

The 1994 Rodney Fair VIP Day at the Grandstand



Bill Graham and Norbert Rivest entertain at VIP Day in 1994

Taken from the 'Souvenir History of the Aldborough Agricultural Society in 1954, written by Ernest G. Lusty and Lynn Lashbrook and called 'One Hundred Years of the Aldborough Agricultural Society 1854-1954'

In 1954, celebrating 100 years, the Rodney Fair was held Fri., Sat., Sun. and Monday, Sept 3 to 6.

Inclement weather played havoc with the fair of 1898 and 1906. In the first mentioned year the fair was scheduled to be held October 10 - 11. Both days were exception-

ally wet and the Society was able to pay but 50 per cent of prize money and was forced to borrow \$150 to pay off that much.

The books showed a deficit of \$380.48 at the close of business that year. In 1906 the fair was postponed because of wet weather and finally held October 11 and 12, when the weather became so cold the plants and flowers in the Crystal Palace froze before being judged.

for \$200, plus \$5 for every apple tree in her orchard which had to be removed.

A complicated financial deal was perpetrated in 1912 when the grandstand was built for \$700 by the Lusty Lumber Co. The Rodney Women's Institute contributed \$500 to the worthy cause, providing 75 per cent of proceeds from the fair night concert would become theirs. President E. G. Lusty, J. A. MacLean and Peter

## A HISTORY OF THE RODNEY ALDBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL FAIR

When Rodney Community Hall was built in the business section, Aldborough Township council had a proposition to make use of one of the two offices and council chamber in the new building. The move to accept the village offer and sell the township hall and jail to the Agricultural Society proved advantageous to both bodies. So in 1908 both buildings were purchased by the Society for \$800. Oddly enough, although the society had been in possession of the property from 1873 to 1908, it never actually owned it. In 1911 a five rod strip on the east side of the grounds was purchased from Mrs. Dundas

McVicar were appointed to act as the building committee, together with Mr. Angus McGugan for the Institute.

In 1915 the former Township Hall was moved next to Crystal Palace for convenience at fair time. Both buildings were used for show purposes during the days of the fair and as basket storage during the remainder of the year. In July that year, just two or three months before the fair, the buildings burned to the ground with their contents of baskets.

# OPP bust West Elgin crime ring, 10 people facing 44 charges

OCT 14 2003

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

Elgin OPP have shut down a significant crime ring in West Elgin with 10 people facing a total of 44 weapons and stolen property charges.

Almost \$14,000 worth of stolen property has been recovered.

The charges follow a three-month investigation by Elgin County OPP.

Uniformed officers and members of the OPP's crime unit were involved in the investigation and OPP released information about the charges late last week, following the execution of several search warrants.

"They're not independent crimes, some are family members," said OPP Community Services Officer Jennifer Wilks

on Tuesday.

Among the items stolen were stereos, DVD players, firearms and machinery, many taken from residential break-ins.

"All sorts of stuff," said Wilks.

She said all the people charged were connected as either friends or family members.

Further details about how the group operated were not available at press time.

The people charged resided in both West Lorne and Rodney.

### CHARGED

A 48-year-old West Elgin woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and theft under \$5,000.

A 26-year-old man has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, two counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime,

possession of a firearm while prohibited, mischief and break and enter.

A 22-year-old man has been charged with two counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime, break and enter, mischief, and possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000.

A 33-year-old man has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000.

A 29-year-old woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime, under \$5,000.

A 55-year-old woman has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime, under \$5,000.

A 31-year-old man has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and two

counts of possession of a firearm obtained by crime.

A 31-year-old woman has been charged with three counts of possession of property obtained by crime.

A 43-year-old man has been charged with possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000 and two counts of breach of probation.

A 17-year-old male young offender has been charged with four counts of possession of property obtained by crime under \$5,000, three counts of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000, public mischief, break and enter, escape lawful custody, two counts of mischief under \$5,000, two counts of possession of firearm obtained by crime.





## Syrup season

Dave Huver empties the sap buckets from the trees he has tapped near the lakeshore south of Rodney. Unseasonably warm temperatures have hindered the flow of sap to be made into maple syrup. Buckets that are normally emptied twice a day are still not full after more than a day.



## Big wheels

On a sunny day last Friday in West Lorne, Dylan Graham, 3 and Jake Lockrey, 2, check out the construction at the intersection of Main and Graham, as the crew continues work on upgrading the storm sewers. APR. 17/03

April 3, 2003 - Page 10

## Sisters recognized in sports hall of fame

By Scott Hilgendorff  
*The Chronicle*

More than 50 years after dominating the diamonds as members of the Florence Chicks, West Lorne sisters, Jean Besley and Gwen Szabo's team is being inducted into the Dresden Sports Hall of Fame.

With players that could throw as hard or far as any man, the Chicks dominated the women's baseball scene in the region in the 1950s.

The stands were full for every game with crowds in excess of 1,000 to even 2,000 people coming out to watch. "There were big crowds. There was no tv to watch then," said Besley.

The team won five provincial titles that decade but Besley says it wasn't easy.

"I remember playing Mount Brydges one time and we played 14 innings," said Besley. "We won 2-1. I never forgot that."

It was one of their toughest games but she said most games were tight.

"You'd never know. They were just good games. They weren't walkaways," she said.

Besley played third base, right field and short stop for the Chicks, after being a catcher in West Lorne.

Her sister played first base.

"She was left-handed and it was pretty hard to beat her," said Besley.

Szabo didn't play with the team for as long as her sister but enjoyed every game.

"I watched them more than anything," she remembers of her time playing ball.

The two played for West Lorne before joining the Chicks but often went to Florence to watch the games.

"They were the best. Well, not quite because we beat them once," she said.

West Lorne was one of the teams that played against the Chicks and were almost always defeated.

Besley said there was a friendly rivalry but would never forget actually beating the Chicks before being recruited to the team.

Besley reluctantly admits that her and her sister's skills caught the attention of the Chick's manager, Wilbert North, his wife Doris and son Bob, who operated the team.

North owned a baby chick business and sold chicks to Besley's family farm, but the team had such a large following, they were well-known to Besley and Szabo without the family connection.

But North had watched the sisters play and saw something he liked in their skill.

Known for building a strong team, he recruited girls from a top London squad as well and was doing his best to keep the girls on top.



Gwen Szabo and Jean Besley



The 1950 Florence Chicks. In white blouses are Gwen Szabo and Jean Besley.

He liked their abilities enough that the sisters were picked up in West Lorne for games in Florence or away games across Ontario.

Beyond Ontario, the team's reputation was known in the United States as well.

Locally, they played in the Lambton-Kent County League with teams from Kent Bridge, Dresden, Rutherford, Wabash and Newbury.

The two grew up playing baseball in a family of seven siblings.

There were four girls and four boys and their parents that would play ball together on the farm when they were children.

Besley's mom and aunt both played on teams when the girls were growing up and she said fastball was just such a part of life in the area.


Szabo said the girls in the family played more ball than the boys.

"It really was just a lot of fun," said Besley.

Besley and Szabo were surprised last week to learn of the team's induction and aren't sure if they will be attending the April 12 dinner and induction ceremony, having received no official word from the Hall of Fame.



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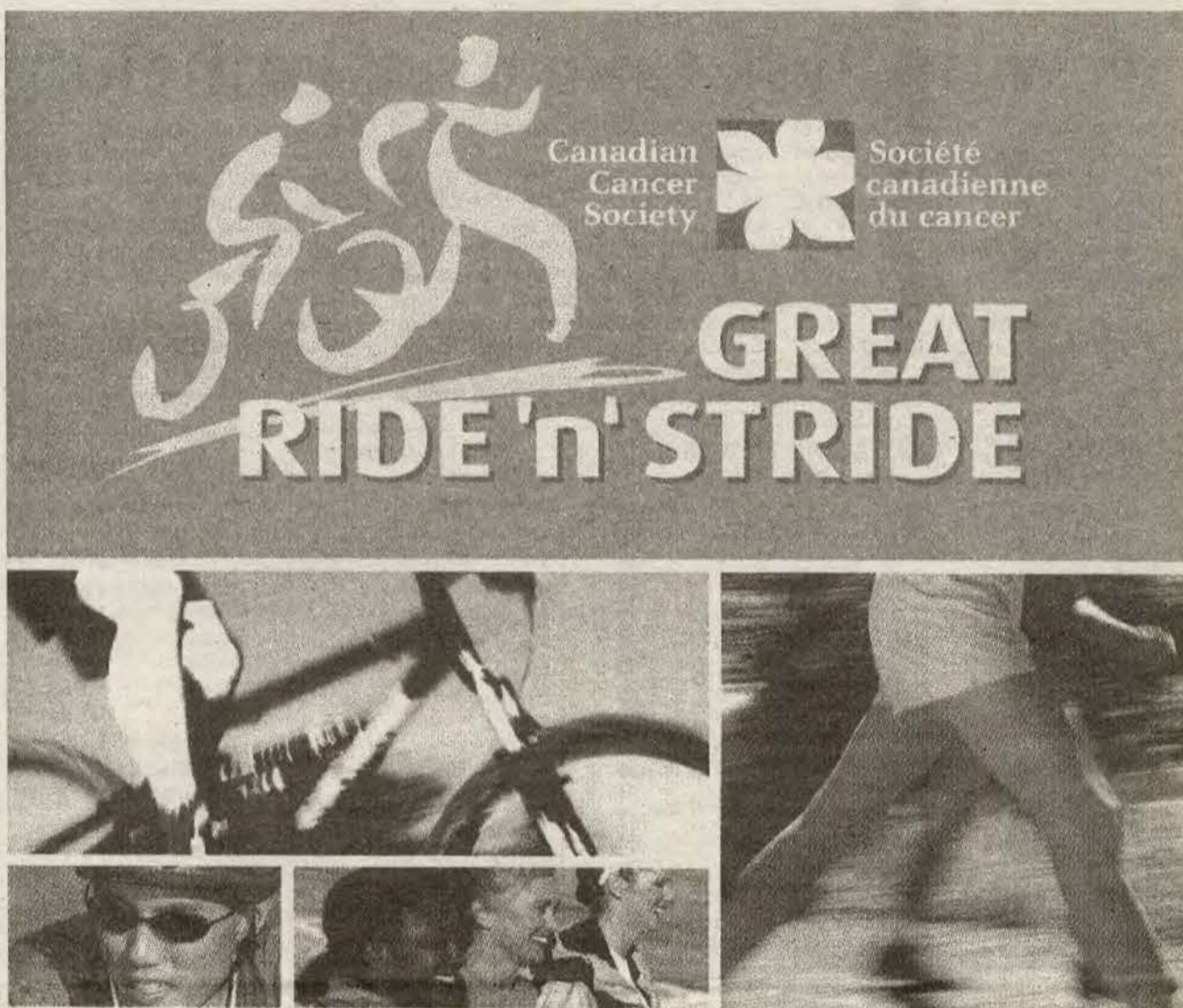
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Ariel Whalen performs Penguins in her Friday night presentation at the West Lorne Kiwanis Club's Talent Show.



Kelsey Shaw performed some contortionistic moves in her dance performance Friday night at the West Lorne Kiwanis Club Talent Show. The event was held April 25 and April 26 at the West Elgin Dramatics Society's theatre in Dutton.

## Kiwanis Talent Show results

### Friday evening

Opening Ceremonies featured the W.E.S.E.S. Choir.

Violin Solo, under 7 - Janine Noorloos  
Violin Solo, age: 7 - Shayla Sample  
Violin Solo, age: 11 - Hillary Hodder,  
Conservatory only:  
Molly McWilliams  
Dance: Kelsey Shaw  
Vocal Solo, age :10/11 - Shelby Wooley (" Handsome Butcher")  
Vocal Solo, age :10/11 - Open Class - Hillary Hodder ("Who will buy")  
Vocal Solo age: 13- - Nicola Borowski  
Vocal Duet age: 11 - Allison Borton and Madison Hayes

Flute Solo , ages: 12 - 15 Sarah House

Violin Solo, age: 9 - 13 Sarah Oliveira, (9 yrs), Nicola Borowski (13 yrs)

Piano Solo, age: 13 - Conservatory - Lisi

Conservatory & Popular: Nicola Borowski

Piano Solo, age: 14 Amanda Ford

Piano Solo, Pop /Conservatory, age : 15- Sarah House

Piano Solo, pop /Conservatory, age: 16 - Candace Van den Dries

Piano Solo, Pop, age: 17 - Ashley Keane

Piano Solo, age: 15 - Michelle Smith

Piano Duet, age: 13 / 14 - Tracy Donaldson / Amanda Ford

Added: Vocal Solo, age: 16 - Erica Silver ("With A Song In My Heart")

Piano Solo, age: 15 - Pop /Conservatory: Sarah House

Piano Solo, age: 16 -Pop

/Conservatory: Candace Van den Dries

Piano Solo Pop age: 17 : Ashley Keane

Piano Solo, age: 15 - Michelle Smith

Piano Duet, age: 13 / 14 Tracy Donaldson / Amanda Ford

Added-- Vocal Solo age: 16 - Erica Silver ( With A Song In My Heart)

Saturday Afternoon

Piano Solo, age: 4 Janine Noorloos

Piano Solo, age:6 Rachel Frizzell

Piano Trio, age: 4- 8 - - Janine Noorloos, Megan and Danielle Dieleman

Piano Solo, age 7 - Tristan Fisher

Piano Solo, Pop

/Conservatory, age: 8 - Katherine Stone

Chelsey Page

Piano Solo, age: 8 - Brandon Oliver- Ivey

Piano Duet, age 6 - Ryan and Rachel Frizzell

Piano Duet, age:8 - Allison Kornaker / Kayla Ross

Piano Duet, age: 10 Stephen and Brianne Carter

Piano duet, age: 7 - Ryan Alderton / Christin Fisher

Piano Duet, age :11 - Stephen van't Voort / Nathan Westerveld

Piano Duet, age: 9 / 12- Ian / Jordan McGuire

Piano Solo, Pop / Conservatory, age 9 - Scotty Schaffer

Conservatory only, age: 9 -

Katherine Stone

Piano Solo, age: 10 - Brianne Carter

Piano Solo, age 10; Conservatory only: Andrew LaCroix

Vocal Solo, age 8/ 9 - Allison Kornaker

Vocal Solo, age: 12 - Open class: Vicki Close

Piano Solo, age: 12 - Rebecca Stone



Hillary Hodder performed in the open class for aged 10 and 11 entries in the vocal solo class.



John Kenneth Galbraith's sons, Peter, left, Allan and Jaime attended the unveiling of an Inuksuk monument to mark the Galbraith homestead. At right is town crier Dave Phillips whose wife, Jenny, organized the event.

## Galbraith honoured, sends personal message

For The Chronicle  
Dutton-Dunwich paid tribute to a famous native son Saturday, a man who loved the farm of his boyhood days and who eventually became a world-renown figure.

Saturday's one-hour ceremony, attended by about 100 friends, peers, neighbours and politicians, saw the unveiling of an inuksuk statue to John Kenneth Galbraith. The ceremony took place at the family homestead on Thompson Line, just outside Dutton. An inuksuk is an Inuit statue built from stone, meaning life of person.  
Born in Dutton-

Dunwich, Galbraith, now 94, worked on the farm as a boy before completing his high school education and moving on to the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, Ont. He later studied at the University of California, Berkeley and joined the faculty of Harvard University in 1934.

Galbraith administered price controls for the U.S. during the Second World War and went on to become a celebrated economist and statesman, serving as advisor to many presidents. Under President John F. Kennedy, he became U.S. ambassa-

dor to India and even as an American citizen, became the first non-resident of Canada to be awarded the Order of Canada.

"Even though he has lived many years in the U.S., he has never forgotten to support this area," said Donald Page, a former chairman of the Toronto Stock Exchange. "We honour a great Canadian and American who has done so much to shape discourse and public policy," said Morgan Hall, U.S. vice-consul general.

Hall said it was partly

Continued on page 2  
MAY 22/03





Shalandra Wood, left, Ashley McFadden, Katie Dawson and Jessica DeGraw were among the Junior Optimists and friends who painted faces, including their own on Tuesday in Miller Park to help West Lorne residents celebrate Canada Day.

# Crazy about Canada



Shelby Woolley competes in Dutton Idol, part of Canada Day activities in the park.



Caitlin Blake of Dutton spits a cherry seed during Dutton Canada Day celebrations and a cherry pit spitting competition.



Samantha Hamelin, left, Sarah King and Mckayla Monden hold a "Go Shelby" sign during the Dutton Idol competition.



James Gruenbauer competes.



Melissa Mann spits her seed.



Alyssa Monden sings Me and Little Andy by Dolly Parton at Dutton Idol.



Rob Reardon on fiddle joins Bob Miller on accordion. The two are part of Bob Bob A Lou, a Wardsville-area band that entertained during the West Lorne Army Cadets' roast beef dinner served at the West Lorne Arena before the fireworks. More Canada Day coverage appears next week.

Scott Hilgendorff photos



Caitlin's dad, Steve, competes in the class of the cherry pit spitting contest.





A small group of drummers uses a variety of percussion instruments to create rhythmic music at Sharon Little's West Lorne area home. Little has started offering the program as a way to build community and help people overcome some of their fears about playing music.

Chronicle photo

# Drum circles building community

## Anyone can make music if they let go of their fear

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

Walk the dog. Walk the dog. Walk the dog. Say it to yourself out loud a few times and you can hear the rhythm in the words.

"Everyone has rhythm. Your heartbeat has a rhythm. You walk in rhythm. Life around you has rhythm," said Sharon Little.

Music and rhythm have almost always been part of her life. She's taught music in schools, leads the West Elgin Community Band and, most recently, has been promoting drum circles as a way to bring rhythm into anyone's life.

"People think they have to be at higher levels to be any good at making music. Yet people go out and play baseball for fun or skate for fun. They don't feel like they have to be a Wayne Gretzky to play hockey. Something about music, you feel like you have to have some bizarre talent," she said.

Yet it puzzles her why people hold themselves back from playing and enjoying music the way they would sports and other recreational activities.

"I'm trying to break down the barriers people have," said Little, who holds drum circles in her home for now, but is looking for a bigger venue as the popularity grows.

A drum circle is one way she's trying to do that, helping people get past their fears and negative thoughts toward playing music, so they can see they can also go out in the world and do anything.

"We can't share our

gifts when we're afraid," she said.

Drum circles have been around since times of indigenous cultures around the world.

Today, Little said the drum circles are mostly held to make connections between people and to build a sense of community in them.

She said they are used in various forms in homes for the aged, schools and prisons and in corporate conferences for team building.

The circle is nothing

more than a group of people coming together to make rhythmic sounds, using percussion devices rather than more complicated musical instruments.

It requires no experience at all and complete novices can find themselves contributing to the group within minutes, whether or not they've ever played music before.

There's no sheet music to follow, Little simply leads the group through different exercises and methods of generating the rhythms and in minutes, percussion-based music is filling her home.

"For us to make music is completely natural," said Little.

Through the drum circles, she's watched people let go of the fears that hold them back.

Julie Morris of Iona Station was one of those fearful people who timidly began with the group when Little held her first drum circle earlier this summer.

"I was really apprehensive about coming. I'm not musical," she said.

"She called Little, thinking the idea of a drum circle sounded inviting and interesting, but wasn't sure if she would really be able to participate. She had little musical experience and was apprehensive about

starting.

Those fears are all gone now. During a break from a circle held late last month, Morris said, "When we all get into a groove, it's an amazing feeling. There's the idea of the whole being greater than its parts."

It was only her third time out.

"It's a wonderful feeling when you get going and listening to each other. When you focus on that one rhythm, you shut down everything else. All the stresses disappear. It's a sense of release. It's like you get into a zone," she said.

The other participants laugh at how timid Morris

was, tentatively playing the drums and hesitant to make mistakes.

"There are no mistakes," she said, as she now plays as much and as assertively as the most experienced drummers in the group.

Driving home, Morris said she finds herself drumming rhythms on the steering wheel and even at home, where she has no drums, she's found other ways to practice rhythm.

"The dogs didn't like it when I emptied their water bowls," she said.

Little's next drum circle is Aug. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and she is hoping to hold more in the fall.



Julie Morris



Sharon Little leads the group in a new rhythm pattern while Dick Hale finds his drumming pattern.

Chronicle photo



# Risk of ash borer remains high for Elgin County

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

Elgin County remains at a high risk for infestation of the emerald ash borer, a new insect to North America that is devastating the ash tree population in Essex County and being closely watched in the county by members of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

"In your area, you are in a high risk for the emerald ash borer," said Ken Marchant, a forestry specialist with the CFIA, currently working in an office in Essex, set up just to handle the ash borer crisis.

The insect first appeared early last summer in Essex County and has already destroyed an undetermined number of ash trees.

Now, the area is under quarantine in an effort to prevent the insect from spreading. The quarantine means no unfinished, untreated wood products can be moved outside Essex County including firewood and nursery stock.

"It's a very difficult insect to control, almost impossible," Marchant said. "You don't know it's there until it's too late."

He said it does most of its damage inside the tree and by the time a person can see signs of an infestation, it is too late to save the tree.

He also said people in Elgin County have no idea just how devastating it

would be if the borer spreads this far.

"Ash is a major component of woodlots in the area," he said, adding the ash tree is an environmentally important tree.

He said it grows easily in woodlots and is an important component of reforestation as it forces out weed varieties that overpower other trees like maples, that stand a better chance of repopulating when ash trees are present.

"Ash is one of few species that can out-muscle more harmful species," Marchant said. "It's loss would be a disaster with a capital 'D' for Canada."

Right now, Marchant said the biggest worry about controlling the spread of the borer is

people.

"People are the main cause of its spread," he said, adding it is largely through people moving firewood from out of the quarantine area.

After the first year of studying the insect, he said they now have proof it has been spread through the movement of firewood.

Anyone caught transporting wood outside the quarantine area is subject to large fines, said Marchant, adding as much as they are monitoring the movement of the insect, the agency is also monitoring movement of wood in the quarantine area.

**"IN YOUR AREA, YOU ARE IN A HIGH RISK FOR THE EMERALD ASH BORER,"**

**— Ken Marchant, forestry specialist, Canada Food Inspection Agency**

2003 Continued on Page 2



## MESSED UP FUN...

Grade 9 students were welcomed to West Elgin Secondary School Friday with an afternoon of games that involved oatmeal and other messes. Chronicle photo

OCT. 2/03

# From a cancer survivor's perspective

It was only two weeks ago, on a sunny and brisk Sunday, that I was overcome by emotion so strong it brought tears to my eyes and my lips quivering. Hundreds of pink balloons decorated the stage, a rock band was playing and the mood was festive yet sad. I was with some friends in the midst of 30,000 people in Toronto at the CIBC Run For The Cure for Breast Cancer. What an awesome sight! All of these people in white T-shirts with pink ribbons, running for someone special and raising over \$311,000 for the Cure. As I looked around I saw a young mother pushing a baby carriage. She was obviously taking chemo and had lost her hair. I saw families walking together in honour of a loved one, smiling and holding on tightly to each other. Some were walking with their dogs that had pink ribbons on their collars.

I am a two time breast cancer survivor and on that day, I remembered a



by Rosalie Krebsz

busy life that would be disrupted by fatigue, nausea and pain. It soon will be nine years since I was diagnosed. After the diagnosis ... what next?

First you cry, then your loved ones cry with you as you break the news. Your heart almost stops beating, waves of fear overcome you; you are so frightened and confused. After feeling all of this, I realized it was time to fight back and get on with it.

I believe that it is important with any disease or illness; you can do a number of things. Do your best! Learn to live with it, learn to live around it and learn to live in spite of it. Just live!

I can't begin to tell you how much the support of my loved ones meant to me, and how they helped me in my recovery. There

are many times when we need help and people do feel good when they can help others.

Just over a year ago, I went through six weeks of radiation treatments, with my family and friends taking turns driving me in each day. There is so much support in our community, such as this issue on awareness, a Reach for Recovery program, and all of the wonderful volunteer drivers.

Medical treatments have improved immensely over the years and just last week a new drug was put on the market that I know will benefit me. Before my surgery, I told my doctor that I was in God's hands and his so please do a good job. He replied that he would do the best he could and I was comforted. I truly have been blessed with the care I have received

from all of my doctors.

Hope offers cancer patients a brighter tomorrow. It is what a person diagnosed needs above all else. Because only with hope and faith can there be survival and ultimately a return to health.

On that sunny day in Toronto, I remember talking to a stranger telling her I was a survivor. I asked her how many years for her and she replied "one!". Then I told her I had eight years. She embraced me and with tears in her eyes, she said "I hope I look as well as you do in eight years." I was so moved.

Cancer has changed me. A life I thought should continue forever, is suddenly shown to have an ending. Yet, what cancer has given me, is the gift of recognizing that each and everyone of our days is precious - a gift to be used wisely, and richly enjoyed. God Bless.

From the heart and pen of Rosalie Krebsz in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.