

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL ONTARIO SCHOLARS

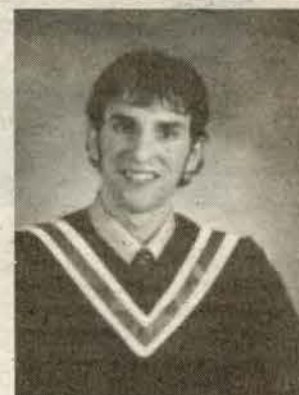
The Principal has recommended to the Minister of Education that the following students be recognized as Ontario Scholars



Meghan Mackenzie Bell
West Lorne
Parents: Heather Bell & Hugh Mackenzie
School: University of Guelph
Program: Animal Biology



Kristal deWit
Wardville
Parents: Marcel & Attie deWit
School: University of Windsor
Program: Concurrent B.A. /E.ed/E.C.E.



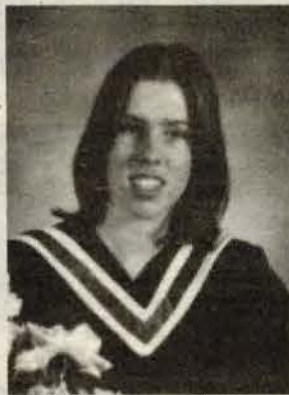
Bruno Ferreira
West Lorne
Parents: Arlindo & Maria Ferreira
School: Ottawa University
Program: Computer Engineering



Sarah Fischer
Rodney
Parents: Dennis & Sandra Fischer
School: University of Guelph
Program: Honours French



Jackie Fleming
Rodney
Parents: Shelley & Frank Fleming
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Pre-Optometry /Pre-Health



Carrie Ford
Wallacetown
Parents: Don & Karen Ford
School: Wilfred Laurier
Program: Honours Arts - History



Stacey Fowler
Iona Station
Parents: Dale & Eunice Fowler
School: Fanshawe College
Program: BScN Nursing



Bryan Griffiths
Dutton
Parents: Bev & Ron Griffiths
School: RCC College of Technology
Program: Computer Networking Technician



Joseph Hentz
Wallacetown
Parents: Michael & Ingrid Hentz
School: Univ. of Western Ont.
Program: History



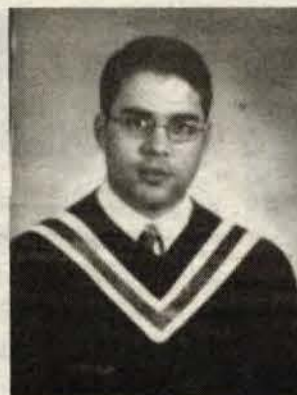
Kim Kool
West Lorne
Parents: Marty & Connie Kool
School: St. Thomas Univ.
Program: Bachelor of Arts



Andy McGuire
Rodney
Parents: Mary & Mike McGuire
School: Queens University
Program: Political Science / History



Claudia Neves
West Lorne
Parents: Maria Cidalina & Jose Neves
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Pre-Optometry / Pre-Health



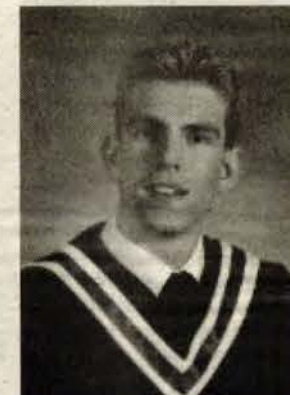
Gabe Pessoa
West Lorne
Parents: Maria Pessoa
School: Univ. of Western Ont.
Program: Electrical Engineering



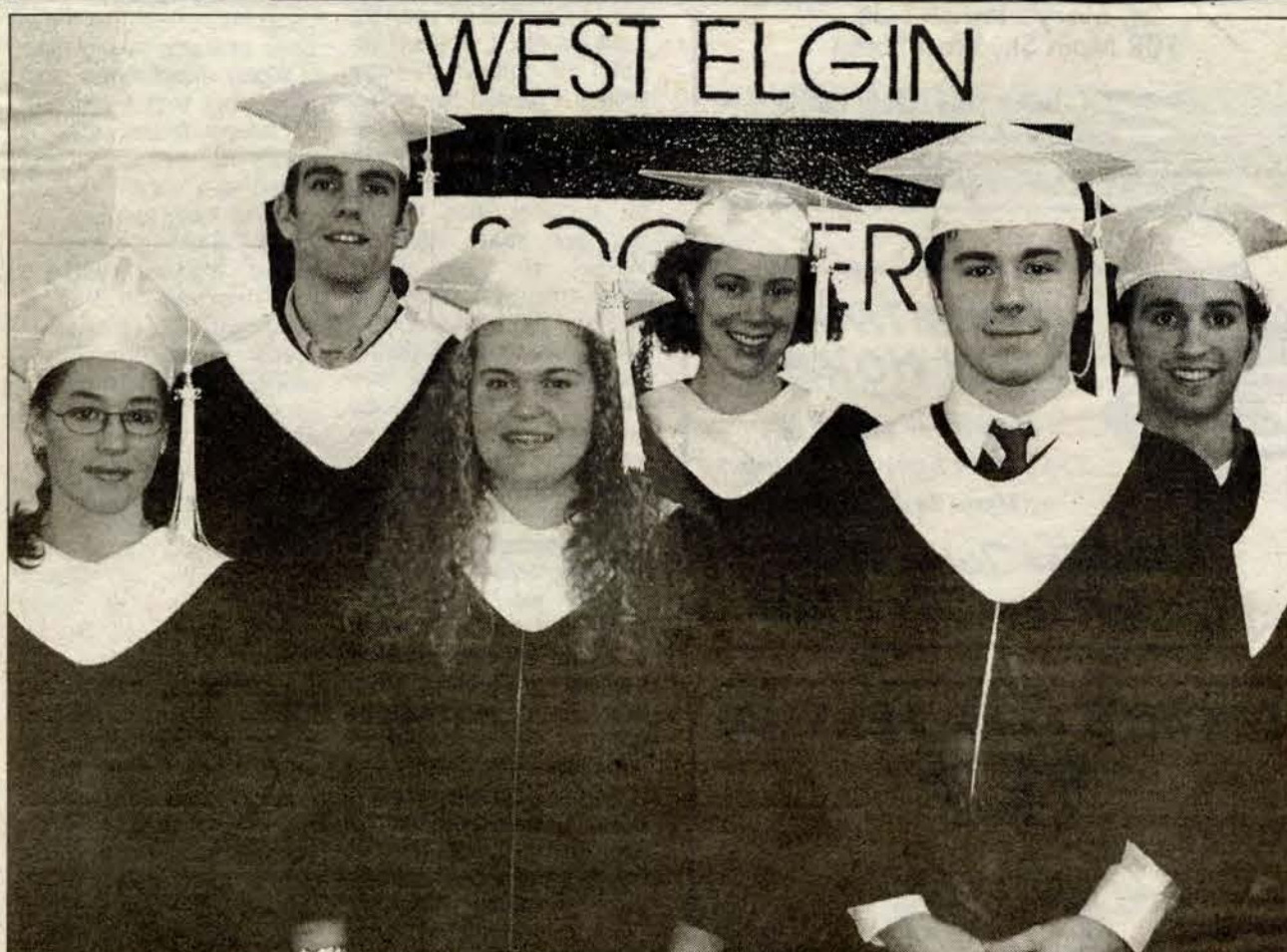
Catherine Schneider
Rodney
Parents: Larry & Gwen Schneider
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Honours Arts and Business



Sarah Smith
Rodney
Parents: Bill & Deb Smith
School: Fanshawe College
Program: General Arts and Science



Derek Vandenbrink
Rodney
Parents: Jerry & Rosemarie Vandenbrink
School: Univ. of Waterloo
Program: Kinesiology



WESS highest honours

Pictured left to right are Major Award winners from the WESS Commencement on October 26 were Jackie Fleming, Derek Vandenbrink, Catherine Schneider, Sarah Fischer, and Andy McGuire (Valedictorian) and Bruno Ferreira (Salutorian). See more commencement coverage in this edition of *The Chronicle* on page 2.

WESS 2002 graduates

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Celia Almeida | Jacquelyn Fleming |
| Andrew Astapkevicius | Janneke Fleuren |
| Andrew Barber | Carrie Ford |
| Meghan MacKenzie Bell | Russel Foster |
| Charlotte Bennetto | Stacey Fowler |
| Dave Boyd | Chris Graham |
| Harry Budden | Bryan Giffiths |
| Eric Clement | John Guy |
| Krista Coleman | Denise Hentz |
| Katie Cormier | Joseph Hentz |
| Melissa Couper | Eamon Johnston |
| Rob Cozzolino | Joe Keech |
| Derek DeBie | Kyle Kieraszwicz |
| Kristal de Wit | Joanne Knowles |
| Josh Derraugh | Kim Kool |
| Danny Dias | Trevor Kuska |
| Jacqueline Dos Santos | Dan Lee |
| Ashley Duolinski | Shannon Lundy |
| Daniel Duplessis | David Mancini |
| Heather Duplessis | Adam McGallum |
| Bruno Ferreira | Jeffrey McCallum |
| Sarah Fischer | Christopher McCreedy |
| Carrie Slaats | Andrew McGuire |
| Sarah Smith | Michael McIlmoyle |
| Stephanie Smith | David McKillop |
| Tristan Staddon | Mark McKillop |
| Justin Swan | Paige McKnight |
| Zach Thompson | Ryan McLandress |
| Bradley Toth | Amy Mezenberg |
| Gilliane Trudell | Sarah Minten |
| Derek Vandenbrink | Nick Nagy |
| Jennifer Van Dyk | Claudia Neves |
| Maxwell Voll | Ed Newman |
| Cory Waite | Carl Ouellette |
| Joe Waite | Nathan Ouellette |
| Emily Wakeford | Tanya Park |
| John Watterworth | Nikki Patterson |
| Heather Weed | Gabriel Pessoa |
| Nicole Webber | Justin Pinter |
| Shane White | Darren Rastin |
| Tiffany White | Derek Reeves |
| Crystal Witroway | Ian Rowe |
| Nathan Woolsey | Catherine Schneider |
| | Melissa Schneider |
| | Bradley Seed |

WESES is tops in soccer



WESES girls soccer team. Back row: Alanah Sutton, Erin Sheedy, Kanda Ocolisan, Sheri Ford, Danielle Wilson, Rhonda Knight, Brittany Hein, Kim Krier and coach Dean McLenaghan. Front row: Tara Kirschner, Brittany Correia, Tasha O'Connor, Shobha Sharma, Jessica Kalita, Liona Vanderzan, Courtney Tilbury, Brittany Eichenberger and Amanda Jamieson.

WESES went undefeated in their 3 games at Glencoe by winning by scores of 3-0, 2-0 and 4-0 to win the Regional Championship. The girls had a balanced attack with 9 different goal scorers.



WESES boys soccer team. Back row: Kevin Greenfield, Cory Winger, Tim Vanderzan, Phil Ouellette, Stephen Agar, Tyler Gowenlock, Harrison Oake, Wyatt Ocolisan and coach Joe Raffa. Front row: Adam Clark, Josh McDonald, Aaron Cowell, Jeremy Koscik, Shawn Zimmerman, Danny Sutton, Jeff Joscik and Kyle McTavish. WESES won their games by scores of 10-0, 8-0 and 2-1 in the final to capture the Regional Championship. High goal scorers were Shawn Zimmerman with six goals and Jeremy Joscik with 5 goals.

2002

The Chronicle

Optimist's Aldborough P.S. Rodeo winners



Optimist Club of West Lorne sponsored the Optimist Bike rodeo at Aldborough Public School on June 11. Optimist Vice President Doug Staddon is shown with rodeo winners A. J. Fordham, Ben Hyatt (both 1st for grades 5-6), Taylor Moorby (1st grades 3-4), and Cole Kalita (1st for grades kindergarten to grade 2.)

New instruments arrive at WESS



Jake Fischer, a senior music student at WESS, hugs one of the newest arrivals, a timpani drum which he will be using.

Brand new instruments arrived last week at West Elgin Secondary School thanks to the generosity of the community.

Over \$20,000 has been raised so far for the Instrument Renewal Program. That is getting close to the \$25,000 that was needed to save the program.

Music director Spiro Grima said the support from the

community has been overwhelming.

On Thursday while the grade 10 students were unpacking the new instruments, some of them were heard to exclaim "it's just like Christmas!"

Now that the \$25,000 seems more than achievable, the music department is ready to take things a step further.

Spiro says with \$30,000 they can buy more instruments to expand the bands repertoire.

He says enough money has been raised to enable a maintenance and replacement program, which has never been at WESS.

SEPT. 9/02

EDUCATION 2002



WESS principal Larry Schneider and teacher Berta Prelaz had fun being servants at McHappy Day on November 20, 2002

Ed. Minister won't protect her former school

JULY 2002

WHITMER SAYS IT WOULD BE 'INAPPROPRIATE'

Minister of Education Elizabeth Whitmer will not be protecting the school she once taught in - West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne. Whitmer wrote back to the Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich earlier this month stating it would be inappropriate for herself to intervene in the processes of the Thames Valley District School Board.

Council reviewed the letter on Wednesday at a regular council meeting.

"Under the Education Act, decisions regarding pupil accommodation are the responsibility of the school board," she wrote to the municipality.

Whitmer said school boards retain flexibility in the allocation of resources because they are in the best position to identify local needs when setting budgetary priorities. She then went on to point out she would not interfere with the board's decisions on

pupil accommodation.

Her letter did not sway away from the issue and advised the municipality to take the right steps. In her letter, Whitmer hand-wrote a post script stating "Please keep in mind no final decisions have been made. I would encourage you to continue to share your concerns with the local trustees."

Dutton/Dunwich made a resolution earlier this year protesting rural school closures across the province and asked that other cost cutting measures be found.

In other council news, here are some highlights from the July 17 meeting:

2002 budget passed
Council approved its 2002 budget which will be passed onto other municipalities and the county to enable them to set their own tax rates across Elgin.

See D/D COUNCIL, pg. 2

Helping WESS's auto program

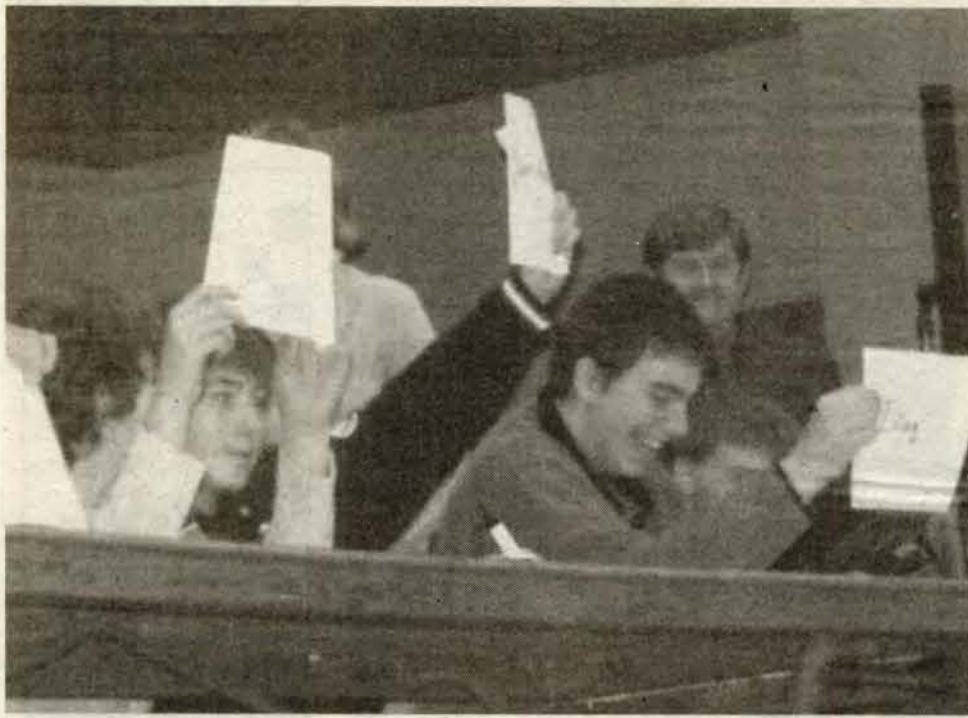


Dutton Farm & Auto and Dave Wheeler Automotive handed over a \$312 cheque last week to West Elgin Secondary School to help the Automotive Program. Handing over the cheque are at left, Rob Willson (Dutton Farm & Auto) and Dave Wheeler (Wheeler Automotive) to Grade 12 student Ryan Dick and Automotive teacher Paul Galliant. This past summer there was scheduling conflict and both the Dave Wheeler Automotive and Dutton Farm & Auto Car Show and WESS's 1st Annual Car Show were scheduled on the same day. To show their support, Farm Auto and Dave Wheeler Automotive decided to raise money during their car show. The money will be going towards shop equipment at WESS.



WESS held its 3rd Annual Music Awards Dinner on June 5. Winning the students choice award for leadership and interest in the band were Sarah Smith (centre) and Sarah Fischer (right). Presenting the award was WESS Music Conductor Spiro Grima (left). Smith also won for Director's Choice Award.

JUNE 2002



WESS's grade 9 and 10 students have been taking the Great Geography Challenge for the past two weeks. Last week the top scorers from each class faced off against each other. The top three winners were Richard Dempsyn-Jones, Mike Miller and Ryan Carey. Dempsyn-Jones will now try to qualify in the provincials.

Placing in the top 10 were Kory Preston, Adam Hill, Elana Oake, David Dawson, Erin Fleming, Donald Yorke (for Derek Vanhee) and Scott Burdett. Organizers would like to thank the following businesses for supporting the challenge with prizes: P.J's Pizza, Mancari's Restaurant, Machado's Restaurant, Rosa's New Image, Ta-Dye-4, Back Door Pizza, and B&J Variety.

DEC 23, 2002

DEC. 2, 2002

Painting the town!!!



WESS grade 10 students Leslie Johnstone and Dana Woolley are all smiles as they paint a Christmas mural in P.J's Pizza in West Lorne. The class of Mrs McLaghan once again painted windows for Christmas, as part of their course.

The Chronicle

OCT 2002

WESS Breakfast Program going strong

The Breakfast Program at WESS has been operating for a month now. Healthy breakfast foods are available to all students before school in the morning. The menu consists of fruit, milk, juice, toast, cereal, muffins and cheese. We have received a grant of \$10,950 from the Breakfast for Learning, Canadian Living Foundation. On average between 40 and 60 students participate each day. The student leader in charge of this program is Morgan McWilliam. WESS has a number of student volunteers who help out each morning with set up and clean up. Jessie Lowes is also at the school each morning to assist Morgan.

WESS also received some donations from various service groups within the West Elgin area. Thanks is extended to the West Lome Women's Institute, West Lome Legion Branch 221, West Lome Optimist Club, West Lome Kiwanis, and the Rodney Lodge AF & AM No. 411. The cafeteria staff in JJ's have also been very helpful in assisting the students in the

morning. Thanks is also extended to Tim Horton's for donating muffins twice a week. This is a very worthwhile service that is available to our students. It is a real treat to see a student walk down the hallway eating an apple in the morning instead of a bag of chips!

In addition to the money received from Breakfast for Learning, WESS is also doing its own fundraising. Members are selling raffle tickets for a draw that will be held May 20, 2003. Prizes to be won include: a 2002 Suzuki Ozark 250 ATV, four ice level Detroit Red Wing tickets, and two cordless phones valued at over \$100 each. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased from any committee member or by calling the school at 768-1350 and asking for Miss Sethi or Mrs. Ross. Any service clubs or individuals wishing to have tickets to sell please call the school also.

If you would like more information about the program or would like to view it in action, please feel free to call or drop by.

Bullying in school cannot always be prevented in rural settings, but there can be many steps taken to minimize it.

Dr Linda Baker held a presentation in September, which was well attended by parents and people in education. The community

information night was hosted by the West Elgin Community Health Centre at St. Mary's Parish in West Lome.

Baker said she was very impressed with the people's openness to discuss bullying and admit their children or students are affected.



Local principal Dave Ferri discusses bullying issues with Dr Linda Baker. Baker is the Exec. Director of the Centre for Children & Families in the justice system of London Court Clinic.

Baker is the Exec. Director of the Centre for Children & Families in the justice system of London Court Clinic. She said she was very surprised to see what resources are available locally and how keen some parents and teachers are to tackle the subject.

Bullying is now understood to be a form of aggression where there is an obvious imbalance of power. In school, the events often will take place repeatedly, and they can involve the following activities/behaviours: physical aggression, intimidation, stealing lunch, money or teasing and harassment.

Baker said the emphasis has to be realizing that bullying does happen at every school and it is very dangerous for a child's proper development. It also goes beyond the school environment.

"It's just everywhere. It isn't just at the school level. It's in the community as a whole," she said.

Baker applauded some of the local schools for creating initiatives to combat bullying.

Dave Ferri and Sue Bandeen, the principal and vice-principal of Ekcoe Central School in Glencoe said Baker's presentation was very informative and they picked up ideas that can be used in the school.

Ferri and Bandeen have been working hard working with the students to create a better school setting.

Like Baker, they admitted that eradicating bullying is not always possible in rural schools. Sometimes, for example, transferring the student is not an option.

"There's not always a

resolution there," said Ferri.

Ekcoe Central has implemented a peer mediator group at the school or "peace keepers" which are students who look out for other students.

Ferri and Bandeen said a lot can be done through peer pressure.

"You try to get the audience away from the bullying," said Ferri.

"The bottom line is it is a team approach. We cannot forget the role parents play," they added.

Community service officer Dennis Harwood of the Elgin OPP agreed parents must get involved and educate their children that bullying must not be tolerated.

"Parents have to take a realistic look at their children," he said.

Harwood hopes that the OPP do not have to get involved in a situation of bullying.

"When we get involved, it is because there has been a criminal act."

He said this unfortunately does happen because "these things can escalate pretty fast."

Harwood said if parents are closely involved in their child's life, they may be able to find out there is a bully-situation and the bully can receive help at local agencies.

Baker said it can be tough to get that information from a victim of bullying, and parents and teachers have to develop that level of trust. She said they also have let to the victim know they have done nothing wrong, and informing a parent or teacher is not a bad thing.

"We have to let the child know this is not 'telling'. This is helping," she said.



Students of Aldborough Public School in Rodney made some houses this month that were not just good enough to eat, they were! Gingerbread houses and buildings were made complete with snow covered icing. The buildings didn't last long and were gobbled up pretty fast. We just about didn't get a picture!!

DEC. 2002

OCT. 2002

Borowski wows audience



Twelve year old Nicola Borowski wowed the crowd at the 5th annual It's a Wonderful Time of the Year concert at West Elgin Secondary School on November 22. Nicola was a guest musician at the West Elgin Community Band's concert which saw \$300 being donated to the Caring Cupboard for the Christmas season. Other guest performers were Amy Champigny and Christine Carter.

Yes they definitely can!

10 TRUCKLOADS OF FOOD FOR CHARITY

Yes they can, they definitely can.

Thanks to a team effort between West Elgin Secondary School Students, staff and volunteers, plus strong support from the community to donate food and goods, the second annual "Yes We Can!" campaign was a success.

Over 80 students and 30 volunteers participated this year in a huge blitz across West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich and the end result was 10 truckloads of food being raised.

The door to door campaign ran for two hours in an effort to supply both the Caring Cupboard and Daffodil Society with food for the needy this Christmas and winter season.

On top of this, the school participated in two challenges in an effort to raise food for the charities.

A homeroom campaign for best Christmas object (built from food) was won by Mrs McDowell class.

Some WESS teachers and one community member had also set a challenge for the students to raise cans for a "hair-razing" experience. Some teachers bet their beards, hair, hair colour and other gambling choices if the students could raise a certain amount of cans from 1,000 up to 10,000.

Teacher Jamie Fraser will be getting a 'mohawk' haircut in front of the student body on Monday December 16, at 10:30 am. The public is invited as Rosa Bell of Rosa's New Image Hair Styling will shave the two sides of his head, while leaving the centre.

Both Caring Cupboard and Daffodil Society are still looking for specialty items like paper products - kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper and also personal hygiene products. Cash donations are also needed to help pay for annual expenses and food for both organizations. Tax receipts are available for this time of year and money can be sent to :

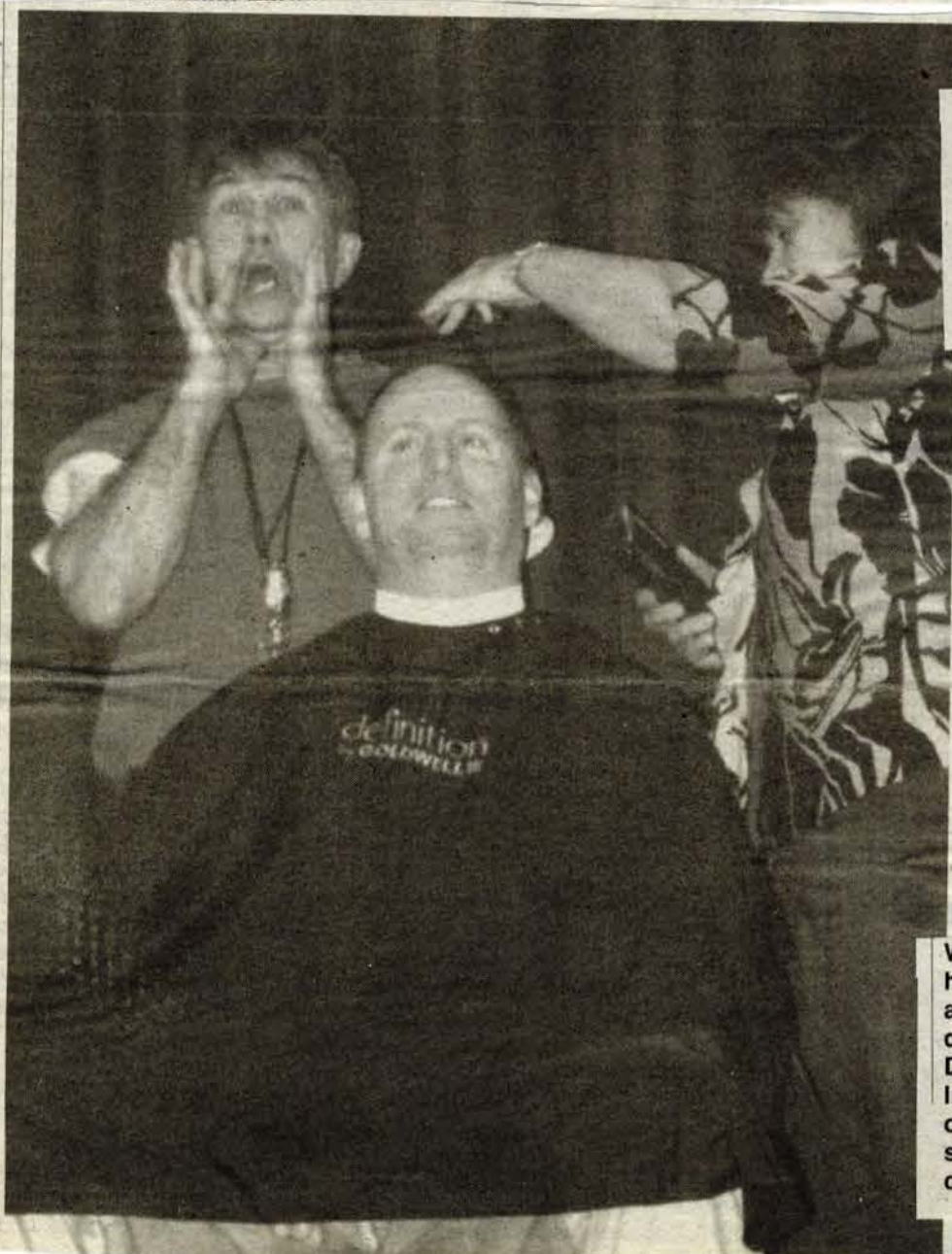
Caring Cupboard - 207 Third Street, Rodney, Box 342. NOL 2C0 (785-2026).

Daffodil Society - 183 Main Street, Dutton, NOL 1J0 (762-5757).

Both organizations want to thank WESS students and volunteers on doing a fantastic job.

December 16, 2002

"Shave the sides!!"



West Elgin Secondary School teacher Allan Youngash yells for a true Mohawk haircut for colleague Jamie Fraser seen here, seated. Fraser lost a bet against WESS students after stating that they could not raise 3,000 cans of donated food for the Yes We Can! campaign held last month. On Wednesday December 11 Fraser kept up his side of the bargain by putting his hair on the line, after losing the bet. At right Rosa Bell completes the deed with the use of a razor. In this week's edition of *The Chronicle*, Youngash calls for a student revolt because Fraser did not have a true Mohawk. See Youngash's column on page 13.

Stewart calling it quits

For The Chronicle
 Veteran Elgin school trustee David Stewart is calling it quits.

After 12 years as a member of both the old Elgin County Board of Education and the mega Thames Valley District School Board which replaced it, Stewart said at the board's May 27 meeting, he will not seek re-election in November.

"I started when my children were in school, said Stewart, 67, now retired.

"I've done my turn."

As a trustee, Stewart served as chairman of both the old Elgin and the new Thames Valley school boards - and he said he believes that smaller boards are better.

Stewart said trustees are closer to their communities, and more accountable as a result.

Nevertheless, he said he believes St. Thomas and Elgin have received a fair shake from the larger Thames Valley board, created by the province in an amalgamation of four predecessor boards.

As chairman two years ago of Thames Valley, Stewart complained about a lack of provincial respect for school boards and the local voice they provide for education.

Last night, in spite of a major funding increase for education from the provincial government apparently in response to local concerns, he said his opinion hasn't changed.

Stewart called the increase "pre-election goodies" for the coming provincial election.

Stewart is one of two representatives from Elgin to Thames Valley.

Rookie trustee Linda Stevenson is seeking re-election.

In other school board business:

A motion by Stevenson for a boundary review for the Lake Margaret area was expected to win easy approval. A 1999 accommodation review called for the children to be bused to Port Stanley.

But projected growth hasn't filled St. Thomas schools.

JUNE 12/03

School bands have award-winning sound with new instruments now in classroom

By Scott Hilgendorff
 The Chronicle

A community-wide fundraising effort has not only helped save the music program at West Elgin Secondary School but it's helped the school's bands make a sudden rise to the top in Southwestern Ontario music competitions.

"The music program has been saved. The community came forth," said Spiro Grima, music teacher at the high school.

He and principal Larry Schneider approached the community for help almost a year ago hoping to raise \$25,000 for new instruments, replacing ones that were almost 30 years old, many of which were broken.

Grima said there were students without instruments to play in class and it was at a point where it looked like the music program would have to end.

And for the students who had instruments, Grima said he had to keep reminding them it wasn't their lack of ability as to why they weren't playing as well as they thought they should.

"The kids had the talent and they didn't know it," he said.

But with almost 30 new instruments in hand, the little rural high school in West Lorne surprised themselves and everyone else at two major music events in the past few weeks.

On Feb. 27, the concert and jazz band took part in the *Variety Is* concert hosted by the Thames Valley District School Board.

The concert band amazed the crowd performing a challenging number called *Ghost Fleet*.

"They were all just astonished," said Grima.

Then something even more unexpected happened.

The concert features one band performing under a spotlight. As one finishes, the spotlight moves to the next band



Erin Smith, Jen Pinder, Kelly Charron and Jen Ford show off some of the new instruments in Spiro Grima's music class at West Elgin Secondary School. Community fund raising efforts have helped by almost 30 new instruments and have seen school bands now winning awards at competitions.

and they perform in a continuous format with applause held until the final band finishes.

When the jazz band's number finished, people clapped anyway, many on their feet, caught up in the performance.

Grima said the next band had to start before the applause for West Elgin was finished.

March 3 was Music Fest in London featuring bands from across Southwestern Ontario and the jazz band wowed them again.

The school brought home a gold medal, top honours from the festival that featured 65 groups.

Bobby Harriott, a premier jazz performer in Canada, was an adjudicator at the event and Grima said the performer told him the jazz band was one of the best

he'd heard in a long time.

Grima knew the kids had the talent but it took getting the new instruments to bring it all together.

"The minute that first batch of horns came in, it was like Christmas," he said.

The kids began playing more challenging pieces and had new enthusiasm for the program.

That enthusiasm continues to build after their recent successes.

"For a lot of these kids, it's the first time they've been number one," said Grima.

He said community support was incredible with donations coming from business, individuals and service clubs and groups in the surrounding communities.

One donation made its way from a former grad

that was now teaching music in Texas after getting her PHD in music.

Grima is hoping more money can continue to be raised to enhance the program further.

The community will have a chance to see the changes they helped make on April 11 when the third annual Jazz Cabaret is held at the high school.

"I think they will be very surprised," said Grima.

The dinner cabaret will feature swing music and this year, there will be dancing added to the atmosphere.

"We're hoping to get the people who like to do the swing dancing out there," Grima said.

It is a major fund raising concert for the school.



Members of the West Elgin Secondary School senior girls' volleyball team are leading the TVRAA south division. They have not suffered a loss yet this season, won the Wildcat Invitational in January and placed third at the McGregor Invitational tournament. During the exam break, the girls won a mini-tournament in Dorchester, winning four games to one over the provincial Dorchester OFSAA champs. The girls are: (front, left) Laura Jones, Carolyn Tunks, Cheri Hunter, Mallory Peternel, (back, left) Katie Lyons, Lindsay Webber, Roberta Ford, Justina Campbell, Ashley Clements, Taryn Clements and Coach Lori Clinton. Absent is Coach Ann Wrobel.



Students in Mary-Jane Milne's Sr Kindergarten class at St. Mary's Catholic School in West Lorne have been raising some baby chicks, just in time for Easter. Students had a chance to hold some of the chicks after they hatched from eggs in an incubator last Thursday. The eggs had been under the watchful eye and care of the students. Pictured with the chicks are (l-r) Gere VanDyk, Alyssa Paiva, Justin Delgado and Sophie Tasker.

Photo by Linda VanRaay

Bare wall an empty canvass for three West Elgin students

For The Chronicle

A bare wall in an empty office provided an inspirational canvas for three West Elgin Secondary School (WESS) students.

Located at the Child and Family Counselling Centre, 300 South Edgeware Rd., the office is now a multi-purpose room where young children and their families can relax and play in the inviting atmosphere produced by an attractive jungle-theme mural designed and painted by the trio of budding artists.

"This particular room was originally ear-marked for an office," said executive director Dr. Mark Skovron. "However we discovered we were short of clinical space and we decided to turn this into a multi-purpose room for assessment, art and play therapy for young children and their families."

With a staff of 11 employees, the centre is an outpatient community health centre for children and youths up to age 18. This project allowed Skovron and his staff to partner with Elgin county high schools in a mutually-beneficial undertaking.

"We struck a committee to talk about how we were going to put the room together and a couple of the staff came up with the idea of getting some of the high schools have their art students contribute to this and it all came together."

Each of the six high schools in the county were contacted and a short list of a half-dozen students was compiled.

A glowing recommendation from WESS art teacher Ruthanne McLagan convinced Skovron and his committee to entrust the project to Jennifer Dupuis, 17, of Port



West Elgin Secondary School students Jennifer Dupuis, left, Vanessa Gray and Sarah Fugard put the finishing touches on their jungle-inspired mural which graces the walls of a multi-purpose room at the Child and Family Counselling Centre.

Glasgow, Vanessa Gray, 16, of West Lorne and Sarah Fugard, 16, of Iona.

They were assisted by Jiles Barrett, a student of Parkside Collegiate.

"The mural took about eight weeks," noted Dupuis, "because we could only work five or six hours on Saturdays."

"We had to deal with the confidentiality aspect," admitted Skovron, "so we couldn't have the kids come in here during the day or after school. So we had to meet exclusively on Saturday mornings, which slowed us down a little."

"This is the biggest project we have undertaken and it turned

out really nice," said Dupuis, an art student who would like to become an art and English teacher.

The jungle motif was selected by the students and the attention to the smallest of details proved daunting at times.

"I'm very happy with the way it turned out," agreed Gray, who is torn between art and music. "But there was a time when we wondered if we would ever get it done. My favourite part is the door which is painted to look like wooden planks."

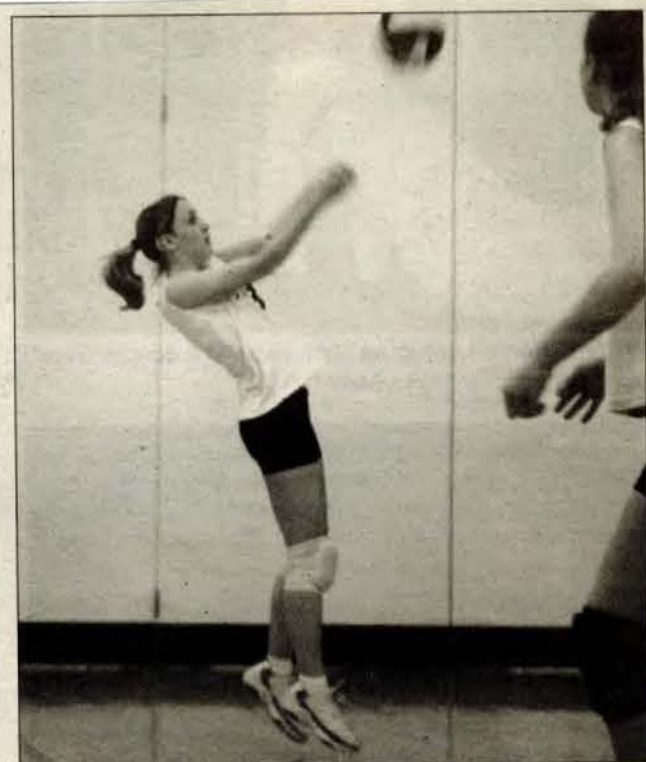
As the tallest of the ambitious artists, Fugard concentrated on drawing and painting the upper

regions of the mural.

"I enjoyed doing this and I like art, but I'm not going to follow it as a career because I really want to be a nurse. However we would consider painting other walls in the office."

Skovron stressed he and his staff accomplished more than the re-design of a vacant office.

"We're partnering with the community. Obviously an agency like ours gets a lot of referrals from the high schools and that's where we really want to establish our identity. This really allowed us to get out into the community."



Hillary Brown of the West Elgin Volleyball Club's Bantam girls helps her team against Forest City Grey from London. They lost the game played Saturday at West Elgin Secondary School. The girls went on to win the Ontario Volleyball Association event and advance to tier-two competition. APR. 3/03



Mallory Peternel at the piano with Jen Pinder, Mark Godfrey and Andrew Rastapkevicius were among the members of the West Elgin Secondary School Studio 57 Jazz Ensemble. The award-winning students performed "Swing, Swing, Swing!" April 11 as their fundraising concert featuring big band sounds for a sold-out show. APR. 17/03

The Chronicle APR. 17, 2003



Swing, swing, swing

Spiro Grima, music teacher at West Elgin Secondary School, right, directs the Studio 57 Jazz Ensemble, part of the award-winning groups of performers at the high school. The students performed a special big band-era night club-style concert at the school last Friday night.

JK would expand at Aldborough PS

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

Pending Thames Valley District School Board approval, Aldborough Public School will be expanded to house the junior kindergarten class from West Elgin Elementary School.

That is the recommendation the Aldborough, Dutton-Dunwich and West Elgin Senior Elementary School Accommodation Study Committee sent forward to the board's March 18 meeting.

"It's a very attractive and successful option the community has come up with," said Dave Stewart, a board trustee and chair of the committee formed late last year to study school accommodation in the

area.

"We're trying to reorganize the schools," he said Monday, prior to the Tuesday night board meeting.

The board was expected to receive the report and will look at the specific details before bringing it back to a March 25 meeting where the decision whether or not to accept the proposal will be made.

Board administration is expected to assess the costs and savings of the proposal that would see the resource office at Aldborough Public School and one classroom renovated to accommodate the overall kindergarten program.

A portable would be needed at the school to

house the resource office and another needed to replace the classroom that would be converted to the kindergarten program.

More playground equipment would be needed at the school as well.

The committee is also recommending that, if future needs allow it, one school of all West Elgin elementary students would be housed at West Elgin Senior Elementary School.

Stewart said the committee originally tried to find a way to adjust boundaries that would see a JK to Grade 8 program at all the schools.

"We did try hard to move around boundaries," he said, adding that was

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