

By Ann Prud'homme

Last Wednesday, I was given an easy assignment. Go to this couple's house, get a picture and get a story. Now, I will be the first to admit that I do not have a lot of experience with reporting, but I thought what the heck, how hard can it be. Well here I am one week after my meeting and I am perplexed as how to write this article. I guess the beginning is a good place to start.

Ray and Joan Greve are an older couple who live down the Dunborough Line. Their claim to fame, and the reason I was to meet them was because they had won 1st prize in the Wallacetown Optimist Club lighting contest. Now I left the office with camera, notepad and directions to the house and headed off to my first "assignment". I quickly found that the directions were unnecessary as their home was quite unmistakable. There were lights everywhere. The house, trees, birdhouse, garden gate, everything was lit up. Bright yes, tacky no. It all seemed to fit. I was greeted by Mr. Greve and welcomed into the most charming, cozy house I have seen. I digress though. You see, there was supposed to be a story about these lights, something that tied back to World War II. I still didn't know what to expect so I made myself comfortable and prepared to take notes.

Joan Greve was a nurse during the war in England. The Battle of Britain as she called it, left England in a state of virtual darkness for close to six years. Black Hell is what it was called. She told me horror sto-



Mrs. Greve on the left when she was a nurse in England during World War II. Mrs. Greve is now enjoying life in Canada.

ries of seeing tiny babies in traction, school houses being bombed with children in them. Tales of walking down the street with her issued helmet waiting for bombs to drop so they could go to help the injured. There were memories of once strong men walking into hospitals with body parts of their friends and comrades tucked safely under their arms. Her own home was bombed during this war, as were many others. When asked how she was able to cope with the horror going on around, she quoted Winston Churchill "We shall Never Surrender". These words are what

kept her and everyone else going. The fight for freedom and life is what kept them going. Now her husband is informing me about all these undecorated heroes, the nurses, firefighters, and the doctors, the people who battled the aftermath of the ongoing bombings. These were the people who risked their own lives to save others. They then told me about the doodlebugs, bomber planes that would fly overhead and when you heard their engines cut out, you knew that a bomb was being released. As horrifying as it was, it was hypnotic to watch and listen for the engine to cut out and

to feel the earthquake-like aftermath of the bomb hitting its target.

We stopped for a bit of tea and cookies and Mr. Greve started to talk to me some more about after the war. How sometimes Canadians take things for granted. Not many of us are aware of the first Canadian casualty of the war. 10 year old Margaret Hayworth from Hamilton Ontario was killed when the Athena, the boat she was traveling on was attacked. Her funeral was a nationwide event with Premiers, Representatives of the Prime Minister and many other

National Dignitaries present. All of this attention, and a Memorial was never erected in her memory. So he wants us to stop and think once in a while what would have happened to Canada had the war gone differently. Maybe Remembrance Day is not enough. We need to think that not everyone from the war is dead and that these people remember more than just on November 11th.

So we go back to the lights, the whole point of this story I once thought. What exactly do these lights represent. Mr. Greve started setting up his lights in August of last year. When they finally lit their property for the first time this Christmas season, Mrs. Greve stopped for a moment and reflected back, back to England when the war was finally over. The lights she said, reminded her of Lester Square, where there were lights everywhere for the first time. "Black Hell" was over and the people, thousands of them, converged on the square and celebrated all night. She remembers sleeping on the stairs that night having missed the train home. Quite a change from just days before.

So, this was the story of the lights, one couple's memories of a horrible time and the joy they found in freedom. So here I sit, a little wiser, and contemplative, and I thank the Greves for the wonderful gift they gave me, a complete stranger...the gift of the past that I never could imagine on my own, and I hope that perhaps you the reader have found something deeper than a bunch of lights in this, my first assignment.

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WEST LORNE WOMEN'S BOWLING LEAGUE 1951 AND 1952



Lena (Lemon) Campbell was able to come up with these names. Hopefully this fills in all the blanks.

Front Row: Agnes Norris, May Gosdman, Kitty Turner, Rita Dymock, Alma Branchflower, Mrs. Quigley and Eleanor Branchflower.
Second Row: Erie Bird, Dora Moody, Lena Lemon, Ardeth Kempyn, Mabel Gammon, Erna Kempyn, and Hazel Hopper.
Third Row: Leah Hauser, Nina Sheeler, Merle Merritt, Ruth Degraw, Gerry Munn, Mrs. Grey, Jeanette Fisher, Helen Kemp and Marion Craig.
Fourth Row: Marg Schleihauf, Ann Wiley, May Godsman, Betty Grey, Pauline Cummings, Bess Hauser, Olive Gray, Marie Pfeifer, Andrea Ronson and Barb McDonald.
Fifth Row: Shirley Gibson, Helene Dawson, Kay Quigley, Jean Humphries, Sarah Atkinson, Eleanor Elliot, Betty Kline, Mrs Moody, Grace McColl, Joan Pfeifer, Nellie Butler, Marie Bell, Maud Dawson, Marg Lyons and Peg Mitchell



This photo and list of names is from Lena (Lemon) Campbell. There are a few names missing so let us know if you can identify them.

Front Row: Marg McLandress, Jean Ross, McColl, Mary Lippold, Mary Schliehauf, Betty Byfield, Barb McDonald and Betty Kline.
Second Row: Mrs. Quigley, Gerry Munn, ?, Eleanor Branchflower, Leah Hauser and Mrs. Pyatt.
Third Row: Pauline Cummings, Nina Sheeler, Nellie Butler, Dora Moody, Shirley Gibson, Bess Hauser and Andria Ronson.
Fourth Row: Ruth Hayes, Loive Gray, Agnes Norris, Ruth Degraw, Doris Lemmon, ?, Kitty Turner, Marion Craig and Lena Lemon.
Top Row: Betty Gray, Grace McColl, McClennen McColl, Jean Humphries, Mary Lyons, Mrs. Kempyn, Marie Peifer, Sarah Atkinson, Alma Branchflower, Jessie Lemon, Mary Fluker, Peg Mitchell and Hazel Hopper.

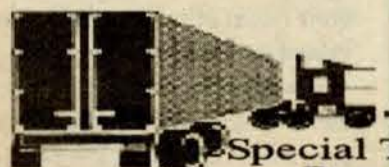


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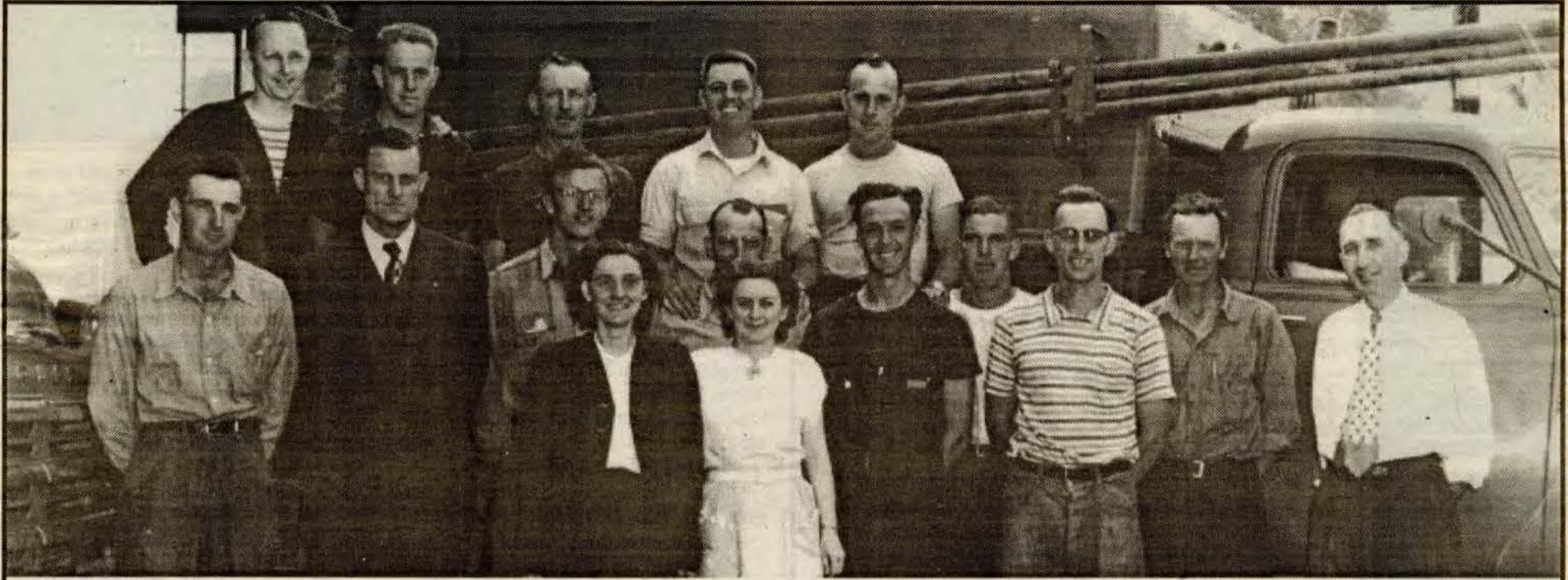
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Who's on hydro?

There will surely be some familiar faces in this photo of the West Lorne Rural Hydro District employees, taking sometime in the early 50s. Some of the folks you'll still see strolling the streets of West Elgin. Back row from left are Alec Grey, Bruce Newman, William Britton, Jim Bell and Harold Patterson. Middle row from left is Bruce Docker,

Ken Phoenix, Bill Campbell, Archie Humphries, Phil Willits, Doug Walker, Don Branchflower, George Page and George King. Front row is Jean Ross and Anna Carmichael. Thanks to Ron Payne for the photo and Phil Willits for identifying the workers.

A LOOK AT THE PAST



This photograph was taken at the West Lorne School in June of 1934. In the front row, left right, are Vincent Barry, Mac Watterworth, Calvin Walker, - Gower, Roy Dawdy, Jim Barrett, Roger Schlichauf, Harley Gammon. In the second row are Altha Campbell, Effie McIntyre, Verna Ainslee, Byre Schlichauf, Jean Caton, Annie Ainslee, Donna Henderson, Flora Bell, Tina Campbell. In the third row are teacher Everett McCurdy, Myrtle Mills, Margaret McEwen, Edna Henderson, Myrtle Newton, Jean Humphries, Florence Holden, Isobel Gillson, Dorothy Howse. In the fourth row are Norman Ainslee, Doug Wilton, Lyle Gower, George Barrett, Jim Bonner, George Leopold, Jack Monteith. Photograph contributed by George Leopold.



The West Elgin Dramatics Society (WEDS) has received a helping hand from the community to help with the ongoing renovations at the Dutton Memorial Hall. Alice Menard, WEDS fund-raising committee treasurer (centre), accepts a \$1,000 cheque from West Lorne Kiwanis Club members Ray Jobson, Les Sewell, Ralph Chambers and Joan Johnston. At right, Elgin Association for Community Living representative Bill Mills presents a cheque for \$500, which will go towards the construction of a wheelchair lift for the building. Complete renovations are expected to be completed in June.

The West Elgin Chronicle

FEB. 22, 1999

Staddon, Optimist Club honoured

West Lorne Optimist Club member Dorothy Staddon has been recognized for her dedication to the high level of success as lieutenant-governor for Optimist Clubs in the zone she was responsible for in 1998.

She was presented with the Distinguished and Outstanding Lieutenant Governor Award at the Southwestern Ontario District of Optimist International banquet held earlier this month in Wallaceburg.

"The lieutenant governor plays an integral role in motivating the Optimist Clubs and assisting them in carrying out their community service programs," says J. Wayne Smith, 1997-'98 President of Optimist International. "May sincere thanks and congratulations go out to this individual on this great accomplishment."

The West Lorne Optimist Club was also honoured with the Honor Club and Distinguished Club Award for its community and youth service efforts, mem-

bership growth, club administration and other areas.



Dorothy Staddon

Local Optimist Club members Don Boos and Bill Trash also received awards for Best Bulletin and Treasurer, respectively.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest and most active service club organizations, with over 150,000 members in

4,200 Optimist Clubs in the United States, Canada and other nations. Carrying the motto "Friend of Youth," the Optimist Clubs conduct positive service projects which reach six million young people each year.

West Lorne Horticultural Society news

The West Lorne Horticultural Society met at the new complex for the Feb. 9 meeting, with nine members and two guests in attendance.

Susanne McGregor, Master Gardener, gave a very informative talk on houseplants and their care.

The bus trip to Cullen Gardens was discussed. Early May was chosen so arrangements will be made. The March 9 meeting will have Helen Rose of Village Green give a demonstration on making a spring arrangement.

Plans will be made for the flower show May 28. The Garden Tour on June 13th was discussed.

West Elgin Adult Club

The regular meeting of the West Elgin Adult Club was held Feb. 22 with a bountiful potluck lunch, followed by cards.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 8 and will feature a slide presentation. A trip to Dave Hoy at Wonderland is planned for March 19. If interested call Shirley White at 785-0535.

MAR. 1999

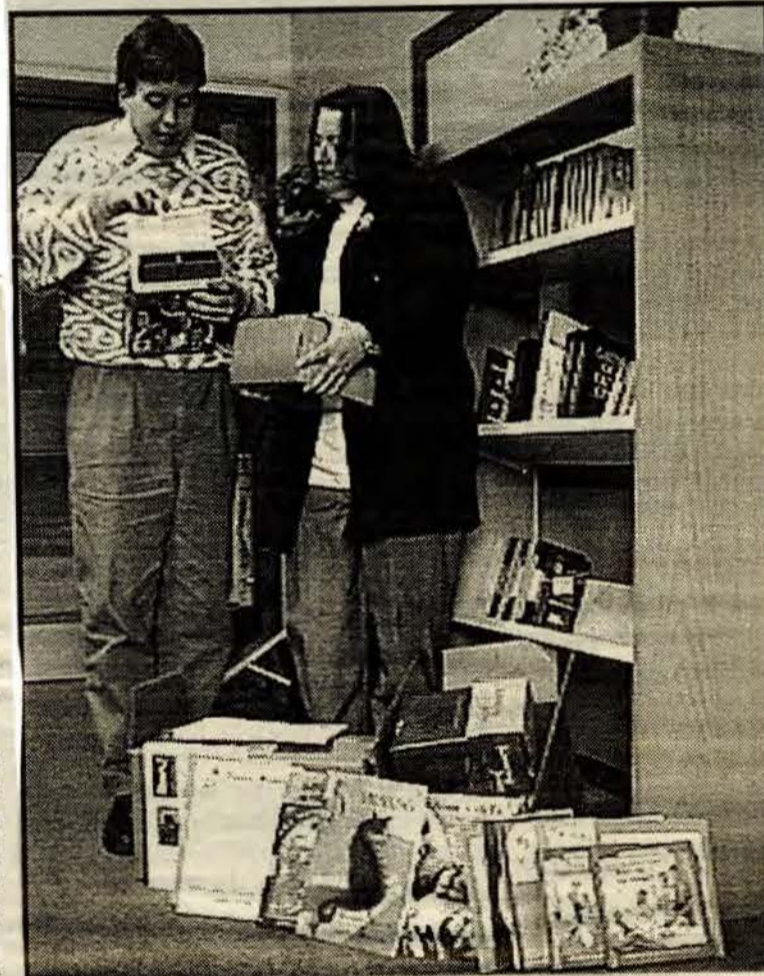
MEMBERS HONOURED AT WEST LORNE LEGION BRANCH #221



From left to right: Zone Commander Marg Emery, Lucielle Lesperance - Certificate of Recognition of Service, Bill McMurchy - Hats Off Award, Henry Mooser - received Past President Medal and President Doug Cavener. JAN 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle

MARCH 1999



Useful Tools

The Parent Resource Library at St. Mary's School received a generous gift recently as the West Elgin Knights of Columbus, Council 6495, donated a shelving unit. As well, funds from the Monsignor Feeney Foundation helped purchase some extra books to help stock those shelves. Here Knight of Columbus member Alex Schadenberg, left, checks over some of the books with St. Mary's School Council Chairperson Ann Marie Gokey.

Nature club learns about Thames River

The West Elgin Nature Club May meeting was held at the home of Bob and Margery Davis. Bob is the current club president.

The theme for the evening being "The Thames River" very appropriately began with walks along the banks of the river, including the indigenous adjacent woodland.

Many of the early spring ephemerals have faded, but the successions were emerging, providing a great opportunity to identify other native species of flowers and trees including the endangered blue ash tree.

Guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Douglas Bocking of London, who attended with his wife Vivian. Dr. Bocking is a former Dean of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario. Now in retirement, he directs volunteer efforts on environmental issues, in particular the "Thames River Watershed."

Dr. Bocking presented a review of the studies of the Thames, leading to Nomination Documentation: the glacial retreat, geology, topography, changes throughout the years,

historical events and flora and fauna.

This 'Heritage of the Thames' documentation may soon be available through the local library for all to read in more detail.

After a short business meeting, refreshments and more conversation continued. When so

much of our native habitat is being destroyed and invaded by alien species such as Garlic-Mustard and Norway Maples, it is refreshing to visit protected areas like Bob and Margery's home. The next club meeting will be the August Canoe Trip on the Thames.



Local naturalist Dr. Eunice McKishnie, left, welcomes West Elgin nature Club guest speaker Dr. Douglas Bocking and his wife Vivian.

Horsing Around

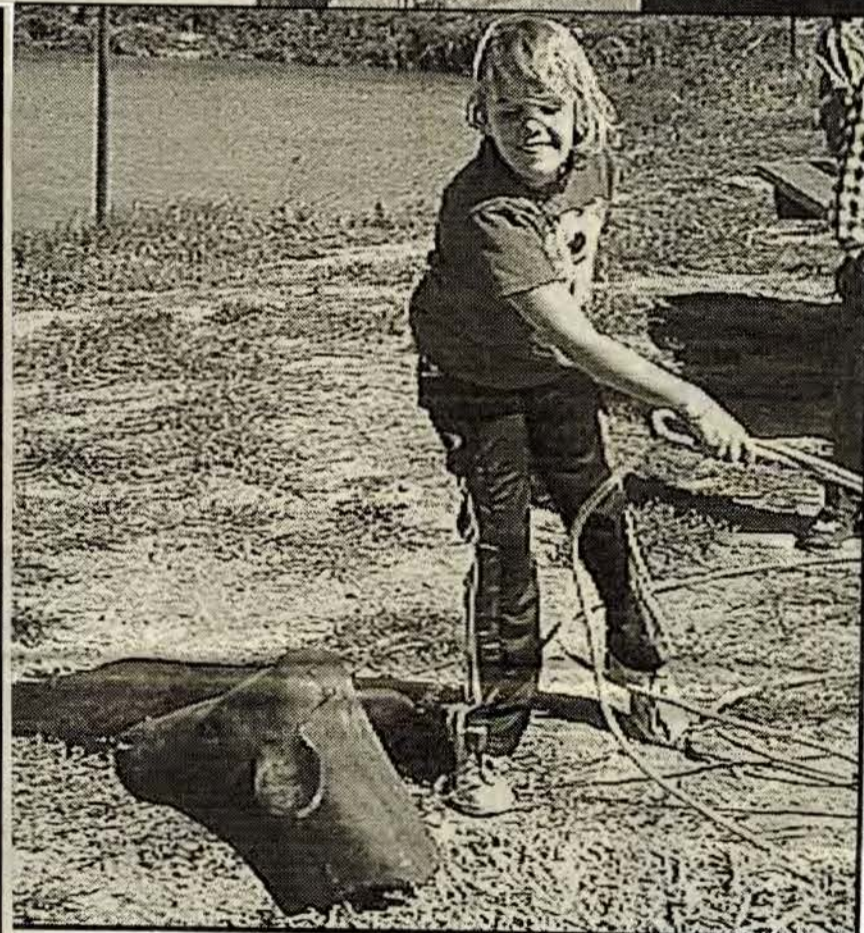
It was a day to show off all the knowledge and skills learned this past summer as the West Elgin 4-H Horse Club and Pat Wilson sponsored an Open House and Achievement Day. Demonstrations and dress-up stall competitions were just some of the activities held recently at a West Lorne farm. Above, Maryjo McWilliam takes a break in the day with her horse. At right, Michelle Keith works on her roping skills.



Youth Appreciation

The Optimist Club of West Lorne honoured some of the area's top students by handing out Youth Appreciation Citations & Awards last week. The students were honoured for their all-around accomplishments at their respective schools. Here Optimist Youth Appreciation Chairman Jim Coburn, left, and Optimist President Nancy Coburn, right, present the awards to, from left, Jesse Greenfield (Ald. P. S.), Matt Van Dyk (St. Mary's), Megan Regnier (St. Mary's), Daniel Fordham (Ald. P. S.), Maryn Fleuren (WESS Sr.), Craig Hoglund (WESES), Laura Jones (WESS Jr.), Richa Sharma (WESES) and Andrew Hentz (WESS Jr.). Missing from photo is Michelle Campbell (WESS Sr.).

NOV 22/99 W.E. CHRONICLE





Bill Mills of the Elgin Association For Community Living presents Alice Menard with a cheque for \$500 to go towards improving the accessibility of the theater for future theatergoers.

A "DRAMATIC" FACELIFT



Kiwanis members Ralph Chambers, Joan Johnston and Les Sewell look on as Kiwanis Treasurer Ray Jobson presents W.E.D.S. President Alice Menard with a cheque for \$1000.00 to go towards the theater renovations at the Dutton Town Hall. The money was raised through the Nevada Fund the Kiwanis Club has set up to help various groups and societies.

In 1971, Rev. Brian Foxton and his wife Eileen started West Elgin's newest society inviting the residents of the area to explore their flare for the dramatic. The West Elgin Dramatic Society (W.E.D.S.) has been going strongly ever since. With an average of two to three shows a year for the past 27 years, the residents of West Elgin have been entertained by comedies such as Nunsence, and dramas

as intense as The Diary of Anne Frank. W.E.D.S. has always been run on a volunteer basis, costumes have been provided by housewives, garage sales and seamstresses alike, and make-up is a group endeavor of deciding what just works. Every year the various people involved have trodded up the stairs of the Dutton Town Hall. The facilities have survived but

through the years the theatre has proven to be inadequate in areas such as wiring for the light and sound technicians, plumbing (no running water for the make-up room), and many an actor has had to run around the building from the old Jail in order to use the washroom facilities. The recent merging of the Township and Municipal Offices of Dutton Dunwich resulted in a major overhaul of the main floor of the historic Dutton Town Hall. This year, it was decided that it was the upstairs theater's turn for renovation. The proposed plan is for the

Upstairs to be made into a multi-purpose hall. The theater will remain, but it can be rented for small receptions, meetings, etc. The old seats have been removed from where they were bolted to the floor, and new removable seats are planned to be put in. Of course, all these changes don't just "happen". A grant from the Federal and Provincial Governments will match whatever amount W.E.D.S. can raise by the end of March 2 - 1. At this time the goal is to raise \$25,000 to give them a total of \$75,000 to put to use in the hall renovations. Work has already

begun at the hall, with volunteers working every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Lunch is provided for these volunteers. Any volunteers are welcome, and are appreciated, but those with skills in areas of plumbing, electrician and construction are needed more than anything at this time. W.E.D.S. is currently in a major fund-raising campaign. They are selling Red Maple Trees donated by VanBrenk Orchards for \$30.00 each, the trees are 7 - 8 feet in height. At the end of February volunteers will be going on a door to door campaign. They have started a mailing list for businesses and local service groups and they will be selling compost at the Home and Garden Show this spring. The overall goal for W.E.D.S. and the Municipality is to create a venue that can serve the various aspect of the communities needs as well as enhance the dramatic arts in our area. W.E.D.S is a non-profit organization that has donated 1/4 of the revenue from their productions to various charities. Let us, the communities of West Elgin be generous in their time of self-improvement that can benefit us all. Anyone with questions or who feels they can help in some way are encouraged to contact W.E.D.S. President Alice Meynard at 762-3723.



Two Minutes For Boarding

West Elgin Parks and Arena Superintendent Jeff Slater has been doing a lot of boarding lately, but a penalty hasn't been called. That's because this boarding is the introduction of advertising along the new boards at the West Elgin Arena. This, along with a new roof and updated bleachers, have really spruced up the arena for this coming hockey season. Here, Slater puts the finishing touches on one of the advertisements. The arena is expected to be set to go for skating this Tuesday.

West Lorne Horticultural news

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society met on April 13 with guest speaker Ken Molten from Ridgetown College. He spoke on landscaping and design and the courses available at the college. Plans were made for the bus trip on May 12 to Cullen Gardens, as well as for spring planting and the annual flower show (May 28). Eunice spoke on the trees and sign for the park. Thanks to all who helped plant the trees. The memorial tree has also been planted at the complex. The annual Garden Tour is scheduled for June 13. Anyone wishing to have their garden included on the tour, please call Mary Lippold at 768-1244.

MARCH 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle



Speech Winners

The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, hosted a "Speech Day" for students from the five local schools, of which three took part (Aldborough P. S., St. Mary's School and Dutton-Dunwich School). Here, legion educational chairperson Helen Mooser and Branch 221 President Doug Cavener present certificates to Shobha Sharma, left, (Grades 4-6 winner) and Theresa Simpson (Grade 7-8 winner). Maryjo McWilliam finished 2nd in the Grades 4-6 category and Megan Regnier finished 2nd in the Grade 7-8 category. In the Grade 1-3 category 1st place went to Amanda Russell and 2nd place to Courtney Besley. First place finishers also receive \$25 (\$20 for 2nd place, and \$10 for the remaining participants). Judges for the day were Amy Mooser, William Schneider and Marion Orchard. Thanks also to Gloria Palmer (timekeeping), Wendy Swan (secretary), Ruth Mooser (assigning speakers) and Margaret Cavener (refreshments).

MARCH 22, 1999

The West Elgin Chronicle

Medal Man

The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, paid tribute to one of its members this past week. George Johnson was on hand to show other legion members the latest honours he's received. The 99-year-old Johnson was recently presented with the John McCrae Medallion by the French Ambassador. As well, the Dutton resident showed off his French Legion of Honour Award. Johnson's honour also included a congratulatory letter from the Queen.

