



Outstanding Oratorical

The West Lorne Optimist Club held its annual Oratorical Contest last week at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne. Taking Top honours, and moving on to zones in Wallacetown on April 4, are Blair Noddin, left, and Risha Sharma. Presenting the medals and certificates is Optimist Oratorical Chairperson Jim Coburn. If successful, the pair will move to regionals in wallaceburg and finally the district finals in Nevada, for a chance to win a \$1,500 scholarship.

MAY 13, 2000

Photo by Karen Cormier



Blast from the Past!

46th annual Skating Carnival
MAR 2000

The West Elgin Skating Club packed the West Elgin Arena for two show recently as they performed their 46th annual Skating Carnival entitled "Blast from the Past." The Roaring 20s, Big Band and The 60s to Disco, Grease and Square Dancing, the stellar performances truly showed the amount of time and effort that went into producing the show. In top photo, Glencoe Precision Team wows the crowd with their skating skills. At left, Cassidy Sabo shows off her costume prior to hitting the ice. At right, Shauna Vandaele gets some last minute help with her skates from mom Kerry.

Photos by Karen Cormier

Special Speakers

The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, held its annual 'Speech Day' recently as area youngsters competing for cash prizes and a chance to advance to Zones. Taking top honours in the Grade 4,5,6 category were, in top photo from left, Robert Wilkins (participant), Blair Noddin (participant), Chantel Branget (participant), Cody McCallum (3rd), Kaitlin Kennedy (2nd) and Shobha Sharma (1st). Presenting the awards were Legion President Doug Cavener (rear) and Legion Education Chairperson Jim Orchard. In centre photo (Grade 7 & 8) from left are Cavener, Maryjo McWilliams (3rd), Dan Armstrong (2nd) and Megan Regnier (1st). In bottom photo (Grade 9 & 10) from left are Orchard, Shannon Kindornay (1st), Jessica DrummelSmith (2nd) and Cavener. Winners from the Grade 1,2 & 3 category were Cody MacKinnon and Risha Sharma.



Kiwanians Helping Kids

The Rodney Kiwanis club are ensuring the Rodney Library will have a new set of children's books once the renovation on the building is complete with a donation of \$500. The club sponsors the 'Kiwanis Korner', which is a special collection of books for preschool children. Here, library supervisor Shelley Fleming looks over some of the children books with Kiwanis representative Alan Youngash. As of April 3, the library will remain closed until August. The West Lorne Library will be open later as the Rodney Library is closed.

50th West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show a huge success

It was a wonderful weekend of music and dance talent at WESS as the 50th annual West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show brought together some of the areas most talented youngsters, along with an array of past performers.

Here are the results from the recent two-day event:

Piano Solo (age 10)

1. Clint Hilliard - 86

2. Sara Peternel, Danielle Schneckeburger, Sarah Sharp - 85
 3. Kim Krieter, Katherine Wright and Becky Lee - 84
 4. Rhonda Knight - 83
- Pop Piano Solo (age 10)**
1. Clint Hilliard - 87
 2. Becky Lee - 86
- Piano Solo (age 9)**
1. Justin Hwang - 87
 2. Krysta Walker - 85
- Junior Tap - Dance Group**
- Charlotte Noddin, Meghan Schnei-

- der, Nicole Hilliard, Clint Hilliard and Katy Miller - 86
- Intermediate Tap - Dance Solo**
- Erin Fleming - 87
- Senior Tap - Dance Trio**
- Breanne Podebry, Jay Hilliard, Brook Roest - 88

- Vocal Solo (age 10)**
- Katherine Wright - 87
- Vocal Solo (age 12)**
- Jonathan Wright - 90
- Violin Solo (age 10)**
- Caren Campbell - 90
- Piano Solo (age 11)**
1. Laurie Van'tvoort - 87
 2. David McWilliam, Erin Fleming and Jackie Hwang - 85
 3. Megan Close - 84
 4. Trina Lusse - 83
- Piano Solo (age 12)**
1. Stacey Gowan - 86
 2. Jonathan Wright, Jennifer Drummel Smith and MaryJo McWilliam - 85

3. Amanda Leonardes - 84
- Piano Solo (age 13/14)**
1. Vanessa Gray - 86
 2. Rebecca Gray - 85
 3. Hillary Krieter - 84
- Junior Jazz Duet - Dance**
- Charlotte Noddin & Katy Miller - 86

- Intermediate Jazz Trio - Dance**
- Sara Peternel, Kylie Hilliard and Erin Fleming - 86

- Pop Piano (age 12)**
1. MaryJo McWilliam - 86
 2. Jonathan Wright and Megan Close - 85

- Piano Duet (age 14)**
1. Becky Koscik and Matt Mistele - 89
 2. Rebecca and Vanessa Gray - 87

- Brass Trumpet Solo**
- Amanda Breen - 85

- Brass Trio**
- Daniel, Brian and Michael Van'tvoort - 85

- Piano Solo (age 14)**
1. Becky Koscik - 91
 2. Matt Mistele - 90

3. Amanda Gray - 89
- Pop Piano Solo (age 14)**
1. Matt Mistele - 90
 2. Jennifer LeBlanc - 88
- Pop Piano (age 15)**
- Holly LeBlanc - 91

- Vocal Solo (age 6)**
- Allison Kornacker - 82
- Vocal: Open Class (age 9)**
1. Vicky Close - 86
 2. Hillary Hodder - 84

- Fixed Vocal Solo (age 9)**
1. Hillary Hodder - 86
 2. Cassie Wright and Vicky Close - 85

- Pop Piano (age 8)**
1. Charlotte Schaeken and Tanya Van Raes - 86
 2. Molly Schleihauf - 85
 3. Molly McWilliam, Cassie Wright and Nicole Hilliard - 84
 4. Candice Conway - 83

- Piano Duet (12 and under)**
- Charlotte Schaeken and Justin

- Hwang - 87
- Vocal Trio**
- Brittany Jewell, Kari DeLouw and Kaitlin Kennedy - 85
- Vocal: Open Class (age 12)**
- Erica Silver - 87

- Piano trio**
1. Jonathan Wright, Jackie Hwang and Kim Krieter - 89
 2. Charlotte Schaeken, Katherine Wright and Amanda Mistele - 87

- Piano Duet (13 and under)**
1. Hillary and Kim Krieter - 88
 2. Jackie Hwang and Jonathan Wright - 87
 3. Amanda Mistele and Katherine Wright - 82

- Vocal Duet**
- Vicky and Megan Close - 87

- Spelling Bee Winners**

- Grade 7:** Jonathan Wright
- Grade 5:** 1. Craig Howard, 2. Katherine Wright
- Grade 4:** April Kornacker



Musical Memories

Musical talent, both young and old, converged on West Lorne recently as the West Lorne Kiwanis Club held their 50th annual talent show. Along with a number of very talented newcomers, the show also features a reunion of a number of past participants. Here, former Rodney resident Dr. Kathryn (Baker) Snodgrass returned home to be part of the show. Snodgrass is now a Doctor of Musical Arts in Tuscon, Arizona. With Snodgrass are WESS students and talent show participants Lindsey Hull and Darryl vanOirschot.

Photo by Karen Cormier

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Pastor's Study

By Betty Patterson

Mother's Day

We just celebrated Mother's Day yesterday and we are living in a day when the influence of Christian mothers is badly needed.

So many times I think mothers fail to speak out about the evils of our day because we feel so small, so insignificant; and we wonder what difference one voice can make.

But a little grain of dust can stop the most powerful machine and can grind elaborate engines to a halt.

If no one speaks out against evil, it becomes like a flood spreading over the whole land. Just recently, a huge ship ran

aground in the shipping area near Sarnia. The hull was damaged and water flooded in causing a real problem.

God's word refers to evil as being like a flood and the need of a standard to be raised against it. Isaiah 59:19 says, "...when the enemy shall lift up a standard against him." You and I, as mothers, need to become a part of that standard.

I believe mothers a few years ago caught this vision when they formed MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers) and they are making a difference in our society. As mothers, we have a wonderful opportunity to teach our children the importance of



Scouts Honour

The Elgin District of Scouts Canada recently honoured a number of its members, including a pair of local residents. Helena Van Vugt, left, was honoured with a 30 Year Long-Time Service Award, while Anna Podebry received a Provincial Council Medal of Good Service. Both are members of the First West Lorne Pack. APR. 17/00



Legion Life Members

The West Elgin Legion, Branch #221, honoured a few of its members with 'Life Membership' certificates at a recent meeting. From left are Jacque Mertick (accepting for her father George Berdan), George Lipold, Ed McCallum and Bernie Fluker.

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MVP Honours

West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, hockey team MVP honours went to Dan Schneckenger this year. The Roy Dos Santos Memorial Award is given each year to the team's top player. Here, Roy's brother Joe Santos, left, presents the award to Schneckenger.



Saving Clear Creek

Residents and organizations of West Elgin are doing their part in an effort to help save Clear Creek Forest, a 576 acre property located in Chatham-Kent, just west of Elgin. Nature Conservancy Canada is looking to raise \$100,000 and gather 3,000 signatures in their part towards obtaining the remaining \$1.4 million for purchase and stewardship. Here Gerree Hind, representing the West Elgin Nature Club, left, and Nancy Coburn, representing the Optimist Club of West Lorne, donated \$600 and \$30/35 signatures respectively, to Dave Martin, a volunteer the Nature Conservancy of Canada. If you wish to bring your support forward, signatures can be sent by phone (1-877-343-3532), e-mail (ontario@natureconservancy.ca) or by fax (519-826-9206.). Donations can be sent to 121 Wyndham St. N., Suite 202, Guelph, ON, N1H 4E9. To date, \$85,000 has been raised and 1,600 signatures received. Local contact for Clear Creek is Bill Prieksaitis at 785-0176.

2000



At Attention!

The Royal Canadian Military Engineer Cadet Corps #72 Squadron, West Lorne held their annual graduation and promotion ceremony at the West Elgin Legion. A number of cadets were honoured for their hard work and dedication over the past year, including Andrea LeClaire, who received a 'Silver Star.' Also receiving a 'Silver Star' were Josh Giles, Phil Fordham, Jan Kool and Ashley Swick. 'Red Star' recipients were Craig Bowery, Clayton Gillick, Rob Morrill and Alana Gibbons. Receiving a 'Gold Star' were Karen Bowery, Carl Oullette, Amy Denome, Whitney Deyle, Clayton Deyle, Josh Knight and Troy Schlehauf. APR. 17 /00



West Elgin Walkers

What better to do on a Monday morning than to go for a brisk walk with your neighbours! The 'Monday Morning Walkers For Nature Study' do just that every week and have visited many interesting sites including trails in Annie Christenson's Carolinian Forest and Clear Creek Forest. A video on the Anne Christenson walk is available by calling 768-2571. For information on taking part in the walks, call Marjorie Prieksaitis at 785-0176. MAY 22, 2000



Kiwainis Cash

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club continued with their commitment to the new West Elgin Pool as Treasurer Ray Jobson, right, presents pool committee chairman Graham Warwick with a cheque for \$1,000 along with Rodney Kiwanis Club President Vic Lapadat, left, who wants to thank the community for their continued generosity. The Rodney club has already met its second year commitment to the pool because of the community support. OCT 23, 2000



Hats Off Award

It has become a tradition at the West Elgin Legion - Friday night meat draws. And thanks to the Dutton Food Mart these draws run like clock work. Legion President Doug Cavener, left, showed the legion's appreciation by presenting a "Hats Off" Award to Dutton Food Mart managers Charlie Ivan and Luis Leonardes. MAR /00

Busy times ahead for West Elgin 4-H Horse Club

The 5th meeting of the West Elgin 4-H Horse Club was held Aug. 1 at Darlene, Stephanie and Sam Smith's home in West Lorne.

The evening began by watching a video entitled "Animal Hospital." It followed veterinarian students during their practical rotations. We witnessed a hip replacement in a German Shepherd dog, a foal being treated for a swollen brain and a race horse having surgery for colic, just to mention a few.

The pledge was then recited and the minutes from the June meeting were read and adopted,

along with the treasurer's report and the roll call.

Justin Van Beers and Danielle Le Claire gave reports on their experiences at the 4-H Members Conference held in July at Pearce Williams. They had two great days and highly recommended it to all 13-14 year-old 4-Hers for next year.

Trina Lusse filled everyone in on the first annual 4-H Summer Funfest held at Pinefore Park in St. Thomas on July 8. Everyone participated in games and a barbecue. Hopefully there will be better attendance at this free event next year.

The main business at this most recent meeting was to discuss 'Achievement Day' and the year-end wrap-up event. Since the last meeting the Achievement Day Committee met with Pat Wilson and set Sept. 9 as the date at Pat Wilson Quarter Horses (RR#2 West Lorne). It will be set up as an open house

with the 4-H members helping Pat host the event.

Committees were then set up to coordinate each task needed to make the day a success. There will be a demonstration committee responsible for arranging guest riders to show the audience different facets of horsemanship. A food commit-

tee, decorating committee and 4-H promo committee were also formed.

The group will also continue with their dress-up stall competition in groups to be assigned by the leaders at the next meeting.

Lastly, several suggestions were made about the year-end wrap-up. After much discussion a motion was passed to attend the RCMP Musical Ride being held at the Western Fair on Sept. 16. Since this is the same day as the 4-H Fun Day at the fair, it's an excellent way to help Elgin 4-H out.

Maybe Elgin will have the most people there again and win the \$300. Besides, if we go for the 4-H Fun Day we get in free and also get a free lunch. The musical ride is also free so it will be a great final get-together for the local club.

To end the meeting the group watched the video that Trina's dad taped during the campout at the Longhorn Ranch in June. Everyone joined in to say the 4-H grace and enjoyed a snack before adjourning the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 28 at Mac Lilley Farms (28322 Chalmers Line). Breeding will be discussed at this meeting.

AUG 28/00

4-H Awards night

The Wallacetown Agricultural Society paid tribute to a hard-working group of people on Oct. 23 as over 100 4-H members, along with their leaders and families, were welcomed to the 4-H Awards Night at the Dutton-Dunwich Community Centre.

A total of five clubs (the Dutton-Dunwich 4-H Goat Club, West Elgin 4-H Beef, Dunwich 4-H Field & Garden Club, Fingal 4-H Baking Club and the West Elgin 4-H Senior Horse Club) held their achievement programs at the fair. Inter-club and inter-county competitions were also held in 4-H beef, 4-H goat, 4-H dairy and 4-H field crops at the fair.

All of these clubs recognized their members with money earned and special awards to the Most Improved Member, sponsored by the Dutton & District Lions Club, and the Outstanding Member, sponsored by the Royal Bank (Dutton). The new Elgin 4-H Judging Club, which has plans for holding their achievement day at the fair next year, also took part in the awards night.

The Wallacetown Agricultural Society is proud to be able to host so many clubs and encourage these young people. Plans are already underway for next year, with at least one new club expected.

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Most Improved Member - Meagan Close (West Elgin Senior Horse Club), Nicole Jensen (Fingal Baking), Michael Van't Voort (Dutton-Dunwich Goat Club), Keith McCallum (West Elgin Beef) and Amanda Smith (Dunwich Field & Garden). Each received \$25 from the Dutton & District Lions Club.



Outstanding Member - Amanda Smith (Elgin Judging), Steven Burgess (Fingal Baking), Joe Veraart (Dunwich Field & Garden), Charlotte Bennetto (Dutton-Dunwich Goat Club) and Morgan McWilliam (West Elgin Beef). Each received a watch from the Royal Bank (Dutton).



Elgin Judging Club - In front, most improved are Peter Jones and John Philip Smith. In back, high achieving meeting, were Jennifer Smith, Maryjo McWilliam and Lydia Smith.

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West Lorne, Rodney Kiwanis Clubs

It was a time to look back on 50 successful years for both the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs as the two organizations held an anniversary

gathering at the Rodney Legion recently.

Members past and present had an opportunity to reminisce on past accomplishments of

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celebrate 50 years of service

each club.

On Oct. 5, 1950, 13 business and professional men met in the community hall in West Lorne prepared to form a Kiwanis Club. By Nov. 30 enough members had been recruited and there was a charter presented at the very first dinner meeting.

The club has always set its priorities on the young of the area and it's first project was a Hallowe'en party followed in the spring by the first Hobby and Talent Fair, which later became the Kiwanis Music Festival, still popular today.

Club members Harley Lashbrook, Ray Jobson,

Winfred Liepmann and Bob Walker each have received the Mel Osborne Fellowship, the highest Kiwanis award.

It was 1950 when two Kiwanians from London guided 25 Rodney men through the process of forming a Kiwanis Club. Those two men were Ernie Halpenny and Bert Cook.

And it wasn't long before they made their first donation, to the Winnipeg Flood relief fund.

Kiwanis in Rodney has consistently supported all events such as sports activities, help for the underprivileged, hospitals, sick children and housing. They

also played a major fund-raising role in the construction of Rodney's first pool and as well as the new West Elgin Pool, which is scheduled to open in 2001.

Mel Osborne Fellowship winners from the Rodney Club include Les Welch, Lynn Lashbrook, Bev Lashbrook, Arnold Lee and Sylvia Logan.

Along with congratulations from MPP Steve Peters and MP Gar Knutson, both clubs received acknowledgement from Ontario Premier Mike Harris, Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.



The West Lorne and Rodney Kiwanis clubs got together recently to share in the celebration of each club's 50th anniversary. Here, Harley Lashbrook, left, a 47-year member of the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, looks over a few scrap books with Duncan Colquhoun, a six-week member of the Rodney Kiwanis Club.

Local Kiwanis Clubs part of \$1 million gift

Southwestern Ontario Kiwanis Clubs of Divisions 3, 4 (West Lorne and Rodney) and 5 West have made a commitment to strengthening the approach to care at Children's Hospital of Western Ontario with the announcement of a \$1 million gift.

The Kiwanis Kids Centre will house an innovative child and family support program that will provide psychological and social support to families experiencing the trauma of serious illness.

The centre, to be housed in the new Children's Hospital of Western Ontario, will include social services, psychology, pastoral

care, child life services and art therapy.

"With this generous gift, the members of Southwestern Ontario Kiwanis Clubs of Divisions 3, 4 and 5 West have made the words of their motto action," says Tony Dagnone, President and CEO of London Health Sciences Centre.

The Kiwanis mottos are 'We Build' and 'Serving the Children of the World.'

"With their help we will build a children's hospital that will encompass all the needs of our patients and their families," adds Dagnone.

DEC. 2000



Legion Loot

The West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, are doing their part to help ensure that the West Elgin Pool is up and running this summer through a financial donation. Here, Legion President Doug Cavener, left, presents a \$500 cheque to West Elgin Pool Committee member John Eagleson.

MARCH 2000

West Elgin Adult Club helping needy children

The regular meeting of the West Elgin Adult Club was held Sept. 11 with a potluck lunch. West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick spoke to the group on the work the municipality has accomplished and answered a few questions.

The group also received a heart-warming feeling as they checked out some photos of their support of "Sleeping Around The World," a non-profit organization started by Murray Dryden, son of former hockey star Ken Dryden.

The organization is supported by volunteers who use donated money to travel to overseas countries and deliver bed kits to impoverished children.

The kits are made in the country they are delivered to, thus it gives local families some income.

The next adult club meeting is scheduled for Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. at the West Lorne Complex. Margaret Mistele's brother, Bill Lutin, will be in attendance to show pictures.



Members of the West Elgin Adult Club were able to see first hand how their donations to "Sleeping Children Around The World" were distributed to needy children.

Our Heroes

We may have entered a new millennium but residents of West Elgin have not forgotten their past as a good crowd turned out at the West Lorne cenotaph for this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies. In top left photo, Dutton resident Jim Orchard takes a moment to remember his comrades who gave their lives for Canada. In top right photo, Master Corporal Carl Oullette, part of the Honour Guard from 72 Squadron Royal Canadian Military Engineer Corps., stands on guard. At right, bugler Marcie Charron plays 'The Last Post' as piper and legion member Jim Carmichael stands at attention. In bottom photo, West Elgin Legion, Branch 221, President Ray Jobson takes the lead with his fellow veterans in honouring their memories.

Photos by Ruth Ferguson



Watch the Birdie

Members of the West Elgin Nature Club were busy this past year keeping track of the number and variety of birds in Elgin County. At their most recent meeting at the IOOF Hall in West Lorne they held its annual Christmas Bird Count. Here, George Preiksaitis, left, Jennifer Newport and Bill Preiksaitis were kept busy assembling the returns. The bird count is for the local area only and 62 members took part. A total of 79 species were sighted, which is comparable to the previous four years. However, the total number of birds had declined from a 1996 record of 22,648 to the lowest count in five years - just 13,364.