badminton), Joanne Knowles (Jr. Girls Basketball), Michelle Campbell (Sr. Girls Basketball), Dupuis (Jr. Boys Basketball), Ecker (Sr. Boys Basketball), Katie Smale (Girls Golf), Aron Sudicky (Boys Golf), Paula Okolisian (Girls Field Hockey), Darren Stafford (Boys Hockey), Janet Littlejohn (Jr. Girls Soccer), Guy and Arvai (Sr. Girls Soccer), Will VanDyk (Jr. Boys Soccer), Steve Leitch (Sr. Boys Soccer), Teresa DaCosta (Track & Field), Jackie Fleming (Track & Field MIP), Laura Jones (Jr. Girls Volleyball), Arvai (Sr. Girls Volleyball), Dupuis and Erik Sudicky (Jr. Boys Volleyball) and Wayne McIntyre (Sr. Boys Volleyball). The St. Thomas Soccer Club Awards went to Jones (Jr. Girls), Campbell (Sr. Girls), Lee Wilson (Jr. Boys), Jim Lamb (Sr. Boys).

JUNE 21 1999



## A Tapestry of Timeless Tales

The Grade 8 students at West Elgin Senior Elementary School, along with a number of local seniors, have completed their book project in celebration of the Year of the Older Persons, with the release of "A Tapestry of Timeless Tales," a collection

of stories told to the students by the seniors. Here, Harold Lancaster and Devon Johnston show off of the finished product at the book release party that was held at the school last week.

JUNE 21/99

## Local history comes alive through book

By Paul Mayne  
The Chronicle

"If ever there was a time when we need to reclaim our identity, clarify our values and memories with our children, it is now. If each of us picks up a few loose dangling threads, together we can weave a strong and beautiful cloth."

This quote from the Eileen Silva Kindig's book *Remember the Time* was what WESES Principal June Harkness says sums up the hard work and dedication her students, along with the wisdom West Elgin seniors, that produced the book "A Tapestry of Timeless Tales".

"This joint project has woven a new understanding and respect for all the generations," says Harkness.

The book, which was released last week at WESES, is a collection of stories told by seniors to the Grade 8 students. These stories were written by the students and offer a better understanding of our past to younger generations.

"I think this reaffirms to both the seniors

and the students that we all have a lot to gain from each other," says Jill Soos of the West Elgin Seniors Project Action Committee, who along with help from the West Elgin Community Health Centre and a grant from the Ontario Community Partnership Projects Program completed the six-month project.

"It was great to see the young kids take such an interest in our stories," says Harold Lancaster, who shared some of his memories for the book. "It was a great

experience for me."

Matt Mistele, who wrote three stories in the book, was thrilled by the experience.

"Many of the events that are told in the stories happened around here, which helps us to understand them better," he says. "It was also interesting to find out what things were like before everyone listened to CDs and had email accounts."

To buy a copy of the book, call WESES at 768-1260 for more information.

## Teen shoots out school bus window

A 19-year-old West Elgin man is facing charges of mischief and careless use of a firearm after the window of a school bus was shot out with a pellet gun June 16.

The school bus, which had approximately 60 students from the three West Lorne schools (St. Mary's, WESES and WESS), was travelling westbound on Pioneer Line (between West Lorne and Rodney) at around 3:30

p.m. when the rear window of the bus was shattered by a pellet from pellet gun.

The pellet was fired from a vehicle that was driving behind the school bus at the time. There were no injuries to the students on the bus.

Police say they could not release the name of the teen until the investigation is completed. The accused will appear in St. Thomas Court to answer to the charges.



## 'Heart'felt Effort!

Students at WESS gave from their heart for the heart as they took part in the school's annual fund-raiser for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Activities, games and community canvassing were just some of the ways students raised funds. In left photo, Hoops for Heart brought in \$400 thanks to the efforts thanks to, in front from left, Donna McKillop and Lisa Smith. Back row from left is Katie Smale, Michelle Campbell, Ms. Lori Clinton, Simone Moreau and Maryn Fleuren. In right photo, Sarah Fisher and Celia Almeida, co-co-ordinators for the campaign, present Heart and Stroke area manager Angela Harbanuk with a cheque for \$2,003.20. The students wish to thank the residents of West Lorne and Rodney for their generosity to the campaign.





# Success will follow if you value yourself

By Michaela Rowe

*This following is the Valedictorian speech given by WESS graduate Michaela Rowe Oct. 23, 1999*

Good afternoon graduates, staff, family and friends. I am proud to be representing West Elgin's last graduating class of the 20th century.

We'll, we've finally done it, but it seems just like yesterday we were starting out first day of Grade 9 here at West Elgin. We all remember what it was like stepping into this massive building for the first time.

It was intimidating at first, but our expectations were high, and we were determined to make these the best years of our lives. We were all excited to find out what the next five years would bring.

Most of all, though, we could hardly wait for the astounding wealth of knowledge that we would gain. When we all started high school, we had dreams for our future. Nevertheless, those journeys towards success began here.

During the years that followed, our experiences here at West Elgin helped to shape our future. Some of the best friendships were made here at high school, as and proven by the legends in our yearbooks, some of the greatest memories were created during our time here, as well.

Little by little, our confidence grew, and we began to discover what we excelled in, and learned to accept that there were areas in which we were not going to excel.

During our time here, we've all become individuals, and we are now more prepared for the obstacles that will face us in the future.

One of the things that sets West Elgin apart from other

high schools is its size. Oddly, it is the small population that has put our school on the map. I would argue that this school has the greatest student-award ration in Elgin County.

Adding together the tourna-



Michaela Rowe

ments won by our sports teams, including countless OFSAA and WOSSA titles, drama club, and concert and jazz band victories, we have quite a collection of hardware. For such a small school, we have a great list of achievements, of which we should all be very proud.

Today is a celebration of the graduation of the students you see before you. However, it would be impossible to celebrate our achievements without giving credit to those who helped us get where we are today.

Of course, we want to thank our families for putting up with our teenage hormones for the past few years. We want to thank you for biting your tongues when there was a mandatory party or a season finale the night before an exam. And as tempting as it was, we want to thank you for not say-

ing "I told you so" when we were up at 3 a.m. the night before a project was due.

But right now, we want to give a special thanks to our teachers. I can guarantee that nowhere else will you find teachers with such incredible patience and devotion. Every teacher here has, at some point, taken the time to coach a team, organize a club, provide extra help, or even to just listen.

When I refer to a teacher, I am not only speaking of those who taught us to do quadratics, to remove a transmission, to memorize cell structure or to analyse Shakespeare. I am also speaking of those who taught us to pick up our own garbage, serve food in the hot line, fill out demit slips and show up for detention.

As Valedictorian, I would like to be able to describe to you all the true dedication in the facility of the school. However, words alone cannot express our gratitude, so hopefully this tribute will help to illustrate how we feel. (Slide show presentation)

I suppose the best way to wrap this up would be to quote from someone who said it better. Albert Einstein said: "Try not to become a person of success. Rather, try to become a person of value."

Fellow graduates, if you take one bit of knowledge with you from this chapter in our lives, let it be this: Success cannot be measured. I think that above all, our teachers, families and friends would like us to have learned this.

Everyone defines success differently, but it we value ourselves, that alone will take us farther than we can ever imagine.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the graduating class of 1999.



It was an exciting day at WESS for the 1999 graduating class as they received their diplomas. In top photo, Charlene Carroll, left, receives a little help from Cheryl Koscik with her hat. In bottom photos, Corey Welch, left, and Monique Verbrugge get ready to pick up their diplomas.

NOV. 1, 1999



## The Principal Has Recommended To The Minister of Education That The Following Students Be Recognized As Ontario Scholars



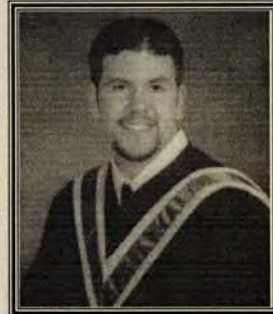
**Kristen Shontelle Beattie, Dutton**  
Parents: Ray & Dianne Beattie  
University: Waterloo  
Program: Recreation & Leisure



**Brian Dunseith, West Lorne**  
Parents: Ann & Allan Pease  
University: Waterloo  
Program: Math Honors



**Jennifer Catherine Fleming, Rodney**  
Parents: Frank & Shelley Fleming  
University: University of Guelph  
Program: Biomed-Toxicology



**Donald Grant Karn, Rodney**  
Parents: Robert W. & Ruth Karn  
University: Queen's University  
Program: Faculty of Arts and Science  
Majoring in History & Political Studies



**Cheryl Kosciak, West Lorne**  
Parents: Heather & Richard Kosciak  
University: University of Toronto  
Program: Life Sciences



**Becci "Brienne" McCready, Dutton**  
Parents: Ted & Barb McCready  
University: O'Arcy Lane Institute of  
Massage Therapy  
Program: Registered Massage Therapy



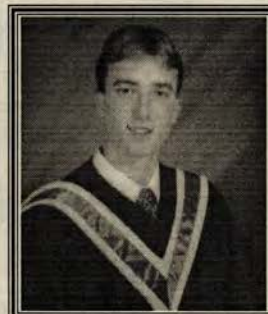
**Matthew John McKillop, Dutton**  
Parents: Dan & Janet McKillop  
University: University of Guelph  
Program: Social Science



**Charlene Louise Milne, West Lorne**  
Parents: Paul & Mary Jane Milne  
University: University of Toronto  
Program: Mathematical, Physical and  
Computer Sciences



**Rachel Grace Pennings, Iona**  
Parents: Bernie & Ina Pennings  
University: Redeemer College  
Program: Pre Med



**Carl A. Prey, Dutton**  
Parents: Helmut & Emmy Prey  
University: Waterloo  
Program: Environmental Resource  
Co-op Program

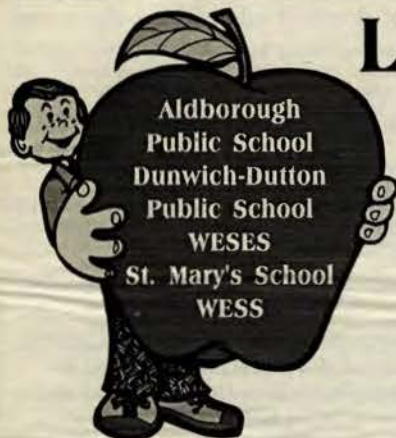


**Michaela Katherine Rowe, Dutton**  
Parents: Mike & Bonnie Rowe  
University: University of Western Ont.  
Program: Bachelor of Arts: English



**Paula Emily Verbrugge,  
West Lorne**  
Parents: Paul & Linda Verbrugge  
University: Queen's University  
Program: Sociology (B.A. Honours)

# Local teachers moving on



Another school year in West Elgin and area is coming to a close. It has been a year full of fun and learning at each school.

And with the end of school, many students will be moving on to new schools. The Grade 6 students at Aldborough P.S. will now be heading to WESES; the Grade 8s at WESES and St. Mary's School will be moving on to the big times - high school; and our high school graduates will venturing into post secondary education while others will hit the workforce.

But it's not just students who will be making a few changes next school year. A handful of local teachers will be moving on to new schools for the 1999-2000 school year, while others will be moving on to retirement.

The West Elgin Chronicle wishes these teachers well in all their future endeavours.



## Aldborough Public School

Wendy Olson, left, (J.P. Roberts School - London), Tim Coombs (Homedale Public School - St. Thomas), Deneen Keibel (McGregor Public School - Aylmer) and Larry Anderson (Summers Corners - Aylmer).



## Dunwich-Dutton Public School

Pat Patterson (Elmdale Public School - St. Thomas), Kristen Egner Black (McGregor Public School - Aylmer), Holly Ripley (Locke's Public School - St. Thomas) and Rose Oakley-Law (North Meadows Public School - Strathroy). Also leaving, but absent from photo, is Rob Mailhot.



## West Elgin Secondary School

Larry Schneider, left, (Central Elgin Secondary School - St. Thomas), Mark Enns (Saunders Secondary School - London), Andrea Van Hoeve (East Elgin Secondary School - Aylmer) and Mac Lougheed (Retiring).



## West Elgin Senior Elementary School

Annette Race, left (Homedale Public School - St. Thomas) and June Harkness (Chippewa Public School - London).



## St. Mary's School

Maria Currado (St. Pius X - London) and Kathy Grosse (St. Theresa's - London).