

# Grace Lutheran Church to celebrate anniversary



Grace Lutheran Church, West Lorne

By Pastor Eric Betsch

What is it like to enter a brand new house? Some of us can only imagine what that would be like.

How exciting it must have been 45 years ago on June 10, 1956, when Rev. John Scharrer stood outside the front door of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, West Lorne with key in hand.

After unlocking the front door the congregation entered the new church building for the first of three worship services that day.

It must have been like a dream come true on that day of the dedication. A ground breaking service had taken place back on October 5th, 1954 and now, a year and eight months later, it was time to move in.

Most of the construction work was done by members of the congregation and their pastor.

Quoting from a booklet prepared for the joyous dedication worship service are these beautiful words, "Our new church home represents the culmination of the consecrated efforts of our people, the fulfillment of our dream, the answer to our prayers. All Glory to God alone, Who has so graciously granted our petitions, put to shame our doubts and fears, blessed our labours, and permitted us to enter this new house of worship. Truly, the Lord hath done great

things for us, whereof we are indeed grateful. Not unto us, O Lord, but unto Thee be all the praise and the honour and the power and majesty forever."

Please join with us on Sunday, June 10, 2001, at 4 p.m. at 108 Graham Road, West Lorne to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the dedication of our worship facility. East District President Rev. Al Maleske will be the guest preacher.

Following the worship service, a pot-blessed supper will be served. We give thanks to God for blessing us over the years and hope the past, present and future members will join with us on this day of celebration.

A special offering will be received on this day for our Lift Project, to make the building accessible to all people.

# CURRENT EVENTS 2001

## Western Elgin supports Americans

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

2001

People in Western Elgin have begun to show strong support both with condolences and financial support towards the families, victims and peace workers after the terrorist attacks in the cities of New York and Washington, USA.

To show that the people of Ontario care and are thinking of its neighbour, the Premier of Ontario has sent Books of remembrance to all MPP constituency offices across Ontario.

"The people of Ontario have been deeply affected by the tragedies in the United States," said Premier Mike Harris. "We want to make sure that everyone who wants to add their name to Ontario's book of remembrance has an opportunity to do so."

The office of Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Steve Peters, has sent papers from these books to each municipal office in Western Elgin for the convenience of the residents, rather than driving to his constituency office in St. Thomas.

Residents will now be able to sign their names to these remembrance books that will available Monday (until Oct. 16) at the municipal offices of Southwold, Dutton/Dunwich West Elgin and also in the constituency office of Marcel Beaubien in Strathroy for those people in Southwest Middlesex.

The signed pages from all books will be bound and presented to the US government on behalf of the people of Ontario. Locally there will be a book for Elgin-Middlesex London and also a book for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex.

Helen Jones of Rodney has also started up a fund-raising campaign which will be sent to the American Red Cross. Jones said she felt she had to do something, and contacted the American Red Cross and the organization pleaded to her that money is desperately needed to pay for supplies for the many workers in New York still working in the rubble, looking for victims.

Many service clubs, churches and individuals have been rumoured to also be raising money towards the disaster relief and support the families who have been devastated by the tragedy.

One local man, Robbie Redman of St. Thomas, who is grandson of Ernie and Barb McFadden of Rodney, has returned from volunteering in New York as a medical assistant. His grandparents said they were concerned about Robbie going to New York during a dangerous time.

## Fire destroys W. Lorne home

CAUSE WILL BE UNKNOWN  
BECAUSE OF INTENSE  
DAMAGE

July 2001

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

West Lorne and Rodney fire chiefs have said the house fire they faced last Tuesday was too advanced for them to be able to save it.

The home of Vern and Barb Humphrey, of Graham Road, outside the village of West Lorne was completely destroyed after a fire erupted and its speculated to have blazed for close to half an hour before bystanders and neighbours noticed smoke and firemen were called.

Andy Kieraszewicz, Rodney Fire Chief and incident commander said 'time' was against them as the blaze was already

too strong when the first West Lorne fire-fighters arrived shortly after 9:30 am.

Rodney fire department arrived shortly afterwards with more men.

Kieraszewicz doubted a dozen more men would have helped the situation, because the fire had probably been going 20 minutes to half hour before neighbours noticed smoke coming from the building.

Kieraszewicz said he speculated the fire could have started in the utility room. The dryer had been used earlier that morning.

West Lorne fire chief Allan Beer said they will never know because of the total destruction of the fire.

The firefighters believe it quickly spread throughout entire house. Kieraszewicz said the fire then went up through the walls, into the ceiling and passed through every

(continued on page 3)

## Storm causes damage in West Elgin

A late morning storm, followed by an afternoon storm on July 4 created havoc in the municipality of West Elgin. Fallen trees and debris were scattered in the first storm which hit prior to noon.

Traffic was temporarily halted on Furnival Road heading south, Queen's Line between Rodney and West Lorne and on Highway 3 between the two communities in the early storm which came with heavy winds.

Some property was reported damaged by residents but there were no injuries. Numerous trees had to be cleaned up by municipal workers. In the community of West Lorne, the fire department was called in to clean up one fallen tree.

The worst news came later in the afternoon when a hail storm



July 2001

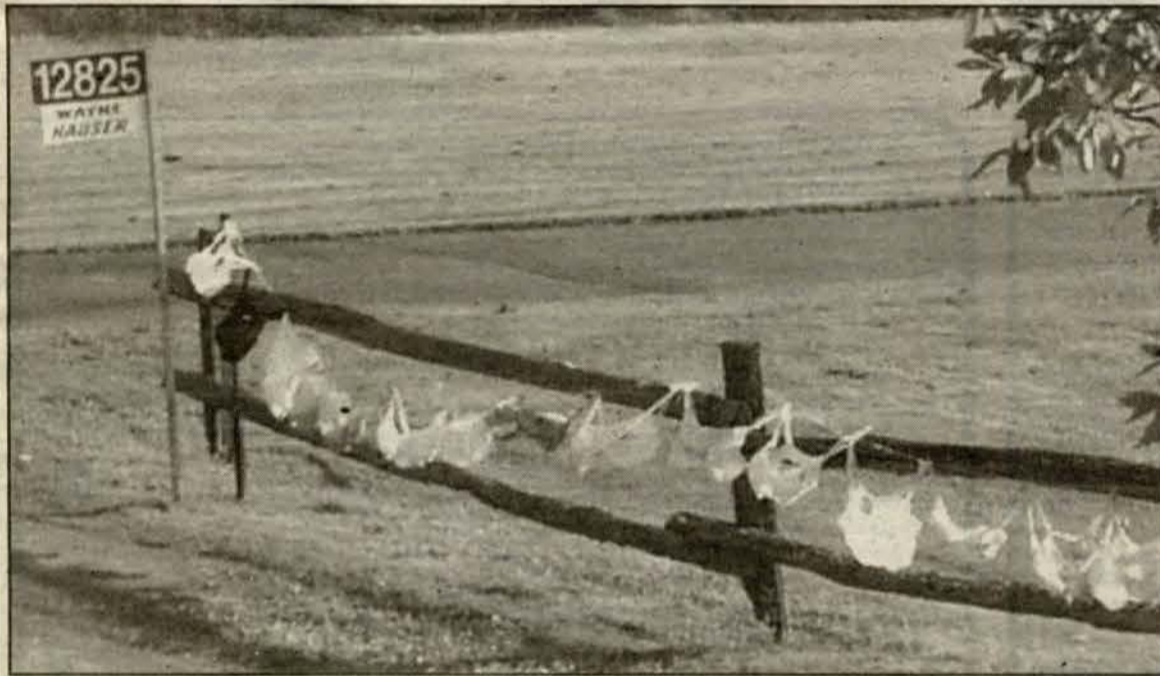
Workers from the municipality of West Elgin were busy on July 4 cleaning up fallen trees after a late morning storm toppled trees mostly in the Rodney, West Lorne area. The region seemed to be hit hardest with strong winds, and later in the day, hail was reported in the village of West Lorne, and some crops have been affected.

hit the village of West Lorne and it has been reported that some crops in the outlying areas had been damaged.

OCT. 2001



New executive members were announced last week for both the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs. Pictured here are some of the new executive for each club. From left to right is: Bill Graham (President West Lorne), Ted Schmid (President Rodney), Dr John Button (Lt. Governor Division 4), Jim Hathaway (Past President Rodney), Duncan Colquhoun (Secretary Rodney). Absent from the photo are Martin Joldersma (President Elect West Lorne), Winfrid Liepmann (Secretary West Lorne), Ray Jobson (Treasurer West Lorne), Ron Downie (Treasurer Rodney) and Joe Kuranyi (Vice President Rodney).



The fence along the home and property of Wayne Hauser on Graham Road outside West Lorne was colourfully decorated last week with 'bras' of all things, in celebration of his 60th birthday. It brings up the question of: what will the culprits be doing for his 65th birthday?



A fundraising bridge was held last week at Bobier Villa to raise money for the Daffodil Society. Over 50 bridge players participated. Prior to the games, already \$400 was raised. Pictured here are left to right Maurice Keck of St. Thomas (formerly of Dutton), Jean McCallum, bridge convenor, Dee Moss of Glencoe, Terry Heeny for the Daffodil Society, Jill Soos of Rodney and Helen Mooser for the Daffodil Society.

DEC. 2001

**New book remembers the history of Aldborough**

The much anticipated book by West Lorne resident Harley Lashbrook on the history of Aldborough is now off the presses.

Lashbrook said he felt compelled to write the book in a effort to preserve the history of Aldborough. "I felt somebody had to do it," said Lashbrook.

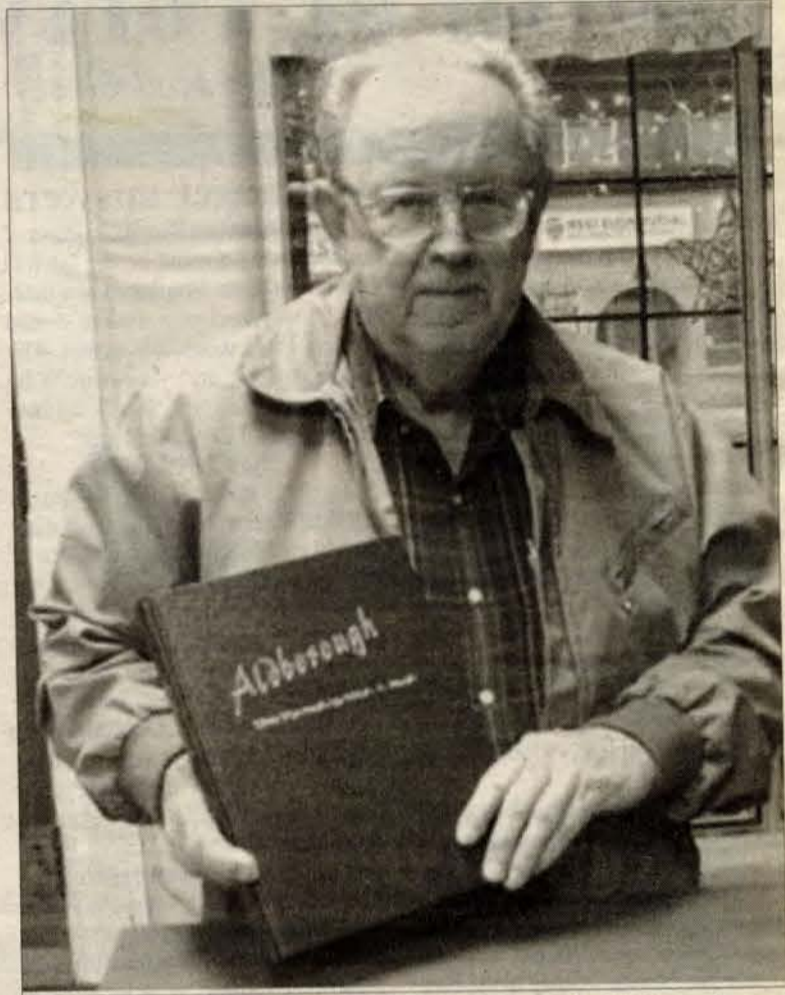
Research, articles and material in the book dates back as far as the earliest days of Aldborough, including 1650 when the first settlement began when the Fleming family arrived and built a home on 1st Concession, Aldborough. Each community, school house, bridge, structure found through time is listed with stories and facts in "Aldborough-The Township with a Past"

The book itself is a collaboration of contributed articles and photos by interested parties who found out he was writing a book. In addition there is a tremendous amount of personal research, and also articles and photos from the archives of the old Rodney Mercury and West Lorne Sun newspapers, which the Lashbrook family, including Harley and his brother Lyn, owned and ran until the late 1980's.

Lashbrook said some of material in the book will be a real surprise for many readers as there are many pieces of information, even photographs of days and events, long forgotten.

Lashbrook said a lot of time and effort went into putting the book together and the expense of making it came out of his pocket.

West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail said he was very excited to be able to read it soon. McPhail proclaimed he had a "soft spot" for local history and was looking



West Lorne author Harley Lashbrook with his brand new book "Aldborough- The Township with a Past."

forward to getting the chance to read it.

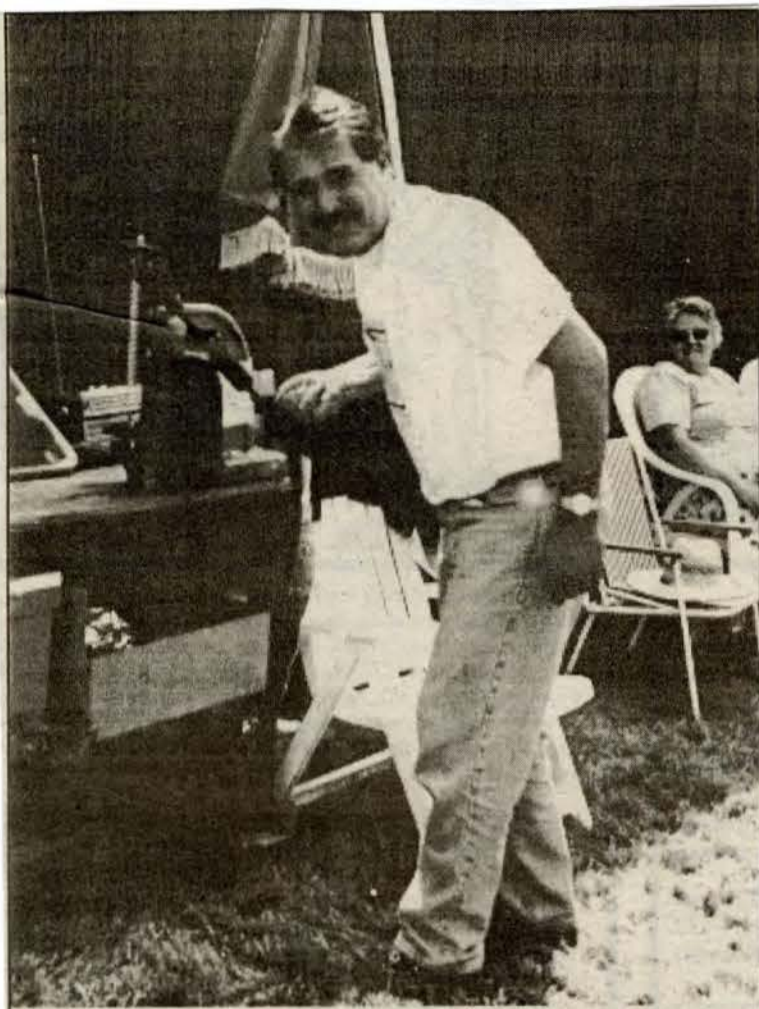
"I'm very excited. I think Mr Lashbrook should be commended for taking the initiative to do such a book. It will be very educational for me to read it," said McPhail.

The Chronicle Editor Keith Peever was given a sneak peek last Wednesday when Lashbrook brought the book in to announce it is now for sale.

"I was extremely pleased to see such a tremendous balance of

photographs and stories. I think it is definitely a must read," said Peever afterwards.

Lashbrook's "Aldborough-The Township with a Past" is now available in different stores and businesses in Rodney and West Lorne and a book-signing will be held on Tuesday December 18 from 10am to 12noon and 2pm to 4pm at the West Lorne Complex and selling for \$40.



Elgin Middlesex MPP Steve Peters was spotted crushing cans last month at the 10th Annual Antique Show and Threshing Festival at Hugh and Joyce McFadden's Farm outside West Lorne. Asked where he got the energy to crush, Peters mentioned something about having frustrations from watching the provincial government. SEPT. 2001

**Outdoor Live Nativity held in West Lorne**

An outdoor live Nativity scene was held two weekends ago in West Lorne.

A cast was put together of people of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church to play the biblical scenes of the birth of Jesus Christ. The nativity scene, was held across from the church at the Ocolisan farm.

The ceremony was held on two nights, Saturday December 15 and Sunday December 16.

The cast included: Pastor Eric Betsch, Rebecca Betsch and Jessalyn Betsch; Trudy Dengel; Scott and Linda Dunn; Julia Griffore; Cindy and Rhonda Knight; Baily Lamon; Brooke Painter; Frances Sobieralski; Al, Matt and Eric St. Onge; Terry Travers; David, Caitlyn and Tanya VanRaes; Krysta Walker; Barb, David, and Michelle Ward; and Nicole Wilson.

The donkey and sheep were provided by Tom and Ruth Rudavsky.

Construction and lighting



The cast of the Live Nativity Scene held at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

was provided by Gabriel Griffore. Stage crew was

Craig Knight and Josh Bakker. Make up and

costumes were done by Joy Betsch.

Refreshments were provided by Grace Women.

## Storm creates havoc in region... but could have been worse

It was bad enough but it could have been a lot worse. That is the sentiment of many individuals, businesses and organizations after the ice storms of last Thursday January 31 and Friday February 1.

The communities of Southwold Township, Dutton/Dunwich and West Elgin all experienced power failures on Friday. Parts of West Lorne and Wallacetown were reported to have lost hydro for over 18 hours and still did not have electricity by late Friday night- *The Chronicle's* press time.

Hydro One officials could not be reached for comment on how long the electricity shortage would continue to be for the areas of Wallacetown and West Lorne.

Because of the power failure in West Lorne, (reported to be blown out transformers), Glencoe's water supply from the West Lorne reservoir was greatly affected. The reservoir which brings water to Southwest Middlesex, including Glencoe, is powered by a electric pump. By Friday afternoon, Southwest Middlesex had approached media to announce to residents to conserve their water usage. Water pressure was greatly decreasing by the hour. On Friday afternoon Southwest Middlesex Mayor Doug Reycraft said without the pump sending water to them, their containers would have emptied "within a day-and-a-half."

Reycraft also said it was a benefit that the public schools had

a P.A. day on Friday, because normally schools use a tremendous amount of water.

Later in the afternoon, Ontario Clean Water Agency had come to the rescue by donating the service of a generator to run the West Lorne reservoir.

Numerous trees were destroyed or damaged by accumulated ice and later strong winds on Thursday night and Friday morning. West Elgin Roads Superintendent Rick Jackson confirmed the worst areas were along Lake Erie. He said his employees were working steady on Thursday night clearing debris along the sideroads.

Dutton/Dunwich assistant Roads Superintendent Kevin Englehart confirmed there was a lot of cleanup to be made in the Wallacetown area after the storms.

Elgin OPP reported a large increase in police calls on Thursday. OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood said on an average day there are 37 calls but last Thursday there were 68. Harwood said of that there were 10 calls made based on dangerous road conditions, with debris,

etc; two calls were made of fallen hydro wires; 20 calls were made on collisions and 10 calls were for police assistance for example- car breaking down or spinning off road.

Harwood said people should remind themselves of how dangerous it is to be driving on potentially dangerous roads, during what he calls "Nasty Evil Weather Systems." He said people should think twice about driving in the conditions and whether it is such an important risk to take, or not. If it isn't, Harwood said the easiest and safest choice to make is stay at home where it is safe.

Overall most officials were glad it was not a lot worse than it was. For example, the Simcoe area was hit hard by this storm and was still reeling from the damage on the weekend.

Some of the officials noted that the temperature and weather of January 31 changed at the right time before major damage could be done.

Jackson said many of the trees

were showing signs of being too heavy with ice and also some power lines. Hours later the weather had turned warmer with rain, which saved a lot to them. Had the weather not changed there would have been problems, according to Jackson.

"It would have been a disaster for sure," said Jackson. "There would a lot trees down and a lot of roads would have been closed."

FEB 2002

The Chronicle APR. 2002

## Popular magician comes to West Lorne this Saturday



**Where:**  
West Elgin Arena  
**When:**  
Sat. May 4, 4pm & 7pm  
**Sponsors:** Tiny Tots & Rodney Kiwanis.  
**How much are tickets?:**  
Children \$7, Adults \$10, Family \$35.

Time-travel with JOHN KAPLAN, decade-by-decade on a magical journey through the past century ... from Ragtime to Rap and beyond.

It all begins as John mysteriously appears centre stage from a futuristic space capsule. The audience is welcomed and in the dawn of a brand new millennium, invited

to share the memories of the last 100 years.

The magic of Harry Houdini highlights the early 1900's when Charlie Chaplin was king of the movies and airplanes were just getting off the ground.

1921 saw the introduction of "Sawing A Woman In Half" by P.T. Selbit in England. Ever since, magicians have been sawing through people using woodsaws, crosscut saws, buzz saws, jigsaws, lasers ... just about everything. During his *Millennium Magic* performance, John Kaplan will attempt to saw a woman in half in a way never done before!

(sorry, we can't let you in on the surprise here!)

The music of Scott Joplin frames a delightful period piece from Ragtime and takes us all the way through the "dirty thirties". Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and big-band swing are the backdrop for magic from the 40's then on to the 50's and 60's for an energetic, colourful performance to the sounds of early rock-n-roll.

Along the way there's John's all new "Time-Twister" routine. Time doesn't just stand still, but actually rolls backwards, taking the audience with it.

Classic Rock, Disco, Hip-

Hop and Rap, along with some truly amazing illusions cover the 70's, 80's and 90's, culminating in a mind-bending prediction of events yet to come.

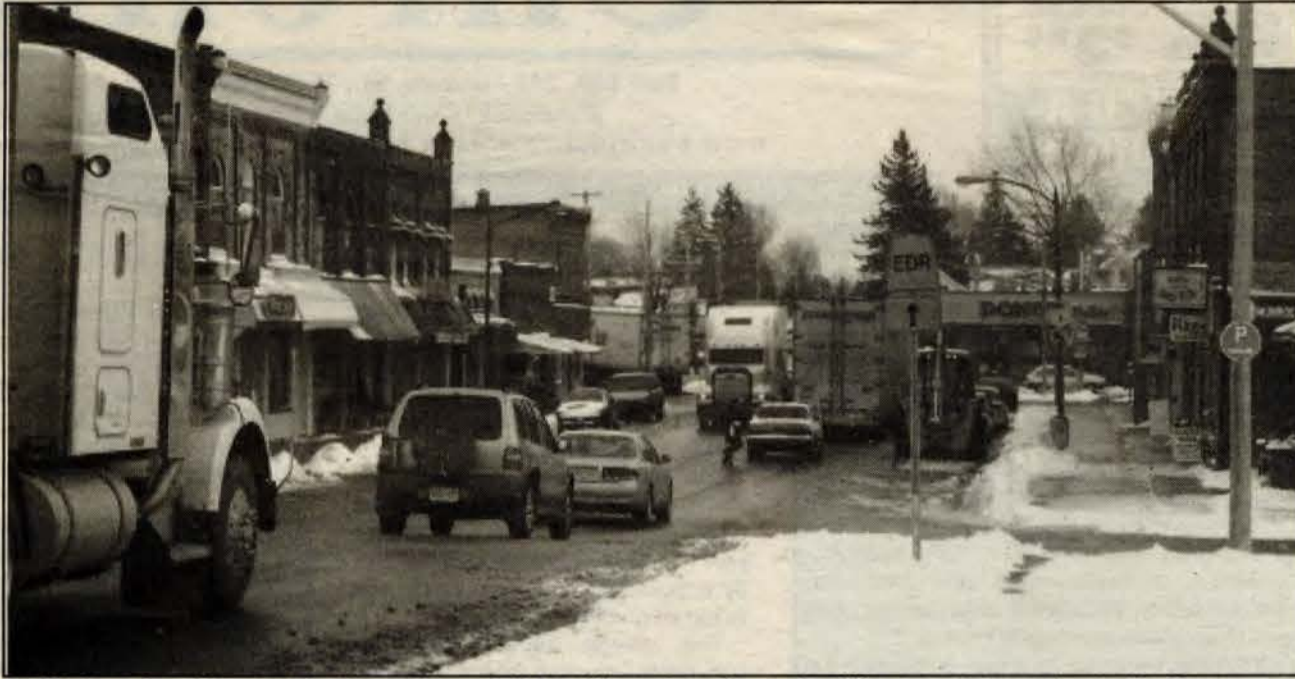
Closing the show, and bringing us "back to the future" is John's innovative BLACK HOLE illusion ... where John partially disappears and then re-emerges from a void space.

A spectacular stage set, some all-new illusions, great music and a talented cast of dancers join John and "Rexdale the Wonder Rabbit" in an amazing, one-of-a-kind retrospective of the past 100 years.

The show is a fundraiser.

2002

# 401 crash kills London woman



By Wednesday afternoon both westbound 401 traffic and eastbound traffic were detoured onto the Emergency Detour Route through West Lorne after a fatal collision on the major highway. Rubbernecking and gawking while driving was also a problem the OPP and other emergency response personnel noticed.



Two OPP officers assisted in West Lorne in the detouring 401 traffic going through Graham Road at Pioneer Line and enabling the trucks and cars to move as quickly as possible.

## OPP ask for better driving during accidents

What began as a routine clean-up of a transport accident on 401 last week turned into tragedy as impatient and onlooking drivers jeopardized the health and safety of others on the major highway during the clean up attempts.

A London woman is dead following a chain of events on Wednesday on the 401, and a Brampton man is facing charges related to her death.

Margaret Budden, 66 years old of London was killed in a collision one kilometre east of the Currie Road off ramp. The traffic at the time was slow due to a normal detour to take transports out of the ditch.

Elgin OPP later arrested and charged Rajinder Singh Jutla, 38 years old of Brampton with one count of Criminal Negligence Causing Death in connection to Budden's fatal crash.

At 10 am on Wednesday, the OPP and roadside crews closed a section of the westbound 401 between Currie Road in Dutton/Dunwich and Graham Road in West Elgin.

Two transport trucks and trailers had to be removed from the ditch when they left the road the night before. Both units slid off the road in the icy conditions of Tuesday February 26. The detour was expected to take between one and two hours.

Tragedy struck at approximately 10:18 am when a serious collision took place on the westbound 401 between

Iona Road and Currie Road in Dutton/Dunwich.

By noon Elgin OPP confirmed the accident took the life of one person. The collision involved 10 vehicles - four passenger vehicles, one cube van and five transport trucks and trailers.

In the afternoon OPP announced to media that emergency personnel were facing problems with eastbound traffic. The eastbound drivers were "rubbernecking and slowing to look at the collision scene. The OPP announced media to pass onto the drivers to continue driving and keep their eyes on the road.

OPP decided to then close the eastbound lanes from Graham Road to Iona Road.

Traffic was rerouted using the Emergency Detour Route section that went through West Lorne and turned onto Highway 3 at Eagle. From there the 401 traffic went to Iona where it was directed onto County Road 14 which brought them back to the 401.

By 2:30 pm, OPP were investigating two separate collisions which caused the closure of the eastbound 401.

Elgin OPP community service officer Dennis Harwood warned about the bad practice of 'gawking' or 'rubber necking' when there is an accident in the other lanes.

"Drivers have to concentrate on what they are doing - DRIVING. Not what is going on in the westbound lanes," Harwood told media on Thursday afternoon.

## Krzyworaczka charged with attempted murder

Additional charges have been laid in connection with the April 26 shooting of a 43-year-old female in West Lorne.

Mike Krzyworaczka, 35, of West Lorne, was charged last Wednesday with Attempted Murder following an investigation by the Elgin County OPP Crime Unit. He was also charged with one count of point firearm, one count of discharge firearm with intent to endanger life.

The victim, a 43 year old woman from London has been released from hospital.

Elgin OPP will not identify her name as part of police policy to protect victims of domestic violence.

Krzyworaczka has been in custody since he was initially charged at the end of April with:

- 12 counts of Possessing a firearm while prohibited;
- 10 counts of unsafe storage
- 1 count breach probation
- 2 counts possessing an explosive substance
- 2 counts of production of a controlled substance
- 2 counts of possession of a controlled substance

On April 26, 2002, Elgin County OPP officers responded to a 911 call at a residence on the Pioneer Line in West Lorne and located the accused's girlfriend suffering from a single gunshot wound to her abdomen. She was hospitalized at the London Health Sciences Centre for three weeks as a result of her injury.

Krzyworaczka appeared Wednesday in St Thomas Court where he was formally charged with the additional offences. He was remanded until June 3 2002 to answer to all charges.

Detective Inspector Dave Cardwell of the OPP Investigation Bureau, Criminal Investigation Branch (C.I.B.) is in charge of the investigation. **JUNE 3/02**



Roxanne Kirschner holds up one of her petitions asking for West Lorne crosswalks.



# Introducing The NEW ARRIVALS OF 2002

*The Chronicle and the residents of our communities welcome you all here!*

*We thank your parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles and your friends for allowing us introduce you!!*

More introductions on pages 12 & 13



**Brady Jon  
William McGall**

Born on January 25, 2002 to Jon & Brandi McGall. Grandson to Darlene McGall, Elaine Hoke and Sim Hoke



**Paige Anne  
Doherty**

Born on May 21, 2002 to Ed & Anne-Marie Doherty. Granddaughter to Bob & Rose Doherty and Pete & Donna Kleinjan



**Seamus  
Ferguson**

Born on September 24, 2002 to Blair and Linda Ferguson. Grandson to Ian & Neva Carmichael and Guardian Angel Grandparents Len & Shirley Ferguson



**McKenna Kerr  
McArthur**

Born on October 23, 2002 to Ken & Cathy McArthur. Granddaughter to Cam & Jackie Leitch and Garry & Gloria Cowell



**Matthew Albert  
Tenuta**

Born February 22, 2002 to Albert and Geri Tenuta



**Ethan Peixoto**

Born on February 8, 2002 to Luis & March Peixoto. Grandson to John & Pam Baganha



**Izabella  
Dorothy Marie  
Poisson**

Born on November 17, 2002 to Ken & Christina Poisson



**Anil Benjamin  
Louis Poisson**

Born on June 24, 2002 to Ron & Pushpa Poisson

Granddaughter and Grandson to Ron & Evelyn Poisson  
**"A Real Day To Remember"**



**Logan O'Brien Dale**

Born on December 6, 2002 to Greg & Kelly Dale. Grandson to John & Sally McIntyre, Mike & Karlene Dale and Duncan & Barbara O'Brien.



**Mason Paul  
Joaquim Lopes**

Born on February 14, 2002 to Victor & Tara Lopes. Grandson to Jack & Aurora Lopes and Paul & Carla Downs



**Bailey Jacob  
Simpson**

Born on January 23, 2002 to Scott & Autumn Simpson. Grandson to Linda Dove, Iain Simpson and Lee & Holly Gardner



**Owen William  
Giles**

Born on February 3, 2002 to Will & Shannon Giles. Grandson to Pam Irwin, Bill & Sue Giles and Jim & Diane Irwin

2002

# THE 2002 NEW ARRIVALS



**Dawson Muscutt**

Born on January 24, 2002 to Shawn & Laura Muscutt. Grandson to Dave & Sharon Muscutt and Arnold & Lois Thomson



**Ryan Mills**

Born on July 24, 2002 to Mat & Tracy Mills. Grandson to John & Jane Mills and Mike & Margaret Stenger



**Braden Auckland**

Born on October 30, 2002 to Bob & Helen Auckland. Grandson to Harry & Pat Auckland and Frank & Helen Wolfe



**Jillian Marie Bartlett**

Born on September 26, 2002 to Doug & Megan Bartlett. Grand-daughter to Lynn & Dale McIntyre and Don & Marie Bartlett



**Evan Mitchell Joseph Graham**

Born on November 1, 2002 to Bill and Linette Graham. Grandson to Ron & Celine Bowman and Jake & Flora Graham



**Ashley Kate Lowes**

Born on April 30, 2002 to Christina Pearce & Bob Lowes. Granddaughter to Cecil Lowes, Kathleen McDonald and Brenda & Rick Alderton



**Nathaniel James McIntyre**

Born on March 10, 2002 to Scott & Joyce McIntyre. Grandson to John & Sally McIntyre, Janet McIntyre and Alan & Jan Kriz



**Abigail Mae Bobier**

Born on May 28m, 2002 to Don & Deb Bobier. Granddaughter to Chuch & Myrtle Joyce and Don & Betty Ann Bobier



**Hunter J. Mezenberg**

Born on July 5, 2002 to John and Sheri Mezenberg. Grandson to Edith Bray and Joe & Margie Mezenberg



# The Chronicle

Volume 10 ~ Issue 36

Monday, September 9, 2002

Established 1993



RESIDENTIAL  
CARPET  
UPHOLSTERY  
CLEANING  
BY  
LABADIES'  
CARPET  
CLEANING

"Established 1988"  
WEST LORNE  
768-2620

## Don't light that match! It's too dry!!

Think twice before lighting that match in Western Elgin and South Middlesex.

Local fire departments say the ground is too dry and it would not take long for a simple grass fire to spread and become a serious problem.

All fire chiefs in *The Chronicle* readership area have called for a zero allowance for burning policy.

### Mischief in the Township of Southwold

Elgin County OPP and Southwold Volunteer Fire Department were kept busy last Monday, September 2 in the Shedden area.

During a one hour time frame, five grass fires were located in isolated rural areas at the side of roadways. These fires formed a "U" shape pattern around the Shedden area.

All the fires were extinguished by the Southwold firefighters without incident.

OPP are asking for the public's assistance in obtaining any information on who may have started these fires. Call Elgin OPP at 631-2929 or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Fire Chief John Brown reiterated to the public and media on Wednesday that they need to be very cautious around the dry grass. He said it can ignite very easily and quickly engulf entire areas.

Fire departments are pleading to motorists to not flick their cigarette

butts out their vehicle windows and to instead use their ashtrays.

By the end of last week every fire department was showing zero tolerance burning anywhere in the municipalities.

This is the first time it has ever been recorded that fire departments in the municipalities of Newbury, Southwest Middlesex, West Elgin, Dutton/Dunwich, Southwold, Central Elgin and Malahide have issued zero burn policies at the same time.