

# Fresh Faces

You can't officially start the new school year without introducing the new teachers at our local schools. The community welcomes the teachers and wish them best of luck in their new positions.



**Aldborough P.S.** - Catherine Stephen, left, teacher/librarian, Angela DeVries, secretary and Kim Tremblay, educational assistant.



**WESES** - Carrie Ostrom, left, Grade 7 and Krista Price, Grade 8.



**WESS** - Stephen Osterberg, left, History/Visual Arts, Meegan Campbell, English, Brenda Cowan, English and Melanie Thibert, History/English.



**St. Mary's School** - Joanne Anderson, left, Grade 1, Tanya Maric, Grade 3/4, Krista Fox, Grade 1/2, Keith Hoffer, Grade 6 and Grade 7/8 French and Deb Winia, JK.



**Dunwich-Dutton P.S.** - Jim Bowden, left, Principal, Martha MacDonald, JK, Jennifer Duckworth, SK, Sandra O'Neill, Grade 5/6 and Christine Heyda, Grade 4/Learning Support Teacher.



## Improving Education

St. Mary's School in West Lorne feels fortunate to be selected as one of 10 schools in the province to take part in creating school improvement plans. Through the Education Improvement Commission (EIC), the school's principal, teachers, support staff, school council and parents collaborated on the plan, which will start to be implemented this September. Here, EIC Commissioner Arlene Wright, left, travelled to the school to talk with the St. Mary's committee. Anna Podebry, centre, chairperson of the school council, and parent Helen Johnston shares some ideas and findings with Wright. **JULY 3, 2000**





## Take 'em To Work

There were a number of young faces at offices throughout West Elgin and across the country last week as the "Take Our Kids To Work Day" gave Grade 9 students the opportunity to learn more on the transition from the classroom to the workplace and to encourage them to stay in school. Here, Brad Conway, right, a mechanic at Ripley and Giles in West Lorne, had family friend Jeff Walker with him to lend a helping hand with the various repairs.



## Play Ball

The students at St. Mary's School received a positive message on the importance of staying in school courtesy of some of the players from the London Werewolves baseball club. Here, Werewolves centre fielder Jason Borghese talks to students on how he mixes baseball with his education.



## One of the Best

Former WESS school teacher John McIntyre was honoured recently with the prestigious Pete Beach Award for his exemplary efforts as both a teacher and coach. Only 19 such awards are given throughout the province. McIntyre won for the WOSSAA (Western Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association) region. 2000

The West Elgin Chronicle DEC. 11, 2000

# West Lorne trio beginning to gel

From Grease to Gel! What began as a meeting between high school students Nathan Ouellette and Bruce Bobier in the pit band for the WESS production of Grease, has now turned into a self-titled CD and a performance across Ontario and into the U.S. for the West Lorne band Gel.

With the addition of bass player Andrew Schneider, the high-octane blues-rock trio have come a long way from their first paying gig at West Lorne's Town & Country Restaurant.

The idea to form a band seemed inevitable when upon playing for the first time Ouellette casually remarked how "we really gel."

And it's been a quick ride for the young band, two of whom are still at WESS. The third, Bobier, is attending Humber College in Toronto.

The band's music blends blues with elements of rock, funk and

jazz improvisation. Their approach is akin to a supercharged version of 60s supergroup Cream.

### On Stage

**Who:** Gel, with Damndifino

**When:** Sat., Dec. 16, 9 p.m.

**Where:** The Whippet Lounge

**Cost:** \$5

That, coupled with the intensity of punk and over-the-top stage antics, makes seeing Gel live an often riveting experience.

And it was that live experience that caught the eye of Rhode Island musician and promoter James Montgomery, who had nothing but praise for the band.

In fact, he managed to book the band a handful of gigs in the

Boston area this past summer. "It's goes to show you that you never know who's in your audi-

ence," says Ouellette, on meeting Montgomery. "The U.S. experience was amazing. It's was



West Lorne's 'Gel' is Nathan Ouellette (guitar), Bruce Bobier (drums) and Andrew Schneider (bass).



## Gray Sees Red

Canada's Deputy Minister Herb Gray made a stop at WESS last week to speak to the students, along with Elgin-Middlesex-London Liberal candidate Gar Knutson. Gray was hit with a number of interesting questions from the students including the areas of health care, national debt, gun licencing, farming and post-secondary education. Nov 2000 40



# A fresh, clean start for year 2000 WESS grads

By Bruce Bobier

Wow! We finally made it. How do you like those apples?

The conclusion to the last four or five years of our life, that has meant so much to us, is finally upon us. In the last few years of high school we've come a long way and learned a lot about ourselves and everyone around us.

We've learned how to treat others fairly, respect one another, how to factor Quadratic equations, how to find Freud in everything and some intense floor hockey strategies.

Now, as some of you may know, my summer job for the last two years has been working at the Dutton Library, and as a result I've managed to digest a fair bit of quality writing, most of which has been in the form of Calvin and Hobbes books.

While I was reading through this wonderful stuff, I came across a comic that, upon read-

ing, I instantly noticed how it paralleled our lives.

It starts off with the two heroes standing on top of a snow covered hill with a sled. Calvin says: "Wow, it really snowed last night! Isn't it wonderful?" Hobbes responds: "Everything familiar has disappeared! The world looks brand new!" Calvin continues: "A new year...a fresh, clean start."

To me, I feel that we have been given a clean start - full of potential. But our paths leave footprints, each step showing us where we have been; each footprint a memory.

From the finger painting of Dutton, St. Mary's and Aldborough, to the Home Ec. cooking/burning lessons of WESES; from our jello covered Grade 9 day to our Senior Prom - we've travelled the path together.

And although our individual paths have defined who we are,

we all stand in the same place tonight. Whether we attend university, start working, or even college, we take with us a lot that we have learned at West Elgin.

With my newly found talents, I've learned how to 'deriva-tise' just about anything. And I've learned a great deal about the life-style of the rhinoceros. We now have a wealth of knowledge at our disposal that we will use regardless of what lies ahead and as we learned in Miss Sethi's class: "It's all relevant."

And with a deep sense of gratitude, we thank all the people who have taught us along the

way, especially the teachers who have taught us vast amounts of knowledge and given us the ability to succeed. We thank you.

And now we look forward to the future with eager anticipation, but we also need to stop and reflect upon what we have experienced.

How about when we were covered with various baking products for the better part of Grade 9 day? Or when the football team taught us that Parkside

really is the root of all evil? Not to mention the work put into prom, assembling all the various props to make it a success. But

the future is what we need to see the most. And that is where we are - at a new beginning.

As Hobbes continues to say in the comic strip: "It's like having a big sheet of white paper to draw on." Calvin responds: "A day full of possibilities."

And at this point in our lives, we are faced with more possibilities than ever before.

Everyone around us is waiting for us to go out and show the world what we've got and who we are.

As Calvin and Hobbes said, it is truly a new world where everything familiar has disappeared and we have a fresh, clean start - just like a sheet of white paper - full of possibilities.

As Calvin says to Hobbes as they are about to embark on their journey into the great wide open: "It's a magical world, Hobbes ol' buddy, lets go exploring."



2000 Valedictorian  
Bruce Bobier

## WESS honours their top grads

Whether it's time to enter the work force or continue their education, it was time to look back on years of memories at WESS as students share their favourite stories during commencement held at the West Lorne school Oct. 5.

The following is a list of special award winners from the graduating class of 2000:

**Bruce Bobier** - Bruce McPherson Prize; Krebsz Jewellery Valedictorian Award.

**Jelena Boric** - 2nd Honour Award; Business Education Certificate; Fairless K. Food Market Grade 12 Commercial Award; CUPE Local 4222 Award.

**Carla Brown** - 2nd Honour Award

**Michelle Campbell** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Sloan McKillop Teaching Scholarship; Kathryn Grace St. John Memorial Award; SAA Bursary.

**Teresa da Costa** - Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary.

**Jason Dos Santos** - Technical Certificate; Dutton & District Lions Club Technical Award.

**Corey Downie** - Technical Certificate; United Steel Workers of America Local 4906 Award; District 184 Machinist Bursary.

**Adam Ecker** - Tommy White Memorial Award.

**Melissa Eston** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship; Sloan McKillop College Scholarship; Lt. Governor of Ontario Community Volunteer Award.

**Della Fagundes** - Ontario Scholar; 2nd Honour Award; Elgin International Club Scholarship.

**Marjin Fleuren** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; West Lorne Horticulture Bursary; Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society Bursary; Mr. L. Special Award for Good Citizenship.

**Krista Ford** - Business Education Certificate; Sloan McKillop College Scholarship; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; Lorna Rebekah Lodge #217 Commercial Award.

**Marcy Ford** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Grace and Earl Lemon Scholarship; West Lorne Horticulture Bursary.

**Jeremy Giles** - Business Education Certificate; 3rd Honour Award; Mark Van Breck Memorial Award.

**Brian Guest** - Business Education Certificate; Iona Station Community Centre Bursary.

**Sarah Hentz** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; University Women's Club Scholarship; Canada Trust Good Sport Award.

**Chris Hoglund** - Technical Certificate.

**Jarret Hoglund** - Special Chemistry Award.

**Darryl Howard** - Ontario Scholar; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; IODE Bursary.

**Jake Hunter** - Technical Certificate; R. A. Miller Motors Grade 12 Auto Award.

**Charlie Johnston** - 1st Honour Award.

**Leah Kindornay** - 2nd Honour Award.

**Cindy Knowles** - Business Education Certificate.

**Kerry Kulak** - Ontario Scholar; 4th Honour Award.

**Carol Lilley** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Kellie Lilley** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Monique Loeters** - West Elgin Knights of Columbus Scholarship.

**Brad McCreedy** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship; Dutton & District Lions Club Technology Scholarship.

**Chris McGahan** - Technical Certificate.

**Will McGuire** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Rodney Masonic Lodge #411 Award.

**Donna McKillop** - Business Education Certificate; Rodney Kiwanis Club Business Education Award; All-Round Good Kid Award.

**April McLandress** - D. B. Galoway Typing Award.

**Cindy McLeod** - Business Education Certificate; Dutton and Dunwich Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

**Connie McLeod** - Sloan McKillop ECE Scholarship.

**Scott McPherson** - Technical Certificate; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; Laidlaw Education Services Scholarship (donated by Cynthia Nure).

**Simone Moreau** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Wilf Johnston Memorial Scholarship.

**Trevor Mohr** - Technical Certificate.

**Dennis Ocolisan** - Technical

Certificate.

**Dan Oliveira** - Milner-Rigsby Bursary.

**Kevin Oliveira** - Technical Certificate; Erie Flooring Technical Award.

**Amanda Pennings** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Erie Flooring Business Award; Rodney Lions Humanitarian Award.

**Sandra Santos** - Lenore Stevens Kettlor & Stanley Kettlor Memorial Scholarship; Chris Ayling Cystic Fibrosis Award.

**Ben Schipper** - Ontario Scholar; Branch 221, West Elgin Legion Bursary; 5th Honour Award; Student Council OAC Awards for Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Calculus and Algebra; W. D. Lancaster Award; West Elgin Pharmacy Advanced Science Award; Wallacetown Optimist Computer Scholarship; Canada Trust Good Sport Award.

**Katie Smale** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Adah Chapter #276 O.E.S. Serenity Award; Wallacetown Optimist Music Scholarship.

**Lisa Smith** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Student Council OAC Awards for History, French and English; Dutton & District Lions Club Proficiency Award; Governor General's Canadian History Medal for the Millennium; Dutton Advance English & History Year 5 Award; Bryan Foxton Award for Dramatic Arts; Blue Rose Music Bursary; Principal's Award for Student Leadership.

**Cofette Tobias** - 2nd Honour Award.

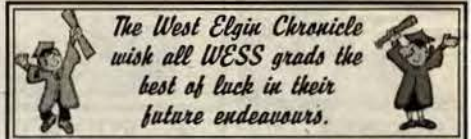
**Lee Uitvugt** - Canadian Legion Branch 525 Scholarship.

**Jason Vandenberg** - Technical Certificate.

**Allison Van Dyk** - Business Education Certificate.

**Laura Willie** - E. F. Sercombe Bursary; Roy DosSantos Memorial Award.

**Andrea Wolf** - Ontario Scholar; 5th Honour Award; Business Education Certificate; OAC General Proficiency Award; Governor General's Academic Medal; Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship; Student Council OAC Awards for Biology, Finite, Calculus, Writers Craft and English; Sloan McKillop University Scholarship; Elgin District Dental Association Award.



## Givin' Thanks!

The SK students at St. Mary's School took time out last week to have a little Thanksgiving celebration of their own. The students learned about how Thanksgiving began and enjoyed some of the same snack that the pilgrims enjoyed such as popcorn, cranberries and apple butter. Here, Andrew Barfett, left, and Monica Ganhadeiro, both five-year-olds, celebrate with a pumpkin tart. OCT. 9, 2000 41





**West Elgin Secondary School  
Commencement Exercises  
Thursday, October 5th**



2000

*The Principal Has Recommended To The  
Minister of Education That The Following  
Students Be Recognized as Ontario Scholars*



**Amanda Pennings, Dutton**  
Parents: Henry & Coby  
College: Mohawk  
Program: General Business  
Goal: Banking



**Andrea Wolf, West Lorne**  
Parents: Alexander & Elisabeth  
University: St. Thomas (N. S.)  
Program: Honours Arts  
& Science  
Goal: Criminology/Psychology



**Ben Schipper, Wallacetown**  
Parents: Ben & Johanna  
University: Waterloo  
Program: Computer Engineering  
Goal: Engineer



**Brad McCready, Dutton**  
Parents: Brian & Rosanne Murray,  
Colleen & Lloyd McCready  
University: Carleton  
Program: Electrical Engineering  
Goal: Work at Nortel



**Darryl Howard, Dutton**  
Parents: Niel & Deb  
University: Waterloo (St.  
Jeromes University)  
Program: Arts & Business  
Goal: Health & Safety Mgr.



**Katie Smale, Dutton**  
Parents: Terri & Gerry  
University: McMaster  
Program: Social Sciences  
Goal: Human Resources Mgt.



**Kerry Kulak, West Lorne**  
Parent: Linda  
University: Western  
Program: Engineering Science  
Goal: Car Design



**Lisa Smith, Rodney**  
Parents: Gary & Ann  
University: Queens  
Program: Honours Arts & Science  
Goal: Teacher



**Marcy Ford, Rodney**  
Parents: Tom & Lynda  
University: Guelph  
Program: Environmental Eng.  
Goal: Environmental Engineer



**Della Fagundes, West Lorne**  
Parents: Antonio & Maria  
University: Toronto  
Program: Humanities  
Goal: Law



**Marijn Fleuren, Rodney**  
Parents: Peter & Idith  
University: Guelph  
Program: Ag. Economics  
Goal: Agri-business



**Michelle Campbell, Wallacetown**  
Parents: Don & Helen  
University: Waterloo  
Program: Honours Kinesiology  
Goal: Health related field



**Simone Moreau, Dutton**  
Parents: Guy & Rosemarie  
University: Wilfrid Laurier  
Program: Arts & Business  
Goal: Public Relations



**Will McGuire, Rodney**  
Parents: Mary & Mike  
University: Queens  
Program: History/Drama  
Goal: Law



**Sarah Hentz, Wallacetown**  
Parents: Michael & Ingrid  
University: Guelph  
Program: Marine & Freshwater  
Biology  
Goal: Participate in an international exchange to Australia in 3rd year.





## Bobcat Girls

The Aldborough Public School girls volleyball team had a great season this past year. Back row from left are Jennifer Russell (coach), Danielle Wilson, Rhonda Knight, Kanda Ocolisan and Lauren Sheedy. Front row from left are Kim Lawrence (coach), Mary Jane Pernel, Krista Walker, Brittany Hein, Courtney Besley and Stephanie Youskow. Absent from photo are Sapphire Wood, Amanda Thwaites and Shoba Sharma. **DEC. 18, 2000**



## Kids Helping Kids

The students at Aldborough Public School are in the true giving spirit this year as they are helping the Sleeping Children Around the World program, in which money is raised to purchase bed kits which are then distributed where needed around the world. To-date, money has been raised to purchase 15 bed kits. Here, Senior Kindergarten students Ryan Alderton, left, and Molly Ryan, along with teacher Sheila Fleming, show off some of the food they also collected.



## Daffodil Bonanza

The students at WESES have once again shown their charitable spirit with their annual fund-raiser for the Daffodil Society. Dozens and dozens of canned goods, toys and stuffed animals were collected by the students. Here, Jamie Kirschner, in truck, gets a helping hand from Ross Giannakopoulos. **DEC. 18, 2000**



# Lifestyles

## West Lorne WI help repair WESS instruments

The West Lorne Women's Institute held their November meeting at the West Lorne Complex with Olive Chambers chairing the meeting in the absence of president Mary Belle Cook. The meeting opened with the Mary Stewart Collect. Minutes and the treasurers report followed.

Chambers introduced the guest speaker, Shelly LeClaire, who spoke on abandoned animals. Shelly and her family take in these animals and look after them until new homes are found. The animals are spayed and neutered, fed and loved until new homes are found.

A thank you note from the Fun Shop was received for our financial support. A donation was also given to WESS to help repair some of their instruments.

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 6 and this will be the group's Christmas party as gifts will be exchanged.



## Monsanto Money

Rodney resident and WESS graduate Marjin Fleuren, right, got a boost towards his education expenses as he was one of 60 students from across Canada to receive a \$1,500 Monsanto Agribusiness Scholarship. Fleuren is attending the University of Guelph in the Agricultural Science Program. Fleuren received several awards of distinction and was a four-year honour student at WESS, where he was active in volleyball, indoor soccer, curling and volunteered in local school track and field meets. By majoring in agricultural economics, Fleuren hopes to enter the corporate management field of a Canadian agricultural company. Here, Fleuren receives his cheque from Jim Inksetter, Director of Biotechnology Sustainability & Stewardship for Monsanto Canada Ltd. **Nov. 2000**



## Tuning Up **DEC. 2000**

West Elgin Adult Band clarinetist Sherry Ford gets a little pre-concert work in prior to the 'It's a Wonderful Time of Year - not just a Christmas Concert' last week at WESS. The concert, featuring a number of local musicians, was both a tribute and fund-raiser for the families of the recent tragedy at Orford Co-op in Rodney. Canned goods were also collected for the Caring Cupboard in Rodney.

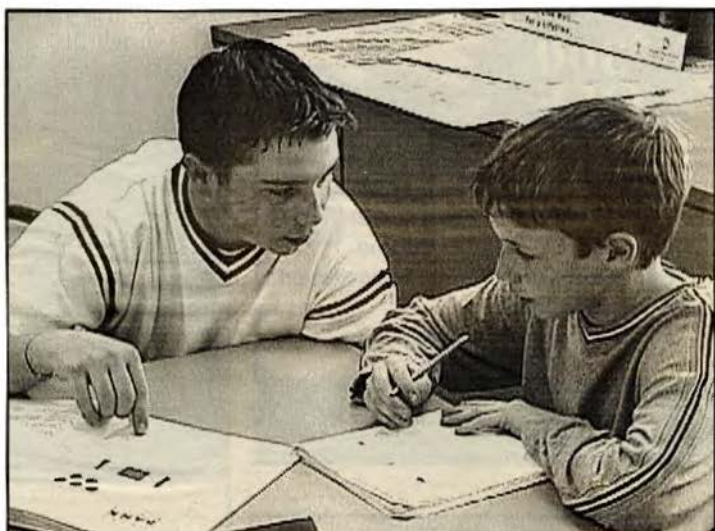
MAR 15, 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle



## Golden Centre

The West Elgin Community Health Centre have received top honours from the Elgin-St. Thomas United Way for their involvement in the 1998 campaign. The "Gold Award" is given to businesses with a minimum participation of 80 per cent and an average gift of \$52 per person. Here, United Way CEO Terry Carroll, left, presents the plaque to health centre executive director Marina Lundrigan and campaign chairman Bob Logan.



## Homework Helper

There's always someone to lend a helping hand at the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Homework Club. Run by local student volunteers, assistance is given on any homework difficulties younger students may be having. Here, Mike Palazzo, left, volunteers his time at the centre to help Eric McGill with his math homework. Palazzo is just one of close to a 100 volunteers at the health centre that were honoured recently at a Volunteer Recognition Celebration at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

MAY 3, 1999



# WECHC Administration Team keeping things on track

By Marina Lundrigan

The following is the first in a series of features introducing the various teams that make up the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

The West Elgin Community Health Centre (WECHC) Administrative Team provide many supports that clients or the community don't readily see, but without their work our building would quickly deteriorate and no one would be able to call in for an appointment.

The Ministry wouldn't get their statistics on time and our suppliers wouldn't get paid. Although their work is at times behind the scenes, they are vital to our operation.

Team leader **Iona Woolley** is responsible for the overall administration at the centre. Her duties currently include getting the centre ready for Y2K and our upcoming accreditation process.

She is well qualified to keep the centre administratively on track, as prior to joining the WECHC she worked for London Psychiatric Hospital and Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital. Iona takes an active interest in her community and is a founding board member of the Dutton-Dunwich Horticultural Society.

**Lorraine Geldart** is our book-keeper. Her role is to process payroll and benefits, purchasing, financial records and transactions. Lorraine is currently con-



Iona Woolley



Lorraine Geldart



Diane Van Dyk



Bob Logan



Paula Alves

tinuing her education with the Canadian Payroll Association and she will complete her first courses in June of this year.

She has lived in the surrounding area for over a dozen years and also enjoys the aspects of small town living.

**Paula Alves and Bob Logan**

take care of the reception, telephone, client charts and support duties at the centre. Both believe it is very important to always try to help our clients and the community in whatever way they can.

Paula is a lifetime resident of West Lorne and has worked at

utes much of his free time to the Kiwanis Club, Caring Cupboard, Crime Watch, and the United Church in Rodney.

**Diane Van Dyk** is our part-time receptionist and data entry clerks. She helps ensure that the Ministry receives our statistics on time and helps out with reception. Like Paula, she is a lifelong resident of West Lorne and in her spare time she teaches aerobic classes.

We are proud of the work that our administration team does not only within the centre, but also the leadership role they often take in our community.

**Marina Lundrigan** is the Executive Director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre and is responsible for overseeing the entire operation. If you have any concerns or comments, please feel free to call her at 768-1715.

## Douglas Graham welcomed as new WECHS executive director

If his first week of orientation is any determination of what to expect, Douglas Graham is looking forward to beginning his role as executive director of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

He takes over position, which was vacated by Marina Lundrigan, on Jan. 1.

Having an extensive background in the community health field, most recently in Mindemoya, ON, a small community on Manitoulin Island, Graham is familiar with the needs of rural Ontario.

"I know the values of a community this size are truly important to its residents," says



Douglas Graham

Graham, who enjoyed meeting a number of local residents at an

open house last week at the health centre.

"I'm pretty excited about the programs they already have in place here. It's a very holistic approach," he says.

Graham has had experience working in a variety of settings in his career including Sudbury Algoma Hospital, the Kitchener-Waterloo Health Centre and the Ministry of Health.

"The key here, which the staff is already playing a strong role in, is health promotion and prevention," he adds. Youth programs is also something Graham says he is interested in promoting. DEC. 99





## Looking to help

Members of the West Elgin United Way Youth Committee are planning a day of lending a hand to those in need. The committee is made up of, front row, left to right: Miranda Joyce, Steph Tobias, Jackie Dos Santos and Margaret Bennetto. Back row: Elgin-St. Thomas United Way CEO Terry Carroll, Stuart Murray, Chris Grant and Loraly Smith, Volunteer Youth in the Millennium Co-ordinator.

MAY 7, 2001



### Informing the public

The West Elgin Community Health Centre (WEHC) held a series of information sessions to inform the public about what the Health Centre is and the programs they offer. On hand for the public meeting in West Lorne were, from left to right: Mary Payne, Bob Walker, Douglas Graham, Executive Director, WEHC; Betty Ross and Shelly Vergeer, Volunteer Co-ordinator Long Term Care Programs, WEHC.

## Tremendous support for local United Way

**West Elgin reaches 87 % of goal.**

**Elgin County goal is at 66 %.**

West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich are ahead in the United Way race and have already reached 87 per cent of its goal.

The West Elgin campaign, which consists of both municipalities of West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich have raised \$12,382 so far out of its \$14,200 goal. That is well ahead of the rest of Elgin County which is at 66 per cent (\$658,171 out of \$1,002,001). Two thirds of the donations came from personal gifts and it United Way's Barb Edwards says it just shows what a generous community the residents in this region really are.

The largest contributors to the West Elgin campaign are the West Elgin Community Health Centre, GKN Walterscheid Canada and local public schools.

For instance, the West Elgin Community Health Centre had 100 per cent participation from staff thanks to the efforts of West Elgin UW chair Bob Logan and Doug Graham.

Edwards also added that the campaign wouldn't be a success thus far, without local volunteers and West Elgin residents Terry Heaney, John McIntyre and Liz McNeil who have dedicated their time to canvass the area and ask for donations from local companies.

The United Way dollars not only help the WEHC, who is one of 23 member agencies, but also supports the local YWCA, Canadian Mental Health, Youth Employment Counselling Centre and Bereavement Resource Council in the area just to name a few.

A final announcement about the West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich campaign will be made in December.



These happy United Way people and supporters are very pleased with the community support coming from the West Elgin region. Pictured here in front of the thermometer in West Lorne are West Elgin Community Health Centre members Doug Graham and Bob Logan with United Chair Ken Monteith and Barb Edwards United Way PR Co-ordinator. The communities in West Elgin are being asked to finish the campaign off by bringing the total to 100 per cent and beyond. If you notice carefully, you will see Logan is holding the final slat that will bring the total to 100 per cent.

NOV. 26/01



### For a worthy cause

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada Elgin County Chapter recently sold their signature flower, the carnation, to help raise funds for research. Pictured, Joleen Crawford holds a colourful bunch of the blooms which she and her mother, Kathy, sold in West Lorne on Saturday, May 12th. They helped raise \$200.00 for MS.

2001





## Didn't Feel A Thing

Hundreds of local residents rolled up their sleeves last week as the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, in collaboration with the West Elgin Community Health Centre, offered the "Let's Beat The Flu" community clinics at WESS. All residents of Ontario are being offered free flu shots this year. Here, Cheryl Vanderveen gives a big hug to her daughter Cassandra, 2, as public health nurse Mary Taylor administers the flu shot. Cheryl, Cassandra, and her brother Gregory were just three of the 448 who received their flu shot. For the locations of further flu clinics, you can call the health unit at 631-9900. DEC 2000



## Arthritis Awareness

The West Elgin Community Health Centre has once again started up its "Soups On" program at the West Lorne Complex. Last week's gathering featured a talk on arthritis awareness and what could be done to alleviate some of the pain that arthritis causes. Here, Kelly Schiell, left, Occupational Therapist with the Arthritis Society, Consultation and Rehabilitation Services, shows some of the handy gadgets available through the Arthritis Society to Sandy Bond.

## Frozen meal service helps local seniors, disabled stay healthy

Do you know someone who is finding it hard to prepare healthy meals these days because of their advanced age or a disability?

Well, the new local frozen meal service available through the West Elgin Community Health Centre can solve that problem. The new program is a service

that compliments the centre's hot meals program (Meals on Wheels).

Frozen meals are supplied by Private Recipe, a company which has been in business since 1989. Special diets available include regular restricted fat, gluten free, renal, vegetarian, diabetic, dental soft, restricted so-

dium and pureed. Currently, entrees cost \$4.50 and must be ordered in groups of seven. Soups and desserts are also available for \$1.50 each.

With more than 25 entrees to choose from including beef, pork, fish and poultry dishes, there is something to meet everyone's taste. Add to that a dozen soups and 18 desserts and the combi-

nations are endless.

The program is great for local individuals:

- ◆ living in the rural areas where the hot meal program is available only three days a week and/or whose driveway may be too dangerous for volunteers to attempt on stormy days.

- ◆ with special diet needs such as lactose free or gluten free.

- ◆ who are active during the day and are not at home over the lunch hour when meals are delivered.

- ◆ who need assistance with evening or weekend meals.

- ◆ who want to ensure their diets are nutritionally balanced and providing a high proportion of daily dietary requirements.

The people who receive these meals stay healthier, are more energetic and better able to live a full and independent life, according to the health centre.

These meals also make great Christmas gifts! For more information on frozen meals, becoming a frozen meal volunteer driver, or for gift certificates, call Shelly Vergeer at 768-1715 ext. 210.



## Over The Top

Hats off to the residents of West Elgin! The local United Way campaign has already exceeded its \$12,000 goal, with more sure to come in. Giving the thumbs up for all the hard work are local United Way campaign committee member Kirby Breithaupt, West Elgin Community Health Centre Executive Director Douglas Graham, committee member and staff representative Bob Logan and Elgin-St. Thomas United Way CEO Terry Carroll. The health centre once again had 100% staff participation.



West Elgin Community Health Centre volunteers Mary Prudhomme, left, Keith Kelly and Agnes Gosnell, along with the health centre's volunteer coordinator Shelly Vergeer, help pack up some of the frozen meals for delivery.



LOOKING BACK  
SUBMITTED BY MARY LIEPMANN

# Interesting Nonagenarians Neighbors in West Lorne

(Continued from page eleven)

pecially when it concerns something of particular local interest.

## A Well-Earned Rest

These past few years in West Lorne have been well-earned years of rest for Mrs. McKillop, her daughter, Mrs. Leith, says. And Mrs. McKillop recalls those busy years on the farm when she had her family to raise and all the multitude of other tasks and chores that fall upon the shoulders of a farmer's wife. The worst of it was that, since they were occupying the homestead farm, all the McKillop children of the pioneer generation, and their children, too, used to come to the farm for their summer holidays.

"That was great for us kids," Mrs. Leith says.

"But it was an awful lot of work for me," said Mrs. McKillop. What leisure time she had, she spent knitting and sewing, and she continued to enjoy knitting until just recently. Now she finds it difficult to do much of this work. But she is cheerful and bright when she says:

"I still have pretty good health and I can't complain. It's only that I'm getting down now so that I'm not much good at doing anything. I listen to the radio sometimes, but I enjoy reading more and the Bible most of all."

When the weather comes bright and warm again, Mrs. McKillop wants to get out and is looking forward to enjoying the trips by car around the countryside she enjoyed so much last year.

Both Mrs. McKillop and Mrs. Currie have enjoyed having Mr. Ramsay call on them at quite regular intervals all winter while they have been staying in. And equally so, Mr. Ramsay has enjoyed his daily walks about town, calling on them and many others throughout the village. For a comparative newcomer, there are few who have become more widely acquainted than he.

But Mr. Ramsay is emphatic when he says he doesn't like winter weather in this part of the country. "It's a wet cold you have down here and I find the cold, dry weather on the prairie agrees with me much better," he says.

## Settled in West in 1904

Although he is not a native westerner, Mr. Ramsay has spent nearly half of his life on the prairie, farming near Bladworth, about midway between Regina and Saskatoon where, in 1904, he was one of the first settlers to break the ground. It is remarkable that though he is now nearing 50 and had no farming background whatsoever, he became a highly successful farmer, a leading seed grower and established himself as one of the largest breeders of purebred Clydesdales in that part of Saskatchewan. He continued farming until he was 75 and only quit then

because Mrs. Ramsay had died and there was no point in carrying on with his sons carving out careers for themselves. His eldest son, Robert L. Ramsay, is British Columbia superintendent of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, and Rupert, formerly a professor at the University of Saskatchewan, now leader of the Progressive Conservative party in that province, is doing his best to shorten the life of the present C.C.F. Government in Saskatchewan, with his father's hearty approval.

## An R.M.C. Man

Mr. Ramsay was born in Toronto in 1858 and when he graduated from high school there, attended the Royal Military College at Kingston. When he returned to Toronto, he worked first as a printer and then became police court clerk under Col. Septimus Augustus Denison, C.M.G., noted Toronto magistrate whom he greatly admired.

In 1903, Mr. Ramsay found himself greatly in need of a change from the pressure of police court work and went West for a holiday and to look for a farm on which he might establish his son, Robert, in high school at G.A.C., Guelph. He found the land he was looking for at Bladworth, but during the ensuing year the urge to make a stab at farming himself became so great that he threw up his position in Toronto and moved the whole family (six children) to the unbroken prairie near Bladworth.

"I think the change must have added a lot to my life," he says. "It was rough farming in the early days and we started in on raw prairie to grow wheat. We didn't know how to farm and we had a hard time with crop failures and other difficulties. But if nothing else, life in the open air was a compensating feature."

Despite the hardships of the Ramsay family's early days in Saskatchewan, they won through and Mr. Ramsay is proud now that he was the first to farm a local improvement district in that province, even before the townships were formed. He was one of the earliest growers of Marquis wheat and became a seed grower, exporting to Australia and East African colonies. As the district became more populous, he was named Justice of the Peace (by a government he hadn't helped to elect), a position he held for 25 years and in which his police court experience stood him in good stead.

## Worked With John Bracken

John Bracken, now leader of the national Progressive Conservative party, used to travel the prairies extensively in those days, helping to organize agricultural societies. With his help, Mr. Ramsay and several other early settlers in the Bladworth district, formed the society there. He was its second president. As a farmer, he took great pride in his Clydesdale

horses. When he sold out, he had 20 purebred males. Having had a lifelong interest in politics (with a pronounced inclination toward the Conservative party), he was the protagonist in the movement to form the Saskatchewan School Trustees' Association. This developed into a very influential organization and he was its first president. He still is an honorary president.

A big, husky man whose bearing marks him as a man who must have had military training ingrained in him at an early stage, Mr. Ramsay is still physically strong and vigorous. His hearing is good but his eyesight has failed so that he cannot read, a great privation to him. As to his longevity, he says:

"A temperate life is the cause of my long life. But I was well-born. We are a military family. My father was military-trained and I was military-trained, but I give my parents the credit for it."

That military training shows in the way he walks. When he walks, he marches, and while he admits he has slowed down a bit, he still does the old army regulation march pace of 30 inches each stride and 116 steps to the minute. "I had that pace so drilled into me that it has been almost impossible to change it," he says.

Mr. Ramsay's current ambition is to attend the 10th dinner meeting of the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce to meet and hear John G. Diefenbaker, who represents his old home riding of Bladworth at Ottawa.

In addition to his three children already mentioned, Mr. Ramsay has another daughter, Miss Helen Ramsay, general secretary of the Y.W.C.A. at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Two sons were killed in World War I, Emerson at Vimy, and William at Cambrai.

# Three Interesting Nonagenarians Are Close Neighbors in West Lorne



MRS. MARY MCKILLOP



MRS. ISABELLA CURRIE



WILLIAM L. RAMSAY

—Photos by Stegely.

WEST LORNE, Feb. 25.—All living in one block along the east side of Mary street in this West Elgin village are three residents who have attained the venerable 90-year mark or better, who are all still able to be up and about, and who are still enjoying life and taking a lively interest in affairs of the day. These remarkable old people are, in order of their seniority, Mrs. Mary McKillop, who was 90 on February 12 this year; Mrs. Isabella Currie, who will be 96 this coming September 28, and William L. Ramsay, 90, a mere youth who, throughout the winter has served as go-between for the two old ladies, they having kept indoors since the cold weather came.

Mrs. Currie is the only one who is a native of Elgin, being a member of the pioneer Stalker family of Aldborough which settled at Crinan, four miles north of West Lorne, in 1850. Mrs. McKillop was born in Onedia Township, south of Hagersville, but has made her home here and in this part of the county since 1883. Mr. Ramsay has only been here two winters, coming from Saskatoon to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. F. G. Purchase, wife of the West Lorne United Church pastor.

In 1850, the late Mr. and Mrs. James Stalker emigrated from Argyllshire, Scotland, with a family of five children and took a homestead site in the woods where now stands Crinan. There they built a log cabin and began to clear the land. Two years later, Isabella, now Mrs. Currie, arrived as the sixth child. Three more arrived in the next years. There they had nine children, only two of whom, Mrs. Currie and her sister, Mrs. Eliza Hyndman, also of West Lorne, now survive.

But two other sisters and a brother lived to be more than 90, and Mrs. Hyndman is now 89. The others were the late Mrs. John (Mary) Findlay, of West Lorne, who spent most of her life in the Canadian West; Mrs. Archibald (Flora) Campbell, of Wallaceburg; and Rev. Donald Stalker, of Crinan, whose death occurred about two years ago. Upon his death, the Stalker homestead farm passed out of the hands of the family and it is now the Cadogan farm.

## Born in Log Cabin

"But it was in the Stalker family until about two years ago when my brother died," Mrs. Currie said. "I was all woods when my parents came there with the land and I was the first baby born in the log house they built on the homestead. It stood for 90 years, but a new brick house was built about 1875 and it still stands on the farm. I was married in the new house in 1861 by Rev. John Milloy. He was the Presbyterian minister at Crinan and West Lorne—they were both together in those days."

Following her marriage to Neil Currie, they farmed for about three years at Crinan, then for a number of years at the Coyne and finally near Dutton before going to Alberta about 1910 to farm near Ridgedale Station on the C.N.R. in the Hannah district. In 1919, Mr. Currie retired and they returned east to spend their latter years in West Lorne. Mr. Currie died in 1929 and Mrs. Currie's daughter Mima, has since been living with her. Another daughter, Mrs. M. D. Hunter, lives in Detroit.

Because she is not able to walk any great distance, and also because her hearing has failed, Mrs.

Currie no longer attends the West Lorne United Church, to which she belongs. But in summer, she still likes to spend much of her time outdoors. Until quite recently, she enjoyed reading, her Bible and the daily newspapers being of greatest interest to her.

## Married in 1885

Mrs. Currie and Mrs. McKillop have been good friends for many years, though they had not known each other until they came here to spend their retiring years. Mrs. McKillop's people were the late John and Jane Smith, of near Hagersville in Onedia Township, where she spent the first 23 years of her life. She came to West Lorne in 1883 to marry John D. McKillop, a son of the pioneer James McKillop family which settled the Lake Road farm still known by the family name, situated about two miles southeast of Eagle. A third generation James McKillop, Mrs. McKillop's son, lives there now.

Mr. and Mrs. McKillop spent all their active years on that farm, raising a family of five children, three of whom survive. They are Mrs. George Leith, with whom Mrs. McKillop makes her home in West Lorne; James McKillop, on the farm near Eagle; and William McKillop, a farmer on the Coyne Road, Dutch Township. A baby daughter died when two months old and one son, Edmund, deceased a veteran of World War I, died about a year ago at Gloucestre. Mrs. McKillop has 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, one of whom mentioned casually when a Times-Journal representative called on her this week, that: "There isn't much goes on but Grandma knows all about it—es-

32 The West Lorne Sun, Thursday, December 23rd, 1980



VERA RIPLEY RECEIVED A GIFT FROM SANTA WHEN she visited West Lorne Kiwanis Club's Christmas party Thursday night in the Community Hall. Here she is seen enjoying the fun and spirit of the evening by sitting on Santa's knee when accepting Kiwanians' gift for her.