



Rodney Ambulance Service general manager Jim Price, left, presents a print honouring the memory of late owner Bob Padfield to Glenn Szusz, the service's Rodney station supervisor, to hang at the Rodney station. Another print is being hung at the Dutton station as well.



Blair Schweitzer and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail hold Schweitzer's first place trophy.

## Schweitzer on top at Safety Rodeo

The Truck Safety Rodeo for municipalities was held in Woodstock at the end of April. Representatives competed from Elgin, Oxford, Haldimand, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties.

West Elgin municipal workers Blair Schweitzer and Gary Long were among the competitors. Schweitzer came away with a first place for Elgin County and Long a close second.

Pictured with West Elgin's Blair Schweitzer is West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail.

Schweitzer advances to the provincial AORS (Association of Road Supervisors) Finals to be held in Mitchell this September.

July 3/2003

# Crops are finally planted

## Will be fall before full yield impact will be known

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

It will be fall before farmers know how badly late planting has reduced their yields but last week, the last of the soybeans was expected to be in the ground.

"There were still some going in Wednesday and Thursday," said Adam Hayes late last week, a soil specialist for this area with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

He said some clay fields were kept too moist between periods of rain this April and May that they weren't able to dry out until last week's hot and dry weather.

Many farmers had to switch to soybeans because it was too late in the season to plant corn while rains continued to fall late this spring.

The timing got tight this past week for soybeans as well and Hayes said some crop insurers sent notices out preparing farmers for potential

claims for unseeded acreages.

However, he said it looked like most farmers would get the soybeans in before Monday, when farmers became eligible for insurance claims.

"I'm assuming there won't be much unseeded acreage," he said.

Regardless of the crops getting in the ground, Hayes said most crops were in late which means yields will likely be reduced.

The full effects won't be known until the fall harvest, which will also be later this year and causes another concern for the potential of further harm to the crops if there's an early frost.

"If you have an early frost in the fall, that could cause some serious problems," said Hayes. The crops won't be able to dry down as good and will be of poorer quality if that happens.

Those who did have corn planted this year were able to take

advantage of the decent weather for weed control applications and the season has actually not been as bad for winter wheat which is harvested next month.

Hayes said the recent wet weather has caused some concern for fusarium disease which can reduce the quality of the wheat crop but they are still monitoring how much of the disease is present in crops.

Meanwhile, he said the next big concern they are watching is the soybean aphids.

The tiny insects damaged crops across the region two years ago by sucking moisture and nutrients from the plants during an especially dry summer.

They greatly reduced yields and some Kent County fields have reported the presence of aphids this year.

Hayes does not know of any in Elgin County yet, but said they are watching for any signs.

# Elgin fights for traffic fine money collected by OPP on Highway 401

For The Chronicle

Elgin county council is determined to lobby the province for legislation change that will allow Chatham-Kent to refund money for traffic fines collected on Highway 401.

An existing practice now means that tickets issued by 22 Ontario Provincial Police officers who patrol Highway 401 are now paid to courts in Chatham-Kent, even if the offence took place in Elgin county.

Administrator Mark McDonald said April 22 that practice is in place because Chatham-Kent had its Provincial Offences Act courts in place before Elgin. POA courts are where routine charges like speeding and other traffic offences are processed.

McDonald said that while Chatham-Kent agrees the money from those fines for Elgin tickets on Highway 401 should come back here, the legislation won't allow them to do it.

Councillors agreed the most effective approach is to meet with the Ontario attorney general and explain the situation. Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters has been asked to help schedule a meeting.

Going to Toronto for the meeting will be McDonald and the mayors of the three western municipalities

affected, Jim McIntyre of Southwold, Rien Van Brenk of Dutton/Dunwich and Duncan McPhail of West Elgin.

In other business:

- County council deferred a decision on an emergency power generator for the administration building. While a staff report recommends improvements to the generator since the fire pump has been added to it, councillors want to see more details. It is used to provide power for essential parts of the building during outages.

- Councillors agreed with a staff recommendation in a report to lease a 2003 Ford F-150 pickup truck from Talbot Ford for a one-time payment of \$15,507. The vehicle is to be used by the county engineering services department.

- Elgin municipalities overspent \$61,000 on road maintenance in 2002, a report detailed. Municipalities are responsible for maintaining county roads and are reimbursed for the expense.

- Elgin county's portion of providing social assistance dropped by 2.6 per cent in 2002, said Chester Hinatsu, director of Ontario Works. That equates to a saving of \$300,000.

Hinatsu said the department is facing big challenges in keeping up with technological changes and

computer needs. A capital needs study and property assessment is expected in May.

- Elgin council indicated it has no interest in a financial partnership for the future disposition of the current Elgin Manor. Instead, a report on alternate uses for the property and building have been referred to Southwold township which must respond by July 31. A new Elgin Manor is being built and will be ready by June, right beside the existing facility.

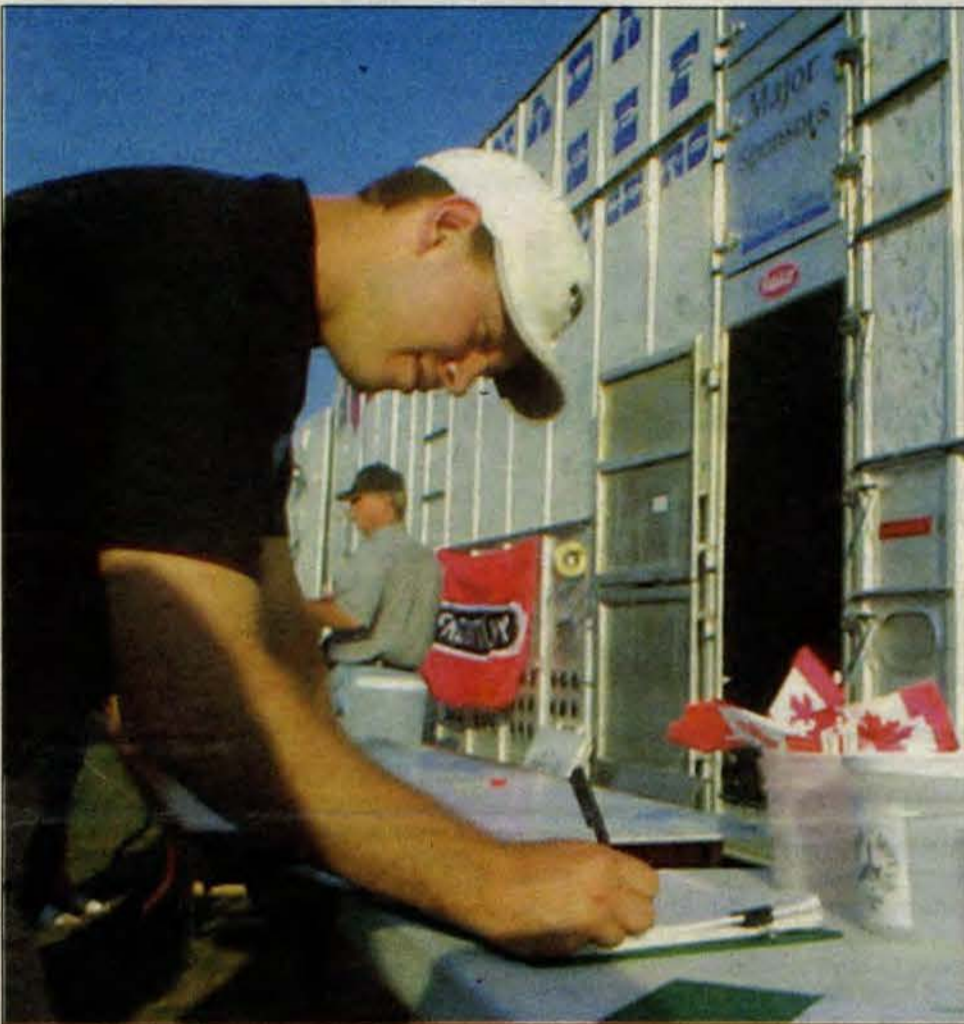
- Council approved the purchase of furniture and other items for the new Elgin Manor. They included 12 chairs, three folding tables, four domestic refrigerators, three compact refrigerators, one range, an exercise table mat, upright bike, space saver staircase lounge chairs and bed monitoring system.

- Council reviewed a report that outlined the risk of potential insurance claims from workplace injuries for people working under job creation programs. Although the county could potentially be liable for a claim if an employee was injured, councillors said they were willing to continue with the program, since its benefits outweigh the risks, in the opinion of the county's management team.

SEPT 18

# Petition comes to Talbotville

Cross-country beef caravan makes a stop on its way to a Sept. 17 protest in Ottawa



Dave McKillop signs a petition calling for federal government action on BSE at a rally Sunday at the Talbotville Stock Exchange.

Submitted photo

For The Chronicle

TALBOTVILLE — West Elgin resident Dave McKillop would like to be a farmer.

But, says the 19-year-old Fanshawe College student who grew up on a farm, "I can't afford to."

And that's one of the reasons McKillop signed a petition Sunday in Talbotville calling on Ottawa to demand an international protocol setting rules how governments respond to BSE (mad cow disease).

McKillop's parents, Bob and Nancy, are beef producers who have seen the price for their animals in their feedlot drop by \$800 each in one year.

And McKillop, himself, has experienced the fallout from the closure of borders to Canadian beef following discovery of BSE in one Alberta steer.

He owns two 4-H steers and doesn't know if he'll be able to cover his costs when he sells them.

"I've spent money on my steers and you don't even know if you'll get your own cash back."

McKillop was among about 250 cattle producers from the London region and supporters who

gathered here Sunday to raise awareness about the impact of BSE on the agriculture community and on the nation at large.

They signed a cross-country petition calling on Ottawa to seek international guarantees that future outbreaks of BSE will be dealt with scientifically.

West Lorne farmer Paul Mistele, an executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, estimates the BSE crisis has cost Elgin as much as \$50 million in lost income.

"I think that much. I know that much."

He said the nation's economy will lose \$7 billion in activity.

He said Canadians don't realize international borders remain largely closed to Canadian beef, and he said politics, not science, are much to blame as nations use BSE to further other agendas.

For example, Japan's ban on imports of Canadian beef just happened to bolster a domestic industry during an election, he said.

"It's all about politics."

Focal point of Sunday's rally was a 42-foot

livestock transport bearing thousands of signatures of producers collected in Alberta, where the campaign began, and since Sept. 2, from B.C. east.

The trailer was destined for a rally yesterday on Parliament Hill.

Dale Young, a former cattle producer who left the industry for the Alberta oilpatch, but now is retired, said he organized the truck with Tim Wishewan because, "Somebody has to."

Said Young, "It's a pretty worthwhile cause. It's going to affect everyone ...

"In Alberta, we say we grow two things — we grow oil and we grow beef."

Also on board was Canadian Alliance MP Peter Goldring, who represents Edmonton Centre-East.

Goldring, whose riding is urban, said the campaign has opened his eyes to the needs of the beef industry.

# Power generating project getting world-wide attention

## Unique project has eyes of the world on Erie Flooring

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

A power generating project unique on a world-wide scale could be coming to West Lorne if the final Ministry of the Environment approvals are granted.

If so, eyes around the world will be on Erie Flooring.

"It's a very important milestone for us. We have a ton of interest from all over the world. People want to see it up and running," said Brian Richardson, Chief Financial Officer of DynaMotive Energy Systems.

The Vancouver-based company is one of the key partners in the project that will see a 2.5 megawatt electric combined heat and power generator developed at Erie Flooring. It produces a form of "green energy", meaning it is produced from a renewable source and produces lower emissions in compliance with the Kyoto Accord the country entered almost a year ago.

While the technology is not new, using a process called pyrolysis to convert wood waste into a product called bio oil, Richardson said how they are implementing it is unprecedented on a commercial level. The bio oil is then burned in turbines and produces less emissions than traditional fuels.

In the Erie Flooring project, technology from DynaMotive and Orenda Industrial, another key partner, will produce the bio oil from wood waste and a gas turbine will be modified to use the bio oil and produce 200 megawatts of power.

In addition, steam produced in the process will be used to heat the facility and for drying its finished products.

While Erie Flooring uses wood waste to produce steam now, the new process would be a more efficient



The smokestack at Erie Flooring often is seen releasing black smoke that concerns some local residents. While the plant complies with environmental controls, a new form of energy creation will help reduce emissions.

Chronicle photo

use of the waste. The wood waste would be used for generating power and the steam would be a byproduct of that process instead of the wood being used directly as a heat source for the steam.

"It will be the largest plant in the world of this type of technology," said Richardson.

The project moves the technology from research applications to a commercial level and he said potential customers around the world are waiting to see it in use at Erie Flooring.

"IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT MILESTONE FOR US. WE HAVE A TON OF INTEREST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD."

— Brian Richardson  
DynaMotive

"We'll want to show it off," said Richardson.

"It's going to be green energy. Hopefully this will take concerns away from residents about our smokestack," said Alan Vandenbrink, general manager, at Erie Flooring.

He said the company, which manufactures hardwood flooring, decided to seek the DynaMotive initiative as a way to reduce the facility's greenhouse gas emissions.

"If it works, I will be very excited," said Vandenbrink, stressing final approvals for the project are not in place and the commercial application is new.

"The emissions are cleaner than natural gas," he said. It's the cleaner form of energy that has Ontario Power Generation, a major provider of power in the province, interested and working as a partner in the project as well.

To date, OPG has made an investment in the feasibility study for the project and, if it's successful, James Perry, senior business development engineer, said it would allow OPG to increase its investment in the project.

The project, which also includes the Magellan Aerospace division-Orenda Industrial, a key provider of the components needed, has already received an undisclosed grant from Sustainable Development Canada.

OCT. 23/03

Continued on Page 2

The Chronicle's  
**COMMUNITY  
CALENDAR**

**August 2** - Rodney Legion Dance to "Manpower" 9pm - 1 am. \$6 at door.  
**August 2** - West Elgin Legion Yard Sale 7:30am - 3:30pm  
**August 3** - Port Glasgow Fish Fry, Music & Fireworks ~ 4:30pm to dusk  
**August 5** - Free lawnbowling for students 7 pm West Lorne Lawn Bowl Club  
**August 6** - Beef BBQ 5-7pm, Clearville Park 678-3657 or 674-3546  
**August 7** - Free adult lawn bowling 7pm West Lorne Lawn Bowl Club  
**August 9** - Iona Fish Fry 5-7pm Iona Hall  
**August 10** - Rodney Legion Ham & Turkey Bingo 2pm  
**August 11** - WEDS Performing Arts Camp. Call Lesley 762-6262.  
**August 12** - Geri Fashions at the Bobier Villa 10am to 3pm  
**August 18** - Vacation Bible School ~ Rodney Community Centre  
**August 23** - Rodney Kiwanis Elvis Dance, West Elgin Arena 8pm  
 For tickets call 768-2825  
**August 23 & 24** - Talbot Trail Of Yard Sales ~ New Glasgow to Port Burwell  
**Sept. 2** - West Elgin Chamber Meeting 7:30pm. Rodney Old Town Hall Meeting  
**Sept 9** - West Lorne & Community Hort. 7pm. Jennifer Grant  
**Sept. 9** - West Elgin South Aldborough Neighborhood Watch Meeting ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion  
**Sept. 10** - Ham & Turkey Smorgasbord, Iona Station Baptist 5-7pm - West Elgin Comm. Policing Committee, 7:30pm.  
**Sept 12-13-14** - Rodney Aldborough Fair. Come on out!  
**Sept 15** - Dutton Dunwich Hort Soc. Annual Potluck Supper Meeting. Speaker Dianne Vaughan St. Johns Church 762-2440  
**Sept. 16** - Rodney & District Horticultural Society ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion  
**Sept. 17** - Pre-Anniversary Beef Supper, Duff Church, Largie - Dutton Dunwich Chamber Meeting 7:30pm. Council Chambers  
**Sept. 20** - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Society Fall Plant/Bake sale 8am Centennial Park  
**Sept. 20** - 10am Guided walk on Dutton-Dunwich Trans Canada Trail  
**Sept 21** - 182<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Service Iona Station Baptist ~ 11am  
**Sept 21 - 27** - Legion Week  
**Oct. 14** - West Lorne & Comm. Hort. 7pm. Bonsai speaker.  
**Oct. 15** - 'Funshop 9 for Seniors' ~ 9:30am - 2pm, Rodney Legion • 785-0460  
**Oct. 20** - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Soc. meeting St. John's United Church. 7:30pm. Speaker Tom Intven - bulbs  
**Oct. 21** - Rodney & District Hort Soc. Presentation Of Autumn with mums and ornamental grasses by Parkway Gardens  
**Nov. 1** - Annual Bazaar Auxiliary to FCHS  
**Nov. 11** - West Lorne & Comm. Hort Christmas Craft Night 7pm.  
**Nov. 17** - Dutton Dunwich Hort. Soc. meeting 7:30pm. Speaker Mary Kernohan. Christmas Decorating. St. John's United Church  
**Nov. 18** - Rodney & Dist Hort Society Christmas Workshop  
**Nov. 28** - 'Christmas in the Park' Dutton  
**Dec. 9** - West Lorne & Comm. Hort. Pot Luck Dinner ~ 6:30pm  
**Dec. 9** - West Elgin South Aldborough Neighborhood Watch Meeting ~ 7:30pm, Rodney Legion

This service has been brought to you by the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and will be published monthly in the Chronicle (last issue of each month). Please call 768-2220 fax 768-2221 or Email: chronicle@bowesnet.com to have your event published at NO CHARGE.

# Paintball park set to open this spring

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

One of North America's most popular extreme sports is gunning its way into West Lorne.

Ballistik Paintball Park has set its sites on a May opening at the edge of the village.

"We're pretty excited about doing it," said Lydia Hawken.

Working with paintball enthusiasts Perry and Kim Penney, Lydia said she and her husband Don thought the area was ready for an organized paintball facility. Using a portion of their 50-acre property, the group is in the midst of constructing two paintball fields and already have ambitions for more in the wooded area behind their Graham Street home.

"We've got one field just about done," said Lydia.

The wooded field features tree trunk bunkers positioned throughout a wooded area.

The goal will be for each of two teams to retrieve a flag in the centre of the playing field and get it back to their main bunker.

The challenge is to do this without getting "marked" by a paintball fired from a type of air-powered gun called a marker.

The second field is for a

game called "speedball" where teams compete in an open field in a faster-paced game that can last minutes instead of hours like the first game.

The area will be netted off to protect viewers who can watch the game from an area of picnic tables being set up.

Safety is a priority of Ballistik and Lydia said they have purchased top-of-the-line equipment including face mask with full protection including ears.

The games will be refereed and time on either of the fields has to be booked ahead by at least six players to form two teams of three.

Any teams over six players will have two referees for serious competition.

There will also be open days where anyone can come out to try the sport, tentatively on every second Friday.

Markers are set to fire paintball pellets at 280 feet per second which Lydia said is a little slower than some fields but adds to the challenge because if an opponent is quick, he or she can duck the marker and stay in the game longer.

"It's challenging," said Lydia. "It's really been growing in popularity."

Later this summer, they hope to hold a competition as a way to try out for a Ballistik team that will compete at tournaments like an international one the Hawken's recently attended in Toronto.

Team members will be given free use of the fields and equipment to practice and train for the tournaments in exchange for working as referees when people book the fields.

Lydia said they are aiming for next year to have the team competing and are hoping maybe even this year, to already host their first tournament on the field.

They're also looking at setting up a Wednesday night old-timers league.

Lydia said West Elgin council has been very supportive of the project as they seek a zoning variance to allow the sport.

While they hope to be operating by mid-May, she said they are aiming for an official opening celebration in June.

Lydia and Kim will be working the administrative side of the operation while Don and Perry will be in the fields working as referees.

For more information, people can check out the Web site at [www.ballistik.ca](http://www.ballistik.ca).

## New editor has joined team at The Chronicle

The Chronicle welcomes Scott Hilgendorff as its new editor.

The graduate of the Ryerson School of Journalism brings almost 11 years of daily and weekly newspaper experience to the team at The Chronicle, officially joining the staff full-time March 24.

Hilgendorff comes to The Chronicle from The St. Thomas Times-Journal where he works as an editor and reporter.

He is a former employee of publications within The Signal-Star

Publishing Group in Huron and Bruce County, now part of Bowes Publishers Limited and sister papers to The Chronicle.

He began working as a reporter at The Kincardine News in Kincardine before moving to papers in Strathroy, Goderich and Seaforth. In Goderich he was news editor before becoming the editor of The Huron Expositor in Seaforth, leading it through an award-winning redesign.

He brings to The Chronicle team a strong

sense of community news and a drive to produce well-rounded coverage that reflects all aspects of the community from the news stories that affect daily life to feature stories that help reveal what makes the communities in western Elgin County so special.

"We welcome Scott to our team at The Chronicle. With Scott's experience and professionalism, we look forward to positive coverage of our community's life and its needs," said Publisher Shirley Slaats.

237 Furnival Rd., Rodney • 785-0670  
Proprietors: Brian & Julie Scafe

## Fairles' FOODTOWN

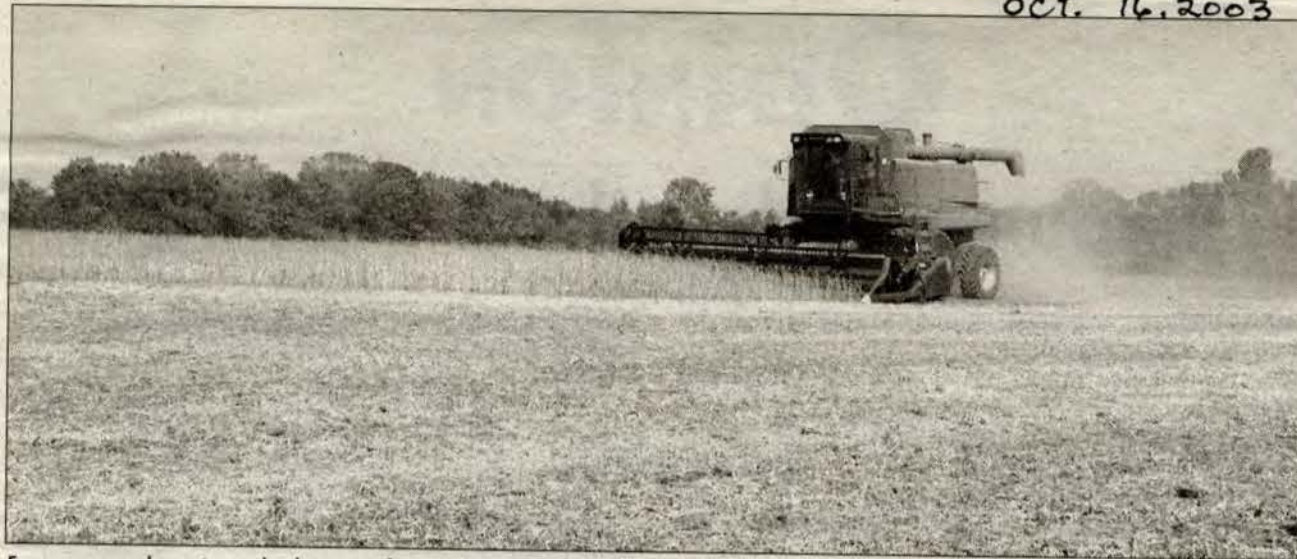
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**Specials Start Saturday, March 15th to Friday March 21st**

 <p><b>Fresh Butcher's Pride ROASTING CHICKENS</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>\$1.49</b></p> <p>lb.</p>	<p><b>Black Diamond CHEESE BARS</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>\$4.99</b></p> <p>Old Cheese \$5.49 600 g Selected Varieties</p>
<p><b>Maple Leaf Comed Beef Brisket Sweet Pickled</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>\$2.99</b></p> <p>lb.</p>	<p><b>SWANSON DINNERS</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>2/\$4</b></p> <p>Selected Varieties 280 - 345 g</p>
<p><b>Cloverleaf White Albacore tuna</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>\$1.77</b></p> <p>170 g Selected Varieties</p>	<p><b>STRAWBERRIES</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>\$1.99</b></p> <p>1 lb. Clam Shell</p>
<p><b>Heinz Beans or Pasta</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>59¢</b></p> <p>398 ml Selected Varieties</p>	<p><b>Pepsi, 7 Up, Mountain Dew or Schweppes</b></p> <p style="font-size: 2em;"><b>2/\$7</b></p> <p>12/355 ml Selected Varieties</p>

**FOR COMPLETE FLYER DETAILS SEE IN-STORE**



Farmers across the region took advantage of warm, dry weather to bring in their crops. Harvest nears completion now after a wet, even snowy start to the season.

Chronicle photo

## Lady beetles taking a bite out of western Elgin County

For The Chronicle

They're not your typical, pretty ladybug — these little insects bite, as residents across the region found out last week.

They're an Asian lady beetle, an insect lured out of the soil by warm fall temperatures and the local soybean harvest, said Pud Hunter, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Aylmer.

Hunter said in late summer, the beetles burrow into the soil when temperatures cool and stay there over the winter.

But warm weather which blanket-

ed the area last week, lures the beetles back out.

As they become active, they fly around, Hunter said.

Specifically, these Asian lady beetles were introduced to the United States about seven years ago to fight an infestation of another insect. They gradually moved northward.

"It has taken seven years for their population to build up," said Hunter.

The beetles found their way to the shores of Lake Erie and other large bodies of water and for that reason, will probably be seen in larger numbers in Lake Erie communities.

The reason there are so many is

because they have had an entire year to populate before they've become active and started flying around.

The beetles feed on insects, aphids and humus layers.

Some are known to bite, said Hunter, but they are considered harmless.

"I've not heard of any issues because of their biting," said Hunter.

He said anyone walking near or along the Lake Erie shoreline will notice them and may get bit.

It's advisable to wear long sleeve clothing, he said.

June 12, 2003 - Page 9

## Mandatory labels could benefit despite producer fears: Mistle

For The Chronicle

Mandatory country of origin labels on food sold in the United States could actually be an advantage to Canadians, suggests Paul Mistle, an executive member of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and a local pork producer.

As of October, 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Agricultural Marketing Service, is issuing country of origin labeling guidelines for voluntary use by retailers who wish to notify their customers of the origin of beef, lamb, pork, fish, perishable agricultural products and peanuts.

The mandatory use of this labeling is scheduled to take effect by Sept. 30, 2004.

In a post-Sept. 11, 2001, world, country of origin labeling, on the surface at least, is seen as an attempt by U.S. officials to further allay fears of bio-terrorism attacks.

But Canadian producers and, in particular, Ontario pork and beef producers, see the labeling as a very misguided attempt to deal with the perceived threat. And, in fact, the legislation smacks of non-tariff barriers, argues Paul Mistle.

"It is somewhat of a misguided effort to safeguard American industry, because it doesn't really address some of the issues in a practical way because of the way the processing industry is structured."

Simply put, the labeling guidelines leave far too many questions unanswered notes Mistle, a west Elgin pork producer.

"You may have an animal processed in one area and then that side goes somewhere else for further processing. And what if an animal is moved at three or four weeks of age on a truck into the U.S. and then reared there on grain from the U.S.. Then are they in fact Canadian pigs or are they American?"

Furthermore, said Mistle, with the high quality of Canadian pork and beef, the labeling guidelines may just backfire.

"It's our opinion at Ontario Pork that this would almost be an advantage for Canadian hogs because we feel we have a superior product when it comes to flavour, taste and lean yield."

And ultimately, it will be the consumer and primary producers who will absorb the cost of country of origin

labeling.

"That's why we don't think it is practical," explained Mistle. "It would put a tremendous burden on our industry to all at once have to come into compliance so quickly. You would have all this extra paperwork for every truck going down the road, for every ship crossing the sea."

In fact, suggested Mistle, the country of origin may be important to some people, but the nutritional value is probably of far greater significance. And to that extent, the issue is likely more about protecting U.S. markets.

"This is just a ploy for a non-tariff barrier on a product to keep it out of the U.S."

In 2001, approximately 800,000 tonnes of pork was exported from Canada, with close to 340,000 tonnes destined for the U.S.

On top of that, Ontario alone sends about 30,000 feeder hogs each week into the U.S. and about another 8,500 market animals.

"So if the border were to be made unduly accessible," noted Mistle, "then what would happen is that we would have an extra 40,000 pigs a week that would need to be processed in Canada and this would put a lot of pressure on our own capability here and that would be a price driver in itself."

And with a little more than 16 months until mandatory labeling, Mistle is confident U.S. authorities have plenty of time to beat a hasty retreat on this contentious issue.

"I think once the (U.S.) government thinks this out clearly, without the lobbyist pressure, you'll see a regressive type of movement on this issue."

It is so blatantly in abuse of world trade rules. This is almost Never Land."



Paul Mistle

Nov 13/03

The Chronicle



Drier weather late last week and on the weekend allowed many area farmers to get their corn crops off. Harvest is late this year due to a wet spring delaying planting, but corn yields are up this year. Soybean crops, however, faced a 10 bushel/acre loss this season.

Chronicle photo

## Corn producing high yields, soybeans were not as strong

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

Soybean crops have come in at about a 10-bushel per acre yield loss while corn is coming in at about 10 to 20 per bushel gains this year, despite a late planting season this year.

"The crop didn't look too bad," said Albert Tenuta of the soybean fields this year. He is a field crop plant pathologist from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food located at Ridgetown College.

But for the soybean crop, he said the problem came this summer when hot and dry weather hit.

"Those conditions had an impact on seed size," said Tenuta. The hot and dry conditions occurred as soybean pods were beginning to fill. The lack of moisture, presence of soybean cyst nematodes and some damage from aphids saw a 20 to 30

per cent reduction in the size of seeds.

But for corn, it's been a more positive story.

"So far, in the yields that have started coming in, it's been above normal," said Tenuta.

He said corn is more tolerant to the hot and dry weather that affected the soybeans and there was still enough rain to give corn the moisture it needed.

"We had enough rain at just the right time," said Tenuta.

He also said late-planted fields should still produce positive results when they are harvested.

Corn fields in the Dutton area faced the greatest impact from the wet spring because they have heavier soil than in West Elgin and take longer to dry out.

Those fields are being harvested

later, but Tenuta said farmers should be pleasantly surprised by their yields there as well.

He said the main concern on later-harvested fields is corn stalk rot.

Wet conditions this fall have slowed the harvest in many fields but Tenuta cautions farmers to possibly consider taking corn off a little wetter than they would like if the corn stalks are starting to fall because of the rot.

He said the yield loss from fallen corn as they try to harvest it could cost more than having to dry the corn crop after harvest if it is still too wet when it's brought off the field.

"There is quite a bit of stalk rot that is starting to develop," he said.

But with drier weather last week-end and the latter part of last week, Tenuta said most farmers are finding they've been able to get their crops in.

## Pounds of beef given away

For The Chronicle

Elgin County Cattlemen said thanks Saturday - one customer at a time.

Their local association gave away 1,200 pounds of lean Ontario ground beef to shoppers at Dutton Food Market.

The producers were saying thanks for continued consumer loyalty to beef which has helped sustain the industry through a mad cow disease (BSE) scare.

Canada is the only country in the world with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) where beef consumption has been unaffected, said Ian McKillop of Dutton, vice-president of the Ontario Cattlemen's Association.

"We're extremely grateful."

With prices down \$300 to \$400 for each animal following the collapse of exports, the impact of BSE on cattlemen has been devastating, McKillop said.

"But if we couldn't move the beef as well as we have for the last few months, it would have

been just awful."

Customers who lined up for the Dutton market's 8 a.m. opening said it would take more than one cow with BSE in the Canadian herd to scare them away.

"As far as I'm concerned, there was nothing wrong with beef," said Helen Jones of Rodney.

In fact, Dutton Food Market owner Luis Leonardes said that if anything, demand for beef is up.

"The consumer confidence in Ontario beef hasn't diminished. Our sales probably have been stronger."

McKillop said Friday's announcement that the U.S. border is to be partly reopened to Canadian beef is good news.

But, he also said, it's only a first step toward a return to normalcy.

"It's a major step, but by no means are we out of the woods. There's still a major crisis."

In the meantime, he said the government must continue support programs.



Andi Owen, right, a volunteer with the Elgin County Cattlemen's Association gives Walter Wojcik a pound-and-a-half of lean ground beef as members of the beef industry said thanks to area consumers who continued to eat beef despite May's mad cow disease scare.

Chronicle photo

# West Elgin teen charged in McDonalds axe robbery

The Elgin County OPP have arrested a West Elgin teen following a robbery at the McDonalds on Highway 401 (Dutton) on Jan. 1.

At 9:49 a.m. a lone male armed with an axe and with his face covered with a balaclava, entered the restaurant and demanded money from the manager. As the manager tried to open the safe, the suspect was scared away prior to getting any money.

The suspect fled the scene in a black sport utility vehicle, and was arrested later that day in London. The vehicle was reported stolen from a West Elgin residence Dec. 27. The vehicle was found abandoned in West Elgin.

Charged with robbery, possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possession over and disguise with intent is 18-year-old Levi Hopkins. He is to appear in St. Thomas court to answer to these charges.

Police have also arrested two 17-year-olds in connection with this case. They are both facing charges of attempted robbery and possession over \$5000 (in relation to the stolen vehicle).

JAN. 8, 2001

## The 2001 West Elgin Downhill Derby results for our local racers

The following were the winners of the West Elgin Downhill Derby held in West Lorne on September 1, 2001.

Racers from all across Elgin County and neighbouring communities took part in the races which saw hundreds of people come out to West Lorne to support the kids.

Division A winners.

- 1st place- Elizabeth Neumann.
- 2nd place- Drake Campbell.
- 3rd place- Shawn Janes.

Division B winners.

- 1st place- Lindsay Smith.
- 2nd place- Jordan Molzan.
- 3rd place- Danielle LeClaire.

Division C winners

- 1st place- Scott McLaughlin.
- 2nd place- Shane Lucier.
- 3rd place- Olivia Boka.

Division D winners

- 1st place Shawn Scott.
- 2nd place Tara-Lynn Pyka.
- 3rd place- Haydn Burdett.

Category Winners:

- Best homemade cart- Brandi Holt.



Chris Wemp helps his sister Tabitha enter into the races in the 2001 West Elgin Downhill Derby, held September 1 in West Lorne.

- Best commerical cart- Snap-on Car.
- Best pit crew- R.P.M Racing.
- Best overall car- Chris Farrow.
- Sportsmanship- Meagan

Bower. Congratulations to all the racers and participants in all the local races this year. See you next year!

## Worksite death of West Lorne man nets jail sentence

By Mary Agnes Welch, Windsor Star

A justice of the peace has sentenced Fernando Gaspar to jail time for a 1998 construction accident that caused the death of his friend.

Gaspar, who was found guilty earlier this year, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, even though his lawyer and the prosecutor requested a minimal fine and no jail time.

Justice of the Peace Holly DeBacker said fines would not be enough to deter future workplace pranks and a death, though accidental, should be punished by more than

"a slap on the wrist."

"Safety should be the foremost issue of constant concern," at a worksite, said DeBacker.

In November of 1998, while digging a trench on Chatham Street West, Gaspar used his excavator's bucket to direct water from a broken main toward his friend Roy dos Santos, who was also working in the trench.

As dos Santos tried to pinch the water line, Gaspar rushed to close the window on his excavator to avoid getting wet. In doing so, he accidentally triggered the

excavator's bucket and it pinned dos Santos against the trench wall.

Dos Santos, 31, of West Lorne, died from massive abdominal trauma.

Gaspar, 45, was charged with engaging in a prank or boisterous activity at a worksite under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. Criminal charges were filed after the accident but later withdrawn.

Gaspar's lawyer, Pat Ducharme, said he was considering an appeal of the sentence. Beyond that, he had no comment.

Gaspar was taken immediately to jail and will serve his sentence on weekends.

MAY 2001

## Chamber of Commerce proposes Community Co-ordinator to W. E Council

West Elgin Council met on Thursday October 18 to hear planning matters and review issues of recent importance.

Here are some of the highlights.

### CHAMBER WANTS COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce has requested that there be a Community Co-ordinator hired to work diligently in promoting West Elgin.

The proposed position would be paid by the municipality. The duties would be searching for potential grants for the community, working alongside service clubs, volunteer groups and business members in West Elgin.

In the past it was felt that the communities needed someone who could specialize in researching for federal and provincial

grants. The person would also be expected to follow up on leads for potential investors and interested parties.

Although co-ordinating will be the biggest part of the job, promoting West Elgin communities will also be an important aspect. It will also be a liaison position between the municipality and interested groups, and the person will also be responsible for setting up and securing events in the future.

### MARSH LINE HYDRANT WILL BE SHUT OFF

Council has taken a hard stance to find ways to get around continually dumping water in West Lorne to comply with new chlorine regulations.

Since the end of August, the hydrant at Marsh Line and Graham Road in West Lorne has

been continually running to comply with this new regulations.

The municipality will be working on a cost benefit analysis plan to look at different solutions. They hope to have the problem solved and the hydrant will be shut off in the near future.

### PORT GLASGOW IN THE YEAR 2015

Councillors said they would like to visit the new Elgin Manor when it is constructed and see how the sewage treatment can be done on the site. West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said it brings a new future with how water and sewage treatment can be conducted.

Conversations later went on how it could possibly help grow remote areas like Port Glasgow.

McPhail advised council that they should begin strategic planning and discussion on how the

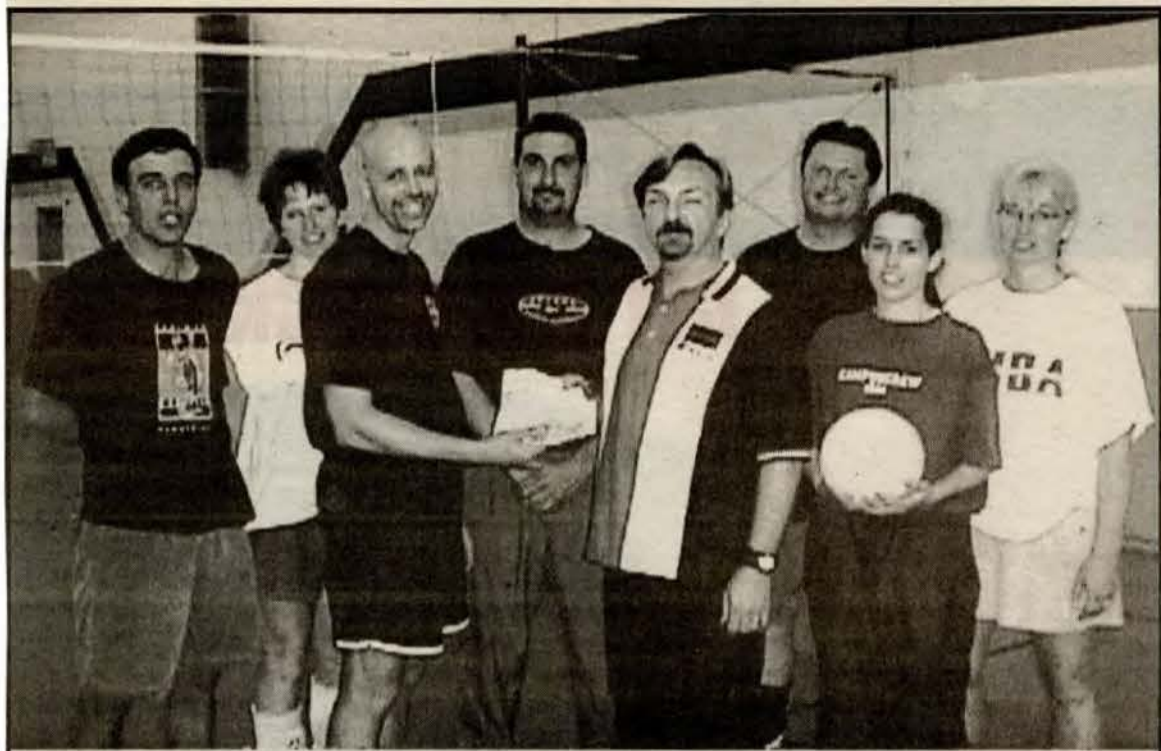
Port Glasgow area, for example, could be transformed fairly easily to a much larger residential area "in some 10, 15 and 20 years from now!"

The Elgin Manor project houses its on treatment plant on the property, with no ponds or lagoons.

"If there's affordable technology out there, we should see it," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick.

### DONATION TO SENIORS COMMITTEE

Council has decided to give the West Elgin Seniors Action Committee a \$500 donation. Although the committee had not asked for a specific amount, council found fit to give the amount as it had been a few years since they gave money to the organization.



**Memorial volleyball tournament**

Members of the Dutton Sunday afternoon co-ed volleyball league organized a tournament to raise money in memory of one of their players, Tressa Gray. A total of \$2,300, including the prize money donated by the two winning teams, was turned over to the St. Thomas chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Organizer Wayne Horst, third from left, presents the money to Lindsay Hoshal, President MADD Canada, St. Thomas Chapter, surrounded by members of the winning team, left to right: Hugh Hunter, Marion Jones, Tim Hansen, Jim Knowles, Anne Marie Hansen and Nancy Hunter. A total of 13 teams took part in the tournament which is hoped to become an annual event.



Kenzie Beer was the lucky winner of "Lickety" the official Children's Hospital Bear in West Lorne's Bank of Montreal's draw held during the month of May. Approximately \$200 was raised for the hospital. The staff of Bank of Montreal would like to thank the entire community for their caring and generosity in all their fund raising efforts.

**Water rates**

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

The days of cheap water rates will soon be a thing of the past.

Elgin County Warden Duncan McPhail says the writing is on the wall and there are many pressing issues which will force increases, straight across the board.

He says this is not going to be just for Elgin County. This is going to affect every municipality in the province.

Since the Walkerton disaster over a year ago, the province has been placing stricter guidelines on water supply and regulations.

According to McPhail, these regulations and guidelines are forcing municipalities to make tough decisions and inevitably look at increasing water rates.

For example, McPhail says the amount spent on testing has quadrupled, and he has seen that in his municipality of West Elgin.

"We have seen an additional \$8,000 to \$10,000 under the new drinking water regulations. Normally the tests are done once a year, now they are done quarterly," says Warden McPhail.

In the end McPhail says they will know that their water rates will be reasonable if they continually fall below the price of a litre found in stores.

McPhail says it is unfortunate the rates will be jumping, but admits in the past, compared to across the Nation, the local rates were very low.

"I think people just think the water falls out of the sky and it should be free," he says, adding, "yet we still have one of the lowest rates in the country."

McPhail noted the issue of water, purification and water rates was the main topic of discussion at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Across the province, McPhail can see the issue becoming a headache for many municipalities.

"There is tremendous amount of old cast iron piping in the ground. Some of it is 70 to 80 to 90 years old," says McPhail. Eventually it will have to be replaced, and there are regulations coming.

The major concern is what is known as 'residual chlorine', or spots in water lines which sit for long periods of time and become contaminated.

The level of chlorine per milli-litre is also a concern of the province, and municipalities will have to abide by one set level.

"The bottom line is it is clear there needs to be upgrades," says McPhail.

Warden McPhail agrees since the Walkerton disaster, the clean drinking water issue must be looked at and regulated, but he says the province has knee-jerked. He says the first regulations set down by the province "are too strict and too harsh," and said it will be a challenge to deal with the new demands.

Already this year the Tri-County area had increased its water rate from 30 cents a cubic metre to close to 40 cents.

AUG. 27, 2001

**Compromise met with West Elgin Truckers over bylaw**

**BYLAW WILL BE RESCINDED WHEN COUNTY LAW GOES INTO EFFECT**

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

A compromise has been made between the municipality of West Elgin and its truckers.

On Thursday afternoon, a delegation of 40 truckers and their spokes people met with council to air their complaints against the strong bylaw that prohibits anyone from 'parking ambulances, buses, highway tractors (with or without trailers), dump trucks, flat bed trucks, box or cube van or vehicles used for hauling purposes in local driveways.'

In the end, West Elgin council decided that upon completion of the Elgin County parking bylaw, the 'truckers bylaw' will be rescinded. The County bylaw, when it goes into effect will also prohibit truckers from parking on the side of municipal, county or provincial roads.

The resolution that council passed in front of the delegation reads:

"Resolved that Council of the Municipality of West Elgin agrees that upon completion of the County Parking Bylaw, we as a council have agreed to rescind Bylaw No. 2001-31. And until that time Bylaw No. 2001-31 will only be used in severe cases, balancing the rights of both truckers and residents."

The new County parking bylaw is probably over a year in the making, according to Warden Duncan McPhail. The County bylaw will be enforced by the Ontario Provincial Police.

At the beginning of the meeting, the delegation showed their anger and fear of this bylaw which was passed on July 26. This bylaw was an amendment of the property standards bylaw.

Since appearing in the August 13 issue of The Chronicle, some transport operators have been in an uproar over what they feel is an unfair bylaw.

Council admitted on Thursday that the bylaw is strict, calling it a sledgehammer, but said something had to be done about the 'bad apples' who have been parking their trucks in inconvenient places, causing too much noise in the neighbourhood and obstructing people's vision of the neighbourhood and the roadways in the subdivision. SEPT 17/01



Local kids had days of fun participating in the annual West Elgin Downhill Derby held in West Lorne. Pictured here, local kids learn about the rules of the gold fish races that were held in the downtown on August 31. The derby itself went very well with almost 50 entrants. The weekend was also accompanied with dances, music and a car Show and Shine on August 31. The downhill races were held September 1. 2001