

County looks at museum's future

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For The Chronicle

The Elgin County Pioneer Museum will remain in its temporary downtown St. Thomas home for at least the next six months, until a report drawing a clearer picture on a possible new home, is ready.

The resolution July 15 by county council to go on a month-to-month renewal of the lease for the temporary building was chosen over an estimated cost of \$11,200 to move back into the museum's historic home.

The museum moved out earlier this year after the county put a halt on plans for renovations to the building to address accessibility issues.

Council decided because of the age and design of the building, it would not be a wise investment to try to make

the building handicapped accessible.

The design of the building meant that even with improvements, the confined second floor could only accommodate a small number of visitors in wheelchairs and others with mobility issues.

The design also ruled out spending money on adding heat and air conditioning to the agricultural

museum, a separate building, so it could be used for storage. Estimates for work on that building ranged from \$48,000 to \$67,000.

Dutton/Dunwich Mayor Rien Van Brenk said he supported staying at the temporary location, but not renovating the agricultural museum until the report on a new home was ready.

Malahide Deputy Mayor

Paul Faulds, a member of the Elgin County Pioneer Museum Board, said the renovations to the agricultural museum would be an investment.

In a related move, council agreed to pick up the tab for lunch for museum board members and others who would be taking a bus trip to the Huron County Museum on Aug. 21 to tour the facility.

Why so many pinecones?

Years of drought, wet spring may be cause

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Recent years of drought mixed with a wet spring and warm summer could be the reason why the limbs of coniferous trees have been weighed down with pine cones this year, say local tree and weather experts.

"I'm always whacking my head on those cones,"

said Environment Canada Weather Watcher Keith Kelly of Rodney of what happens to him when he's trying to cut his lawn, home to several evergreens.

While he can't remember a time when he's seen this many pine cones, he's sure there have been other seasons, at least from his 1930s childhood, where the trees have been this loaded.

"I think it's a reaction to the seasons we've had,"

said Kelly.

With the past several dry seasons, Kelly believes the trees went into a state of hibernation but with adequate moisture this year, have been producing the bumper cone crop.

"Some trees that are stressed will put out more seed than other years," said Ministry of Natural Resources Forester, Steve Williams, from the Elgin County office in Aylmer.

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Parking ticket solution close

Municipal administrators and police discuss bylaws

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

It looks like a solution is on the horizon that will see parking ticket enforcement the way Elgin County municipalities had hoped, rather than the zero-tolerance blanket enforcement that swept through parts of the county last July.

"We're going to go back to the way we originally planned it would be enforced and that is with complaints only," said Dutton-Dunwich Administrator Ken Loveland last week of the issue that largely surrounded overnight parking and parking on boulevards.

Loveland attended a special meeting in St. Thomas last Tuesday between municipal administrators and members of the OPP to discuss the issue that began to unfold in July.

Canada Day will long be remembered as the day more than 100 parking tickets were issued in Rodney, largely for violations to overnight parking or vehicles on boulevards. Residents who had parked for years on boulevards, many not even having driveways, woke to find \$25 tickets on their vehicles and no explanations why.

Very few tickets were issued for vehicles parked in "no parking" zones deemed dangerous because vehicles parked there obstructed views at intersections.

Similar scenes unfolded in several municipalities in Elgin County around that July 1 date and prompted discussions between municipalities and an emergency countywide police services board meeting in mid-July.

Police stopped enforcement of the boulevard issue and have all-but stopped issuing parking tickets altogether, since the new, countywide parking bylaw came into effect at the end of June.

The bylaw was an amalgamation of parking issues that affected various municipalities in an effort to make one, complete bylaw police could enforce.

Municipalities had been complaining for years that enforcement was needed, following complaints they received from citizens about people parking in front of driveways, obstructing views at intersections, parking in handicap spaces or blocking fire hydrants.

However, without a bylaw, OPP could not respond to those complaints with more than a warning.

Municipalities had hoped police would use the new bylaw to be able to respond to the complaints received, but instead, hundreds of tickets were issued for the full range of infractions listed in the bylaw.

While parking on boulevards was not an issue receiving complaints in Rodney, it was an issue needing enforcement in Port Stanley and included in the bylaw to ensure all municipalities could be properly served by the document.

Police agreed to use discretion in enforcing the bylaws and have since stopped enforcing the overnight and boulevard parking completely, until a solution could be found.

Municipalities considered everything from the possible need to scrap the bylaw and go with separate ones to enforcing parking complaints with their own bylaw officers.

After last Tuesday's meeting, Loveland said discussions centred on having the more secondary elements of the bylaw enforced through complaints. The complaints would likely have to be filed through the municipal offices. Those complaints could then be passed to OPP who could enforce an issue of a truck, for example, being parked on a boulevard in front of someone's home, blocking the residents' view for days.

Safety issues, such as parking in front of fire hydrants or blocking the view at an intersection will automatically be enforced by OPP as they have time, said Loveland.

He also said county roads are a different story, such as Furnival Road in

"WE'RE GOING TO GO BACK THE WAY WE ORIGINALLY PLANNED IT,"
— Ken Loveland
Dutton-Dunwich Administrator



EARLY YEARS CELEBRATED...

Clockwise from left, Ruth Ann Payler, literary specialist from the Ontario Early Years Centre, Dylan Graham, 3, speech therapist with Tyke Talk, Trish Major, and Mackenzie Ross, 3, enjoy a story during the West Lorne Early Years play group at West Lorne United Church last Wednesday. The Early Years program was celebrated in West Elgin as various agencies attended the regular play group meeting with information and goodies in West Lorne, Dutton and Rodney.

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Chronicle photo

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A brief history of the Rodney jail

By Suzanne McGregor
The Chronicle

Built in 1890 for \$200.00, it was Rodney's first "lockup". The jail stopped being used to house "criminals" shortly after the Rodney Town Hall was built, where more modern cells were placed in its basement. In later years, the building was used as the office of the secretary of the fair board on fair days and as a ticket booth for the Rodney Agricultural Fair.

The jail measures 4.5 metres by 5.4 metres (15 feet by 18 feet); 24.3 square metres or 270 square feet. There is one door on the right side of the building that opens into a room with the magistrates chair and table. The pot belly stove located on the inner wall of this room was used to heat the building. The floors throughout are wood planking, and the two cells have wood walls and ceiling - cell doors are riveted steel flat bar - the outside walls are yellow brick.

The jail, has only two tiny cells inside it but is billed as

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the oldest, smallest jail in North America. The jail was built in 1890, making it the oldest of its size on the continent according to Rodney tourist officials. However, when they re-opened the jail in 1995 with that billing they were almost immediately challenged by other towns and cities.

There were initially several villages which contradicted Rodney's claim. Among them Port Dalhousie, near St. Catharines, claimed its jail was older by about 45 years. The people of Tweed, Ont. also believed they had the smallest jail. But Rodney

stuck by their claim to fame because the building is more of a jail than the one in Port Dalhousie. The building there was only one room and needed restoration. Tweed eventually admitted Rodney had them beat because its jail, first opened in 1898, measured 4.9 by 6.1 metres (29.89 square metres or about 320 square feet).

When re-opened in 1995 as a tourist attraction, a book exchange was operated out of the building.

The preceding will appear on a sign in the jail. Any donations (preferably nothing valuable) will be appreciated.

The Chronicle



Irene Puddester, on the right in photo to the left, was named West Elgin's Volunteer of the Year at Canada Day ceremonies last Tuesday evening at Miller Park. She is joined by last year's volunteer of the year, Rosalie Krebsz. In Dutton-Dunwich, Mike Carew and Ruth Mairleitner were named volunteers of the year. In photo to the right, Jim Carmichael pipes the West Elgin Legion colour guard during opening ceremonies before the fireworks.



Hopscotch with a twist

Amy Nash plays a game of hopscotch last Wednesday with words from a Bible verse on each square to help children memorize the scripture. They were taking part in the "Gone Fishin'" Vacation Bible School at the West Lorne Baptist Church last week.

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401 bridge work comes as surprise

Bridge at Graham Road in West Lorne will be reduced to one lane on Aug. 1

For The Chronicle
A funding announcement last Monday by the Ontario government has caught local officials off guard.

Transportation Minister Frank Klees announced a \$1.9 million investment "to preserve the Graham Road bridge over Highway 401." When completed, Klees added, "the project will substantially improve driving conditions in West Elgin."

That's news to West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail who noted the province has an ongoing maintenance program dealing with overpass upgrades along the highway and this work was not in response to a specific request from the

municipality.

"We're not aware of any specific problems with the bridge, other than age," stressed McPhail. "This is just a maintenance announcement."

The work includes rehabilitation of the bridge that will result in traffic being reduced to one lane in each direction on the 401 from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 this year. Temporary lane reductions will be in effect again from May through October, 2004.

McPhail indicated he was not made aware of any potential disruption to traffic on Graham Road itself, north of West Lorne.

Peter Dutchak, of Elgin county's engineering department, said it was his

understanding there would be no lane reductions on Highway 401 and he had no concerns regarding disruption of traffic on Graham Road.

But a spokesperson for the Ministry of Transportation said there would be two extended periods of lane reductions on the Graham Road bridge.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction on one half of the bridge deck from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 this year and again from May 1 to Oct. 31 next year.

Dutchak said the county had no plans for any maintenance work on

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Local retired Fire Chiefs honoured

Elgin County's retired Fire Chiefs were honoured Wednesday night during a special ceremony held at the West Lorne Fire Hall.

Firefighters came from across the county, representing each department from east to west.

Guest presenter and Elgin County Warden Duncan McPhail said it was an honour to present the plaques that commemorated each firefighter for their years of service.

In the current light of the Attack on America and the devastation in New York that killed many firefighters during rescue missions, McPhail said the opinion on firefighters has changed dramatically.

He said that act of sacrifice has reminded many people how dangerous the job is and how thankful they are for such dedicated workers.

"The world is showing overwhelming support for your occupation. You fellows do a wonderful job that's often overlooked," said McPhail.

Honourees

From Bayham:

Merlin Norris- Firefighter May 1969 to September 1985; Deputy Chief Sept 1985 to Aug. 1997; Training Officer Aug 1997 to June 1998 and Firefighter June 1998 to present.

Ken Laemers- Firefighter June 1980 to 1991; Training officer May 1991 to May 1992; Chief Bayham May 1992 to December 1997; Station Chief Jan. 1998 to April 1991; Firefighter May 1999 to present.

From Malahide Station 2:

Mel Vanlingen- Firefighter April 1981 to Dec. 1989; Deputy Chief Jan 1990 to Dec 1998; Chief Jan 1999 to Dec 2000; Firefighter Jan 2001 to present.

From Central Elgin Belmont Station:

Phil Hudson- Firefighter Jan 1980 to 1990; Deputy Chief Jan 1991 to 1997; Chief Jan 1997 to 1998 when he retired from the department.

Robert Barker- Firefighter Jan 1984 to 1994; Deputy Chief Jan 1994 to 1998; Chief 1998 to 1999; Firefighter Jan 2000 to present.

From Central Elgin Yarmouth Centre Station:

Allen Hurst- Firefighter Sept.



Honoured Retired Fire Chiefs with their plaques, many of which are still firefighters. Pictured, front row, l-r are Dave Cadogan (West Lorne), Robert Barker (Belmont), Merlin Norris (Bayham), Ken Laemers (Bayham). Back row l-r are Randy McDonald representing his late father George McDonald (Rodney), Gilbert Bouw (Dutton/Dunwich), Allen Hurst (Yarmouth Centre), Mel Vanlingen (Malahide Station 2), Phil Hudson (Belmont). Absent was Ken Hindley (Union Station) and Chuck Rickwood (Port Stanley).

1979 to 1990; Chief 1990 to 1998; Firefighter 1998 to present.

From Central Elgin Union Station:

Ken Hindley- Firefighter Jan. 1955 to 1969; Chief 1969 to 1971; Firefighter 1971 to 1981; Deputy Chief 1981 to 1999; District Deputy Chief 1999 to Dec. 30 2000, when retired from department.

From Central Elgin Port Stanley Station:

Chuck Rickwood- Firefighter Jan 1945 to 1970; Deputy Chief Jan 1970 to 1999; District Deputy Chief 1999 to 2000; Firefighter Jan 2000 to present.

From Dutton/Dunwich Department:

Gilbert Bouw- Firefighter Feb 1972 to 1990; Fire Chief 1990 to 1995; Trainer Facilitator 1996 to present.

From West Elgin West Lorne Department:

David Cadogan- Firefighter May 1973 to May 1983; Deputy Chief May 1983 to March 1984; Chief March 1984 to November 1 1998 when he retired from the department.

From West Elgin Rodney Department:

George McDonald- Firefighter 1969 to 1983; Captain 1983 to 1984; Firefighter in later 1984; left department for five years; Returned as Chief in 1989 and retired in January 2000. Passed away July 17, 2001.

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Podebry honoured

Walter Podebry of West Lorne, was presented with a medal for his outstanding work with the youth in his community, last month.

Podebry began his volunteerism with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, #741 Elgin Squadron, where he taught youth navigation and flying scholarship. At his own expense, he would rent aircrafts on weekends, taking cadets up for familiarization flights.

After taking a hiatus from 741, Podebry volunteered through the 427 Wing in London. One of his highlights there was undertaking fundraising so he could take two busloads of cadets to Washington.

Podebry has voluntarily taught meteorology, joining the cadets in 1989 as a cadet instructor. When

he transferred back to St. Thomas, he was able to increase the number of youths involved from 30 to 80.

On September 26 Podedbry was honoured for giving unselfishly of his time, and providing his services as a pilot under the guidance to the Canadian Air Search and Rescue.

Walter and his wife Anna have also opened their home to many foster children through St. Thomas Family and Children's Services. He has led Scouts, been an active member of the Legion and the Knights of Columbus.



Walter Podebry, left of West Lorne, was recently presented with a Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knuston. Podebry was honoured for his volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Air Cadets and for serving as a pilot for the Canadian Air Search and Rescue. (Courtesy of Regan Photography Dorchester)

Queen Elizabeth honours outstanding local community contributors

The Queens Golden Jubilee Medals for outstanding contributions to community and/or country

were handed out in St. Thomas on September 26. Local recipients for the awards were Carolyn

Cameron and Grace Campbell of Dutton and Walter Podebry of West Lorne.

The awards were presented in honour of Queen Elizabeth's 50th anniversary.



Jubilant Recipients: Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal recipients, were honoured for their work for their community and country recently at a reception hosted by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Gar Knutson. The medals were given to selected nominees in honour of the Queen's 50th anniversary. The recipients, from left, were: front Suzanne Ferguson accepting for Edra Ferguson, Margo Code, Cathy Topping, Don Stokes, Karen Whitehead, Karen Benner, Bill Chipchase, Debbie Dawdy, Sharon Hertwig, Grace Campbell; back Jory Parent, Dave Morse, Max Moore, Ron Elliot, Lloyd Allen, Ron Smith, Munir El-Kassem, Bill Lynch, Gerry Holden, Bob Dymock, MP Gar Knutson, Walter Podebry, Dave Chambers accepting for Yvonne Harris, Deb Donkers, Giles Hume, Ron McNeil, George Maurer, Sam Chabar accepting for Abdul Chabar, Carolyn Cameron and Al Marr. (Photo Courtesy of Regan Photography Dorchester)

Tougher action being taken against vandals in Miller Park

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The West Elgin Parks and Recreation Department is getting tough on vandalism at Miller Park in West Lorne and Rodney Park.

"We're trying to stop it," said Parks and Recreation Superintendent Jeff Slater of the lunch-hour vandalism that's getting out of control.

While it's a busy park and use of it is encouraged, a handful of students using it during lunch from the neighbouring West Elgin Secondary School are being blamed for the damage.

In one instance two weeks ago, Slater said a stretch of chain link fence along the ball diamonds was found tore down.

Parks staff repaired it in the morning and after lunch, found it tore down again, the wires holding the fence up had been cut.

Profane language has been spray painted in the baseball dugouts and holes in the dugout roofs have been tore open.

"The recreation committee had discussed banning the use of the park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We decided not to go that route. It's a public park for everyone to use," said Slater.

He said it's a busy park that most people take care of with St. Mary's School students visiting last week to help pick up garbage.

But he said there's a handful who seem bent on damaging the property and using the park as a place to hold fights when students have a disagreement.

"It's quite aggravating. We do take quite a bit of pride in our parks," he said.

Instead of banning use of the park during the lunch hour when most of the incidents occur, Slater said they are now calling the police each time there is an incident.

Police were called April 16 when a fight broke out in the park during the lunch break.

"It's starting to cost us a lot of money and the fighting is not safe," said Slater.

He estimates damage this year at about \$2,000 so far and said while the problem has been ongoing, this is the worst year he's seen in Miller Park.

Meanwhile, he said damage in Rodney Park is common but not as severe as in West Lorne and this year, the Rodney amount damage seems down.

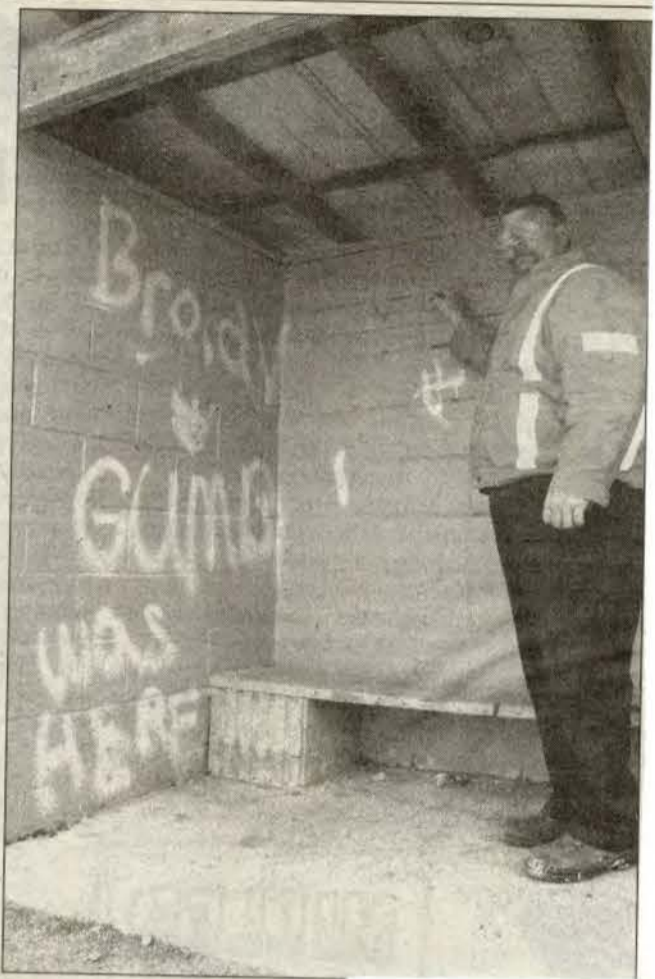
Slater hasn't brought the recent round of troubles in the park to the high school's attention yet but said when they have called the school in the past, they are often told it's not on school property and there is little the school can do.

However, Principal Larry Schneider said any time a problem is brought to his attention, he addresses it with the students and finds they are good at cooperating.

He said the recent rash of trouble might be attributed to some students getting carried away with "spring fever" enjoying being outside now after a cold and long winter.

Knowing there is a problem in the park again, he said he will speak with Slater and address it with the students.

He said the majority of the students do not cause



Jeff Slater shows some of the vandalism being done in the dugouts at Miller Park. Most of the incidents are occurring during the lunch hour. Compounding the problem are fights taking place in the park as well.

trouble and neighbours have found students willing to eliminate problems with noise, speeding cars and garbage in the past after neighbours of the school have complained and Schneider discussed it with the students.

"Whenever I am aware of an issue, I immediately get on the PA and make an announcement," said Schneider.

"The majority of the students eat lunch at the school and take part in the clubs and activities going on at lunch," he said.

In relation to the fighting, he said the school has a non-violence policy that they continue to reinforce, building values in the students of respect for each other.

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Planting still delayed with more wet weather

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Weather is continuing to make spring planting rough for farmers, many now waiting to plant soybeans after failing to get their corn crops in on time.

"The intermittent rain has meant they're really far behind or have changed crops," said Christine Brown, a nutrient management and field crop technician at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Woodstock.

While the Rodney area is close to having been able to plant corn on schedule, Brown said the Dutton and Iona Station areas, which have more clay in the soil, are further behind because the soil has not been drying out between days of rain.

The same is true for most no till fields this year.

"The no till ground is just not drying

out," Brown said.

Many farmers had to switch to soybeans.

Provincially, 90 per cent of farmers planning to plant corn were able to get it in the ground with 70 to 80 per cent in all of Elgin County.

As of last week, about 30 to 50 per cent of the soy bean crop was planted in Elgin County but the time frame is less critical for soybeans than corn.

The final date for planting corn for the best chances of a good crop this season passed earlier in May and the date for soybeans passed on June 4.

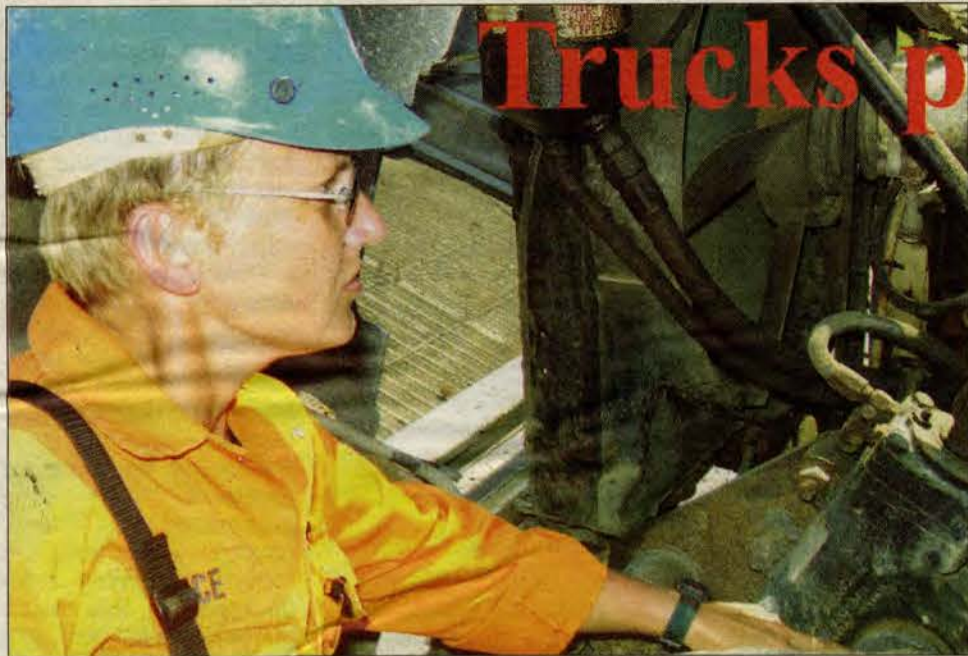
While the dates are not precise, they are a guide as to when the crop stands the best chances of producing the highest yield and quality when harvest arrives.

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Million dollar smiles

Richard and Maxine Sterling won \$10 million in last Friday's Lotto Super 7 draw. The Rodney couple bought their ticket at the 7-Eleven in Blenheim. Richard, 71, is a retired Navistar (Chatham) employee. JUNE 03



OPP Constable Toni Reinholt inspects the steering assembly of a truck pulled over in a surprise safety inspection on Thursday in West Lorne.

Trucks pulled off the road

Police, MTO host surprise inspection

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Trucks that normally slip through the weigh-scale inspection cracks were pulled over and inspected in West Lorne last Wednesday, seeing five trucks pulled off the road for being unsafe.

"The potential is there for something hazardous to happen," said Constable Toni Reinholt of the commercial vehicle inspection unit within the OPP's Western Region Traffic Unit.

"We do truck blitzes to make sure everyone is up to good safety standards," she said.

Assisted by members of the Ministry of Transportation and the Elgin County Traffic Enforcement Unit, West Lorne became the 19th in a series of blitzes this spring and summer aimed at inspecting trucks that travel outside routes where they are subject to regular inspections.

Fifteen trucks, mostly delivery vehicles, were

pulled over last Wednesday afternoon in West Lorne and inspected by Reinholt and Ministry of Transportation enforcement officers.

Four of those vehicles had their licence plates pulled on the spot and one was detained for violating a range of safety infractions from malfunctioning brakes to damaged steering systems.

Reinholt said they're pulling off the road an average of about 38 per

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Grandstand not fit for crowds

Council scrambles to make upgrades by Rodney fair deadline

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

West Elgin council is scrambling to ensure the grandstand will be safe for the crowds in time for the Rodney Aldborough Fair, less than two months away, after an engineering report recommended it no longer be used until upgrades are made.

"We can't ignore it. We have to listen to what they say. We're liable," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick at council's June 26 meeting. "We're faced with a grandstand which is not usable for a fair that is underway in September."

He invited members of the fair board to the meeting where, two

weeks prior, concerns were expressed at poor communication between municipal committees and the fair board that left fair board members surprised to learn the grandstand was being studied for safety issues, barely three months before the fair.

The fear was the grandstand would be rendered unusable now

that the fair board has already committed and paid deposits for events that depend on the grandstand for seating.

The report referred to structural problems that make the grandstand unable to withstand the load of the approximately 680 people the building holds.

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Cruising the car show



Bill Graham of West Lorne polishes up the "Batmobile", his 1961 Chrysler Windsor.



There were more than 95 cars at this year's Optimist Club Car Show in West Lorne Sunday at Miller Park. Questionable morning weather saw numbers down compared to other years. The event was a big success anyway with breakfast selling out and the food booth having to make a run for more supplies.



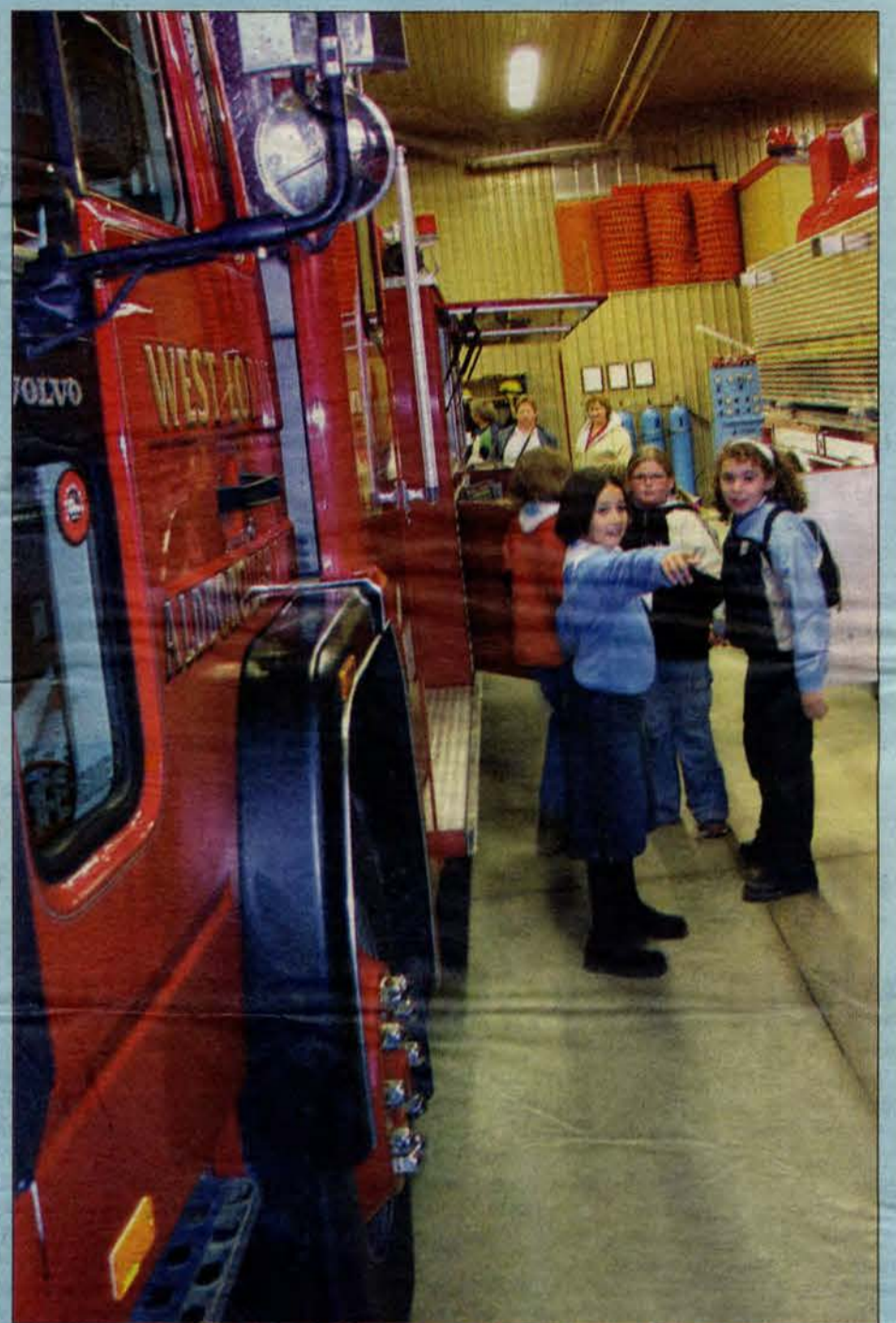
Rick Gordon and his daughter Amy of West Lorne, check out a 1962 400 Nova hardtop owned by Brad Robinson of Bothwell.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT...

Danielle LeClaire, left, and Dana Kuska, right, of the Elgin 4-H Energizers paint faces on Main Street during the West Elgin Downhill Derby Committee's family fun night last Friday. Being painted are Kailey and Ashley McMillan of West Lorne.

SEPT 2003 *Chronicle photo*



OPEN HOUSE EXCITEMENT

Sandra Hind, left, Katelyn Doan and Jess Evett Wilson were among the 18 First West Lorne Guides who took part in the West Lorne Fire Department's Open House, held last Tuesday night in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week.

OCT. 14, 2003 *Chronicle photo*



LIGHTING FOR LAWN BOWLING

Elaine Brown of the Trillium Foundation grant review team, left, and West Elgin Mayor Duncan McPhail each present cheques for \$6,000 which will go toward new lighting at the lawn bowling club in West Lorne. The lighting will extend the club's season and ability to host even more events. Joining the presentation is, second from the right, MPP Steve Peters. Receiving the cheques are Rose Daniel and Joan Lashbrook.

A message from the 2002 ambassador

My reign as Rodney Aldborough Fair Ambassador is quickly coming to an end, and it seems as if the year has flown by, as it always does. I have had many wonderful opportunities and experiences working with the Rodney Fair board, the community, and my fellow ambassadors.

I was able to attend various functions through out the year in my own and neighbouring communities as well as in Toronto. It was a once in a life time opportunity, and is one that I strongly suggest to any individual out there, male or female, to take part in. Even though the year has come to an end, the memories and friends that I have made will last a life time.

See you at the Rodney Aldborough Fair!

Devon Johnston
Rodney Aldborough Fair Ambassador 2002



THIS YEARS COMPETITORS FOR AMBASSADOR TO THE RODNEY-ALDBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL FAIR



MELANIE KNAPP, REPRESENTING THE CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. PARENTS: LARRY & PENNY KNAPP



HILARY KRITER REPRESENTING THE UNITED CHURCH WOMEN'S GROUP, RODNEY PARENTS: KEVIN & IRENE KRITER



JEN PINDER, REPRESENTING RODNEY LIONS CLUB. PARENTS: BRIAN & JANET PINDER



CAROLYN TUNKS, REPRESENTING THE CLACHAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. PARENTS: JOHN & WENDY TUNKS

COMPETITION will be held Friday at the Rodney Recreation Centre. PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7 P.M. WITH ENTERTAINMENT.



'JUST SAY YES'...

West Elgin Dramatics Society presents "Just Say Yes" at the Performing Arts Centre in Dutton. The theatre production runs Nov. 28-Nov. 30 and Dec. 5-Dec. 6. Above, left, Dianne Downie portrays Nell with Greg Simpson as Arnold and Andrew Gibbes as Blaize. Above, right, Simpson, left, portrays Arnold with Adelle Lasson, portraying Faye. (Inset), Another scene from the comedy by Jack Sharkey and Tom Sharkey.

Nov. 27/03 David Phillips photo

Foul play not suspected in boater's death

Foul play is not suspected in the death of Glencoe resident Anthony Vanderloo.

The 53-year-old's body was positively identified Monday after being found near the boat launch at Canatara Park in Sarnia.

Police believed he had fallen overboard on Lake Huron while on a fishing trip in early November.

He had last been seen launching his boat on Nov. 4 at Sarnia Bay.

Police were awaiting autopsy results on Tuesday at deadline but Sarnia Police's media relations officer, George Linton said foul play was not suspected.

Vanderloo, who has family in West Elgin, enjoyed fishing.

His empty boat had been found still running on the lake near Grand Bend on Nov. 5.

An extensive search by police, the Coast Guard and family and friends had been unable to find Vanderloo.

His body was found Saturday morning on the shoreline near the Sarnia Bay boat launch.



A GOOD SKATE

Millie Baker, left, and Grace Wilson enjoyed the adult skate Monday afternoon at the West Lorne arena. Monday and Friday mornings offer a parent and child skate and Monday afternoons see a chance for adults to get together.

DEC/03

Chronicle photo



BRASS AND SONG...

The West Elgin Choral Society joined with London's Brassroots for the society's sixth annual Christmas concert. The brass ensemble accompanied the choral society for a number of selections at the Saturday night concert held at West Elgin Secondary School.

DEC. 11 / 03

36 Chronicle photo