

WEST LORNE
WOMEN'S
INSTITUTE



TWEEDMUIR
HISTORY

VOLUME 7 2001 - 2003

COMPILED BY LEOLA LAWRENCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE #
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY -	1-13
CURRENT EVENTS -	14-45
EDUCATION -	46-77
HEALTH & WELFARE -	78-90
LOOKING BACK -	91-99
SERVICE CLUBS -	100-120
SOCIAL -	121-134
SPORTS -	135-142
WEST LORNE W.I. -	143-157
ELGIN CTY W.I. -	158-164
WEST ELGIN COUNCIL -	165-171



Artistic talent recognized

West Lorne resident Kristyn Watterworth, right, age 16, with her father, Don, and grandmother, Mary Bell, look over the sketches she was commissioned to do of last year's Ag. Hall of Fame inductees. The framed artwork now hangs in the new Elgin Agricultural Heritage Room.

(photo contributed)

being used. The county funded changing the room into a place to showcase Elgin's agricultural history.

The heritage room also houses artifacts and photographs of past farming activities as well as having a mural showing past and present rural scenes.

Agricultural Heritage Room Opened

Just a short time after the Elgin Federation of Agriculture inducted three more people into the Elgin Agricultural Hall of Fame, another testament to agriculture in the county was opened.

The Elgin Agricultural Heritage Room was filled to capacity for the official opening in late February.

It has a local connection, in that Kristyn Watterworth, 16, of West Lorne, created the pencil sketches of several hall of fame inductees which have been framed to hang in the room. She was among several people being considered to do the sketches.

Her father, Don, who is a member of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, suggested her as a candidate. After seeing samples of her work, the EFA chose her to do sketches of last year's in-

ductees. "It was good seeing them," said Kristyn, commenting about having her art hanging for the public to see.

The room, located in the Elgin County Administration Building on Sunset Drive in St. Thomas, is a joint effort of the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, the County of Elgin and the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

The idea for the special room came from an idea Paul Mistele, a member of the EFA Heritage Committee and a director with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, shared with West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail, in that he was looking for a place to hang the plaque bearing the names of those inducted into the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

While the walls were all full, there was a cloak room just inside the main doors that was not



PADFIELD FUNERAL HOMES



*is pleased to announce that **Bill Denning** has joined the staff.*

Bill is a licensed Funeral Director who now resides in Rodney. We welcome Bill to the community and wish him much success.

JAN. 15, 2001



RECOGNIZE MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

Recently honoured by the Bank of Montreal for 25 years of service with the Wardsville and West Lorne branches, Ann Neville, pictured above, said that it doesn't feel that long. She has served as teller and currently holds the position of Financial Service Manager. She received a long service certificate, a diamond pin in the bank's coat of arms and a wall clock. Fellow staff also presented her with a gift.

JAN 2001



Senseless destruction

The Elgin County OPP are investigating a break and enter at the TLC Corner Store in West Lorne on May 3rd. Thieves prised open a door to gain entrance and a quantity of cigarettes, dvds and cash was taken. They also did a significant amount of damage to the interior of the store, pouring oil and salad dressing on the floor, breaking ceiling tiles, spraying pop over the walls and items on the shelves. Here, owner Deb Skorbinski surveys the pile of videos which wound up on the floor when the racks were pulled from the walls. Anyone that might have seen anything or have information regarding this incident is asked to call OPP at (519) 631-2920 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-265-444. **MAY 7, 2001**

West Lorne Vehicle Licence Office Closing

With the closing of the West Elgin Sports Centre this Saturday, the vehicle licence issuing office located there will also be closed.

The last day for vehicle licence related work will be Thursday, Feb. 1st.

The Ministry of Transportation commented that they are in the process of completing the Business Demand

Analysis to determine if there is a need for this service in the community. If it is decided to go ahead with re-opening another office, it would be a minimum of 3 months to establish.

Until that time, people will have to travel to Dutton (at CoTrac Ford) or in Bothwell at the corner of Elm and Main Streets.

JAN. 29, 2001

West Elgin Hydro Sale Done Deal

With the arrival of the cheque from Ontario Hydro for the purchase of the Municipality of West Elgin's hydro utility, the sale has now officially been completed.

The \$1.5 million cheque was received last week with the turnover of service taking place on February 1st.

At this time, only \$5,000 of this money has truly been allocated, having been earmarked as a donation toward the new community pool in Rodney.

How to use the remainder of the funds still has to be determined but it has been suggested that a possible use would be to pay down the sewer debt, which for the West Lorne system would be about \$760,000.

Village customers will have new numbers to call regarding hydro issues. For power outages or emergency situations, residents of West Lorne will be required to dial 1-800-265-1190 while Rodney residents will call 1-800-265-0545. These numbers will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For billing or service inquiries, the number for both Rodney and West Lorne is 1-877-430-4575. This number, dedicated to village residents of West Elgin, is only accessible Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

FEB 2001

Aldborough farmer inducted

It was a great surprise when Phil Schleihauf learned that he was going to be inducted in Elgin's Agricultural Hall of Fame.

"I was very surprised, it never entered my head," said Mr. Schleihauf. Paul Mistele called to share the good news. "I couldn't hardly believe his words."

He was nominated for this honour by the Elgin Cattlemen's Association.

Mr. Schleihauf has farmed for close to 70 years and is still taking an active role, working on the farm whenever he is able. His son, Kevin, now manages the day-to-day operations.

The farm, located on Silver Clay Line in Aldborough Township, has been in the family since 1854. "My father was born on that farm," he said.

Altogether the Schleihauf's farm 600 acres which supports a beef herd, mainly Hereford, as well as cash crops including soybeans, corn and hay for the cattle.

It used to be a purebred Hereford herd and Mr. Schleihauf had played leading roles in provincial and national Hereford associations. He was named to the Canadian Hereford Association Honour Roll in 1984.

He is a past president of both the Ontario and Canadian Hereford associations. In the early 1980's he was the Canadian representative to the Hereford World Congress in Uruguay, when breeders from around the world gathered to form policy and exchange ideas.

Mr. Schleihauf served on the Rodney-Aldborough Agricultural Society for 50 years before retiring in 1994. He served as president of the board and was superintendent of the Beef Cattle Show for many years.

He was a member of the Aldborough Boys Corn Club, sponsored by the fair. As an adult he served as a 4-H leader for 20 years.

Among his other accomplishments are having been president of the Aldborough Old Boy's Association, chairman of the Ontario Bull Sales committee, past president of the Orford Farmers' Co-operative, past president of the Rodney Kiwanis Club and past chairman of the Canadian



Totally Surprised!

Rodney area farmer Phil Schleihauf was caught completely off-guard when he was called to be told he had been chosen to be inducted into the Elgin County Agricultural Hall of Fame. He is pictured with the plaque he received to commemorate the occasion.

Automobile Association of Elgin-Norfolk.

He is a past reeve of Aldborough Township and was Elgin County Warden in 1955.

Phil and his wife, Mae, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in January.

The Elgin Federation of Agriculture inducted Mr. Schleihauf, Diana Anderson, of Vienna, and Alvin Lindsay, of Aylmer, into the Elgin Country Agricultural Hall of Fame earlier this month. They were

chosen "in recognition of achievement and service within the realm of agriculture."

Two local youth also received award at the EFA annual banquet held in St. Thomas. Stephanie Smith, of West Lorne was named Elgin's top 4-H member for 2000 while Marijn Fleuren, of Rodney was honoured for his rural accomplishments with a Youth Achievement Certificate.

The West Elgin Chronicle

MARCH 2001

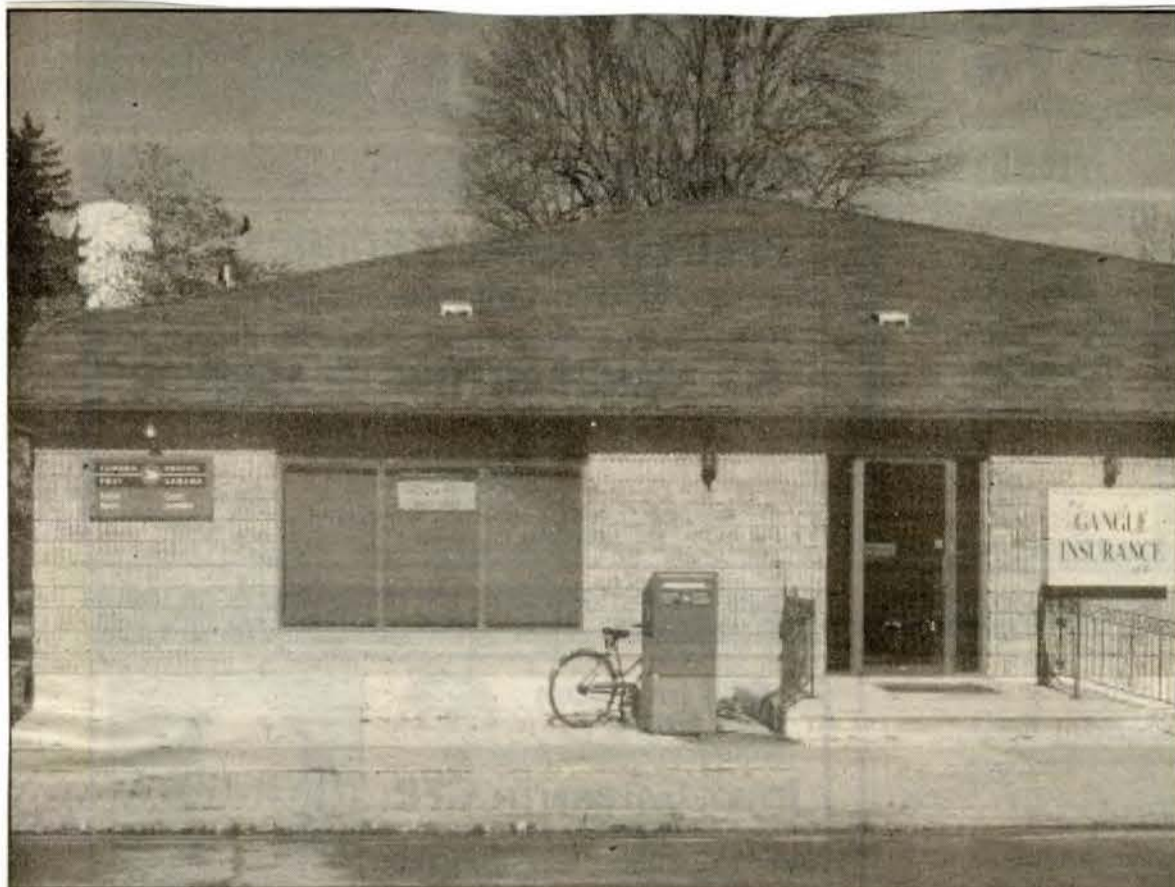


Signs of the times

Art Marentette, left, Don Watterworth, Linda McCallum, Peter Vergeer and Joe Krebs were among those who gathered locally to show their support of the farmers' Day of Action. The West Lorne 401 overpass was lined both sides with farmers and non-farmers alike, many who joined the long convoy of cars and trucks, many bearing signs, as it passed on it's way to Guelph.



Erin Smith of Rodney shows off one of her finished products at Swain's Greenhouse in Eagle, during the weekend opener of the Poinsettia Festival. Although the weather lately has been anything but festive, there is only 21 shopping days left until Christmas. Does that get you in the mood? DEC/01



If you know what Canada Post's plans are with this building, the people of West Lorne want to hear it. West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail confirmed last week they have met a dead end with getting the corporation to re-open the post office. McPhail and others were upset about the company's lack of understanding on the town's desire to have a full fledged Post Office. Currently postal services are being conducted out of B& J Variety on Graham Street. McPhail says the people have shown satisfaction with new arrangement, but says the municipality is still monitoring the situation and will do everything to keep the issue alive.

OCT 2001

Ocolisan takes Top Honours at Junior Beef show



Paula Ocolisan took top honours in the Top Meadow Farms National Junior Beef Heifer Show held at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto this month. Approximately 400 4-H members from across Canada participated in this event. 4-H members must first qualify in their own country to take part in this show. Paula

was first selected Senior Champion Showperson and then competed in the overall championship class of each age division and was selected Grand Champion Showperson Overall.

Paula received a beautiful banner, numerous ribbons and also the use of a 18' Livestock Trailer for a year, with her name on it, sponsored

by Granton Trailers.

Shown in the above photo is Eric Rincker (Judge), Paula Ocolisan and Mike Geddes (Top Meadows Farms representative.) Photo taken by Brown photography, courtesy of Ocolisan family.

NOV. 2001

Erie Flooring shows employees appreciation



Sharon Burd of West Lorne was the winner in the West Lorne IGA draw for a Pepsi/7UP beach chair and umbrella, courtesy of Pepsi. Burd is seen with her friend Bill Santarossa and West Lorne IGA's Steve Browne.



Some of the approximately 200 employees of Erie Flooring who gathered for a picture on June 13.

Employees of Erie Flooring and Wood Products gathered for a photograph this month during a luncheon and employee appreciation.

The year 2002 has been seen as a good year for the factory after achieving its ISO 9001:2000 certification. ISO establishes standardized

codes of good management practice for business.

With a current staff of approximately 200 employees, the privately

owned company has produced hardwood flooring for residential, commercial, and truck markets under its current ownership since 1970.



Steve Browne of West Lorne IGA hands over a brand new gas barbeque to Merle Massé-Ciparis and her children Luke and Daniel Ciparis. The barbeque was compliments of West Lorne IGA and was drawn at the store draws held last week.



Bank of Montreal has given a corporate donation to the Parent Child Resource Centre for its new Early Years program. Handing a \$500 cheque to Janet Pinder of PCRC is Wendy Vergeer (Mgr Bank of Montreal West Lorne) and Sherry Thomson (bank employee). DEC. 23, 2002

Success for Cdn Food Grains Bank

The Local 'Corn Share' Committee over the last two years has directed individual grower donors to contribute their one acre growing projects directly to the head office of the C.F.G.B. instead of through our Committee. Our community growing project this year has involved less people because the crop grown was soya beans, not corn, and previous involvement by former participants was

channeled into their own individual projects. The plot of land supplied by the John and Walter Miller families was planted by Ron Downie and harvested by John Miller. W.G. Thompsons did the spraying with material supplied by Monsanto.

Northrup-King donated

DEC. 9, 2002

the seed beans. All the above participants are to be thanked for their generosity.

In spite of the near disastrous drought conditions a modest yield of 32 bushels per acre was achieved. The net return to this effort of over \$5000 when supported 4 to 1 by our Canadian Government resulted in a \$25,000 value to assist in the day to day food needs of needy people somewhere in a war or weather ravished part of the world.

The Corn Share Committee is appreciative of the people of West Elgin who continue to support our efforts, either in the community project, through their own grain value donations or with direct cash through us or direct to Winnipeg office.



Erie Flooring in West Lorne did an amazing job raising money for the USA Relief Fund. Erie Flooring management raised \$1620, Employees \$1620 and also Deland Auto kicked in \$100 to bring the grand total to \$3340. Pictured are left to right, Saul Marques and Bruce Weber (IWA Reps), Alan Vandenberg (General Manager), and Marilyn Tuffin and David Pinsonneault (Union Reps).

Frost devastates local fruit crops

Record low temperature levels last week have created havoc on local crops, especially fruits, in some cases destroying the crop.

Local fruit growers are reporting disaster crops after blooming plants were bit by frost for three consecutive nights from Saturday May 18 to Monday May 20.

Farmers nearer Lake Erie, are reported to have fared a bit better than more inland farmers.

Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien VanBrenk and owner of VanBrenk Orchards outside Dutton says he has fared better than most because his apple trees bloom later because of

the cooler lake effects. Unfortunately for VanBrenk, he still reports crop damage.

He suspects his plums and cherry crops have been destroyed.

VanBrenk says his apple crop is in better shape but he does have spots in his fields that have been damaged where there will be fruit.

VanBrenk says he had called earlier last week and the crop insurance companies had heard similar stories and claims made across the province by Wednesday.

Jeff Miller of Port Talbot Orchards of Dutton/Dunwich says he has never seen such destructive frost in his 25

years of growing fruit. He is reporting large damage in their peaches and plum crops and suspects the 2002 crops has been destroyed. Pears were also in question by the end of last week.

Strawberries were unknown by press time and a decision on the berries could not be made before the weekend.

Marianne Hatch of Bluegrove Blueberries of West Lorne says it was too soon to tell what damage the berry patches had but earlier plants were suspected to be hurt by the frost.

Many of the growers *The Chronicle* talked to, pointed out the major

problem was the mix of sunlight in the day and major frost in the evening. During the day the sun was making plants bloom faster, but the heavy frost killed the bloom later in the day.

The growers all agreed the most devastating night was Sunday May 19. Growers noticed ice in their watering pails were quite thick by Monday morning.

Crops were not the only reported damage. The local Purple Martin population is reported to have dwindled after the birds were said to have starved without food - in particular, bugs, which did not come out in the cold.

Wallacetown Fair Winner



Eight year old Scotty Schaffer of Iona Station is the winner of a new bike after having the winning raffle ticket at last fall's Wallacetown Fair. Presenting Scotty with his new bike is Jeff Knight (left) of Knight's Hardware in West Lorne and Gerald Boyd, 1st vice president of the Wallacetown Fair.



West Elgin farmer Paul Mistele accepted a plaque this month from the Ontario Association of Food Banks for his help in feeding the needy and hungry in Ontario. The OAFB presentations were held in Peterborough. *JUNE 24 / 02*



Vicki Slack was the winner of two new brand new Moskoka chairs courtesy of West Lorne IGA and the Coca-Cola Company. Handing the chairs to Slack were IGA employees Josh Knight (left) and Ryan Browne. *JUNE 2002*

The West Elgin Community Health Centre building committee has received a corporate donation of \$5000 from RBC Royal Bank. Handing over the cheque at both ends is Terry Eckersley (left) Bank Manager of the Rodney RBC and Sharon Longbottom manager of Dutton RBC. Accepting the cheque in the middle is Doug Graham and Leta West of the WECHC building committee. Over seeing the cheque presentation is RBC mascot Leo.



The winner of the barbecue from Knight's Home Hardware is Daniel Blair of Rodney (at right). Turning over the barbecue is Jeff Knight. Every Home Hardware in Canada gave away barbecues as part of a special store promotion. *MAY 2002*

West Elgin's Mistele elected to OFA executive

Paul Mistele has added more to his plate, and it is not another helping of pork or chicken.

The pork, chicken and cash crop producer from West Elgin was recently elected to the four person Ontario Federation of Agriculture executive committee.

Also sitting on the committee are incumbents Allan Gardiner, Bette Jean Crews and Terry Otto.

Ron Bonnett, a beef cow-calf producer from Algoma District was also acclaimed as the new President of OFA. Jack Wilkinson has retired as president but has become the new president of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers.

This is just one of many positions Mistele has taken on in the past year.

Mistele is also chair of the West Elgin Community Health Centre Board of

Directors, President of the Elgin Pork Producers, Chair



Paul Mistele

of the Farm Animal Coalition of Elgin and a member of the Environmental Committee for Ontario Pork.

Mistele said his biggest challenge will be working with the many liaison committees he has within his OFA responsibilities, including six committees representing many different commodities.

Mistele is also community minded and can be seen at various public gatherings.

Dealing with grief can be hard part of job

A good sense of humour needed to help unwind from emotions of work



Funeral director Bill Denning finds helping people cope with their grief and plan their funerals can be more rewarding than it is difficult. *Chronicle photo*

Formerly **Town & Country Restaurant**
Under Same Management

The 3 SISTERS
Licensed under LLCB
231 Graham St., West Lorne • 768-1760

SENIORS SPECIAL
January & February
10% DISCOUNT
on dinners after 4pm

Winter Hours • January & February
Monday to Sunday ~ 9am to 8pm

New website for The Chronicle

The staff of *The Chronicle* are proud to announce we have a new website to better meet the needs of our readership.

Our new website can be found at:
<http://TheChronicle-online.com>

The new site offers up-to-date weather temperatures from the London Airport including long-term weather predictions from The Weather Network.

Our new site also offers a section where stories will be archived from the previous weeks.

In the upcoming months, more changes will be made to the site, with our readers in mind. We also remind people that not everything in the paper is found on the website. Subscriptions are still available to send *The Chronicle* anywhere in Canada, the USA and the world. Call our office at 768-2220 or drop into 242 Graham Street, West Lorne for more information.

JAN. 27, 2003

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

At just 24 years old, Bill Denning has dealt with more grief and death than virtually anyone else his age.

"At times, it can be very challenging. It can be very emotionally draining," said



A day in the life ...of a funeral director

Denning, funeral director at Padfield Funeral Home.

Being in a small town, it makes the job at lot harder at times when, for example, he has found himself arranging the burial of a friend or a friend's parent.

As a funeral director in a city, he said it would be much less likely he'd know the people facing the grief or facing grief of his own.

"It's difficult in this business to separate yourself from the day-to-day job," Denning said. "You don't just clock off at five o'clock and forget about it."

He said the absolute worse is planning a funeral for a child.

When a 90-year-old member of the community dies, the funeral becomes a celebration of a life well-lived, but when a child dies, Denning said it's a different kind of mourning and much harder to deal with.

"It's brutal," he said. "It's so unnatural and it's so emotionally draining."

And because of the private nature of the job, he said he can't just talk to his friends directly about what he's feeling.

"Everything that happens here, I have to keep myself. You have to be able to vent in other ways," said Denning. That's where he said having a good sense of humour can help. He's also a member of Rodney's volunteer fire department and finds the adrenaline rush of that job can help release some of the bottled-up emotions of being a funeral director.

"That helps you get through a lot," said

Denning.

While living and having an active life in a village of about 1,200 people means knowing everyone and sharing more personally in their grief, it can also make some parts of losing a community member a little easier.

Denning said by knowing most of the people who come in to plan a funeral, there is already a more comfortable feeling between them that helps make the process easier.

"I think it's easier for folks who come in here and see a familiar face," he said.

"The good outweighs the bad," said Denning, adding he enjoys having a good rapport with the people in the community.

He said after planning a funeral and sharing in something as intimate as a funeral, when the mourning is over, he often has found he has new friends in the community.

And Denning finds the job rewarding in knowing that he is able to directly help people in the community during such a difficult time.

"When they come in, they're upset and not wanting to be here. By the time they leave, my job is to make sure they don't have to worry; that everything is done for them," he said. "That's what it's all about: helping people celebrate one's life."

To make it a celebration, he encourages people to include personal items that were important to the person who has died, which Denning said can sometimes mean see-

ing golf clubs set up next to a casket.

Denning grew up in a family of funeral directors and has been around grief, mourning and the celebrations of life that funerals present, for all his life.

It was just a natural step for Denning to take on a funeral director's role as well and at the age of 19, he was one of the youngest funeral directors out there, entering the working world.

From Strathroy Denning worked in larger funeral homes in secondary roles before eventually venturing out to Rodney to become the funeral director at both the Rodney and West Lorne chapels, out from under the shadow of his parents, both of whom are funeral directors.

He said the average age of students in a funeral director program is 30 and that most are moving into it as a career change after working in another line of work first.

Others have some post secondary education first before taking the program.

It leaves Denning as one of the youngest funeral directors around, something he said is much more noticeable in a small town.

He said it takes some people who don't know him by surprise and sometimes his friends are uncomfortable with his job at first.

"People have a lot of questions about what I do, but eventually, they develop a comfort-level," he said.

Dr. Tenki moving to Rodney

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Dr. Michael Tenki is moving his practice.

But the latest doctor to leave Four Counties Health Services is staying in the area.

"I like the area. I have my own practice. I live here. Why would I leave?" said Dr. Tenki.

Come Sept. 1, he plans to have his practice open at 226 Furnival Road in Rodney.

He's moving out of the medical clinic in Newbury where last month, he announced he was leaving the hospital.

"I'm feeling very good about the move," said Dr. Tenki last week.

Last month, he wasn't certain what his future plans would be when his two-month's notice was up at the hospital.

Patience were concerned he would leave the area but between words of support in letters to the editor in *The Chronicle* and *The Bothwell Spirit* and directly from the communities, Dr. Tenki decided to stay.

He said support from the communities had a

"big role" in his decision to stay.

When he makes the move to Rodney, he said patients shouldn't notice much change in the transition, other than the location.

He chose Rodney because the bulk of his patients come from areas south and west of Wardsville and he thought it would be a more central location.

He expects his clinic will run full-time and said his practice is "pretty much full" at this time.



"I won't be taking new patients until I settle in," said Dr. Tenki.

After that, he'll look at how many more patients he can handle in his practice.

He closed the deal the last week of July and, last week, already had the phones connected as he begins the work of getting the practice ready to open in just a few weeks.

"It all happened in a week," said Dr. Tenki about how fast he came to be in possession of a clinic.

"I'm feeling very good about the move," he said.

Business is for women only

Sisters Pace Fitness offers exercise plan just for women

By Scott Hilgendorff
 The Chronicle

While it's run by sisters-in-law, Sisters Pace Fitness Centre is building success as a place for women to come and work out together in West Lorne.

"Women like to work out alone. They like to work out with women only," said Linda Keech, who operates the business with her sister-in-law, Shelley Coad, a medical secretary in London.

She said women are not as comfortable working out in front of men and decided there was a need for a place of women-only to be able to work out in the area.

Growing up in West Lorne and attending high school there, Keech said it seemed like a logical place to come back and do business, also seeing a need for a new work out facility.

"It was like me coming back home and giving something back to the community," said Keech, who believes that growing up in the area, she received a lot from the vibrant community as a member of its youth.

Opening Sisters Pace Fitness Centre, Keech and Coad offer a 30-minute hydraulic circuit training work out done to music.

"I've been having excellent results with a program like this," said Keech, deciding to make it available to other people.

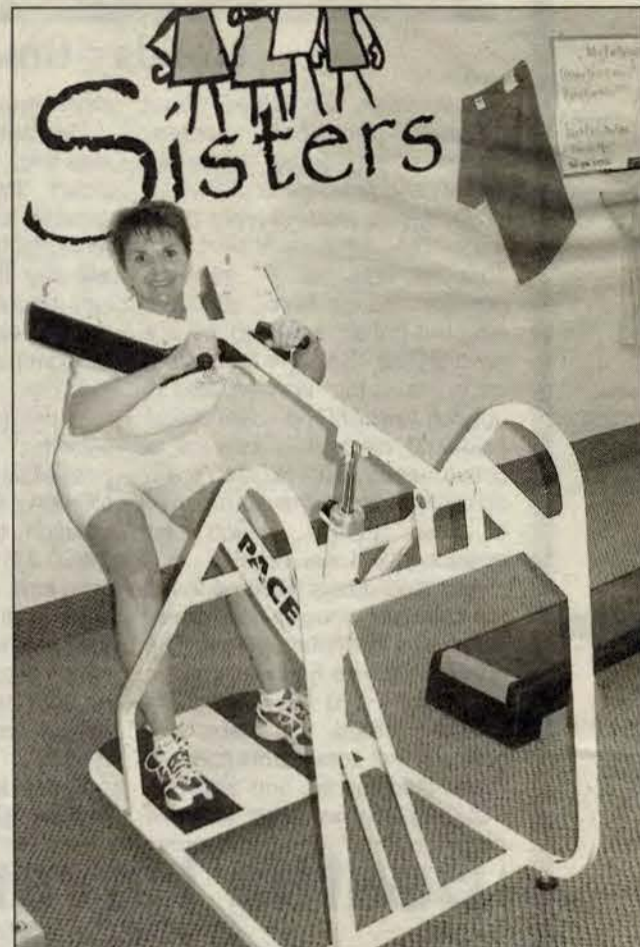
The equipment and work out program is geared toward toning and shaping a woman's body.

While men want to bulk up, Keech said women want to lose inches and gain body tone.

Instead of building bulky muscles, she said the 30-minute work out is designed to reduce inches while providing shape to a woman's body.

There's no big, heavy weights, but hydraulic equipment instead that simply tones up muscles between aerobic exercises done throughout the work out.

Since opening in early June, in less than a month, Keech said their clients have already been noticing lost inches and pounds and is looking forward to seeing the



Linda Keech, above, has opened Sisters Pace Fitness in West Lorne with her sister-in-law, Shelley Coad. results in members in six months.

Another plus to the women-only format is the opportunity it's providing to socialize.

Of her more than 80 clients now, she said many find a chance to socialize and have fun during their workouts.

The facility is open Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and again on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

They offer a range of membership plans that can accommodate snowbirds that leave in the winter or campers who only spend their summers here.

Home invaded

A residence in West Lorne was invaded by four suspects last Tuesday. Elgin OPP report that at the noon hour January 7, four suspects forced their way into the Jane Street residence as the lone occupant of the home slept.

The male victim was awoken and threatened by the suspects while they stole numerous pieces of electronic equipment.

The suspects fled in a small, older model red car in poor condition with a loud exhaust.

The suspects are described as being the following:

Suspect 1: a black male, in his mid-thirty's, 191 cms (6'3"), 113 to 127 kgs, (250-280 lbs) with short dark hair.

Suspect 2: a white male, late twenties, in his late twenties to early thirties,

175 to 183 cms (5'9" to 6'), with a couple days growth of hair on his chin, with a shaved head.

Suspect 3: a white male, 168 to 170 cms (5'6" to 5'7") in his late twenties to early thirties.

Suspect 4: a white male, 170 cms (5'7") in his late twenties to early thirties.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Elgin County OPP at 519-631-2920 (call collect if long distance) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Elgin OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood said last week they are hoping that members of the public will be able to identify these suspects and any information they can provide will lead to an arrest.

JAN. 13, 2003

Licence office will open again

By Scott Hilgendorff
 The Chronicle

The Ministry of Transportation and the Municipality of West Elgin have entered into an agreement that should see a motor vehicle licensing office open again by this October.

"It's a win-win for everybody," said Mayor Duncan McPhail.

The office will be located in the old town hall on Rodney's main street, the same building that houses the Tiny Tots daycare facility.

Daycare staff will operate the office and it will also be open on Saturdays.

McPhail said there are minor renovations needed to set up the part of the building used as the community policing office and the facility will have to be made handicap accessible. Cost estimates on the

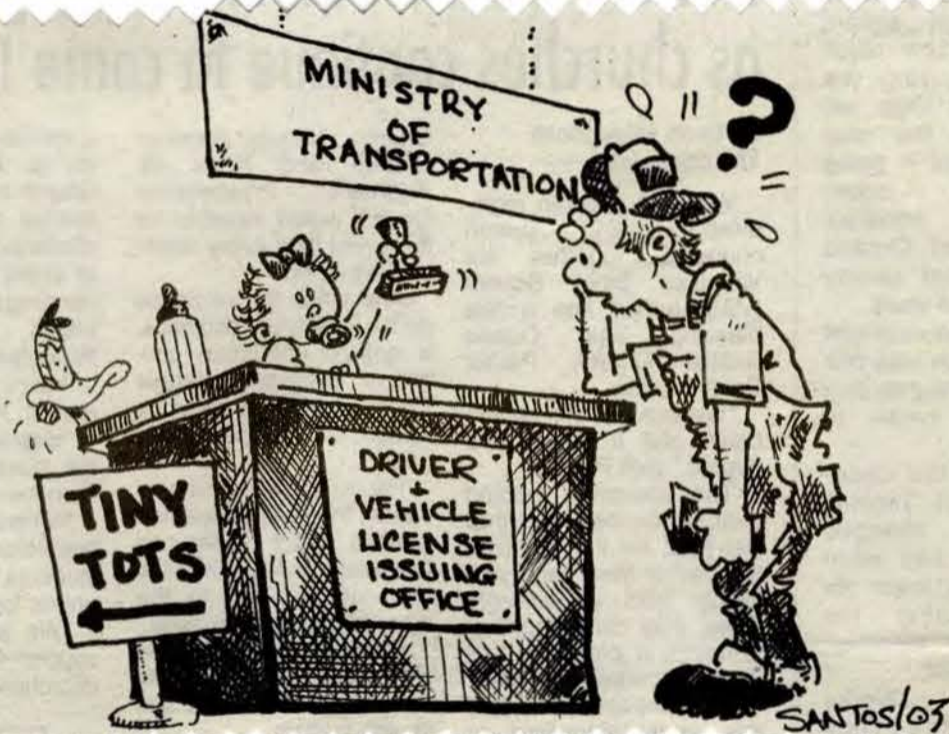
work are not available yet but McPhail said they hope to have the work completed by October.

The business community had been worried there would never be another office after the original one closed more than two years ago when the sports store that operated it closed.

Applicants to host another office had been unsuccessful in meeting ministry guidelines to operate a licensing office until the success of West Elgin's latest application was announced last week.

McPhail said having the office in Rodney will be great for drawing business to the area from surrounding communities such as Ridgetown and West Lorne.

The Ford dealership in Dutton is the only other licensing office in western Elgin County.



The Chronicle



Jeff Knight, owner/manager of Home Hardware in West Lorne presents Barb Wemp and her son Taylor with a Dremel Advantage Rotary Saw won in a nationwide draw. Wemp was the second-prize winner.