

# Aldborough raising money



Fairles' Food Market recently donated \$500 to Aldborough Public School's parent council to help with their quest for new playground equipment at the school. The council is hoping to raise \$15,000 for the project. From left to right: Julie Scafe, Brian Scafe, Karen Roodzant, Gord Park and Trisha Pearson.

By Scott Hilgendorff  
The Chronicle

While schools may have been out for the summer, Aldborough Public School's parent council members were continuing their lessons in fund raising as they continued to work toward being able to improve the sparse playground at the school.

The group is hoping to raise more than \$15,000 toward a large piece of equipment that serves as a climber with slides and other attachments to increase the playground fun for the students at the school.

"It's quite a large piece," said Karen Roodzant.

So far, the parents have raised more than \$7,000 toward the project, with \$5,000 coming from parent donations and \$900 from a fund raising sale of notebooks.

Now, they're out in the community seeking corporate support or donations from anyone willing to help them out.

Roodzant said letters sent to area businesses have already generated a positive response and continue to move them closer to their goal.

Fairles Foodmart in Rodney has donated \$500 and Steve Browne of West Lorne's IGA turned a recent promotion for Canadian beef into a fund raiser for the school as well.

Customers who lined up last month for a free Canadian beef hamburger were asked for a donation toward the school's playground equipment, raising more than \$200 more.

The fund raising

committee has been in action for about two years now, but this is the first time they've reached out to the community at large.

On their own, they've added a swing set to the junior student's yard and have been able to repaint and fix up much of the existing equipment.

This has been their biggest project so far.

After its completion, Roodzant said she hopes they can add new equipment to the

kindergarten play area, now that the junior kindergarten students from West Elgin Senior Elementary School have been relocated to Aldborough Public School.

Anyone interested in contributing to the project can call Roodzant at 785-0882.

She said they are hoping enough money can be raised to order and have the equipment in place before winter.

Chronicle photo

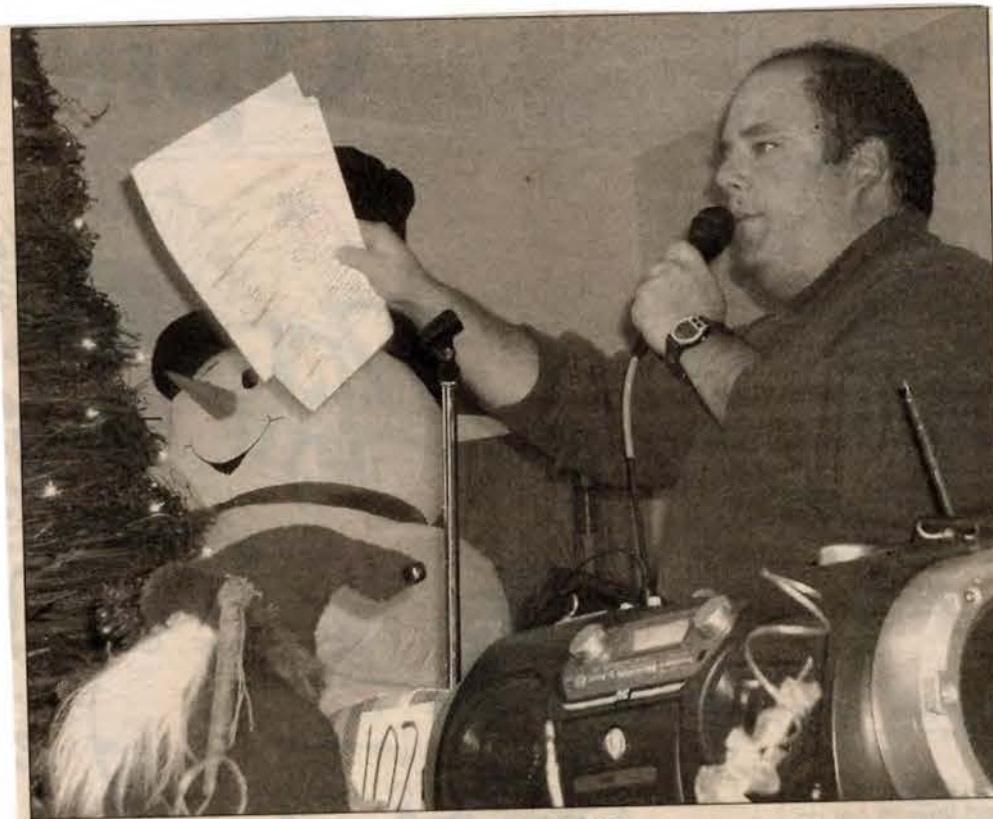
WEST LORNE W.I.  
DONATED ALSO.



## SANTA VISITS...

Students at Aldborough Public School in Rodney enjoyed a visit by Santa Claus. He visited all the classes at the school where students had a chance to present him with their Christmas wishes. Here, Lyle Groniger brought a smile to everyone's face including Santa when he presented his giant list. He's joined by secretary Angie DeVries, who worked that afternoon as Santa's helper.

Chronicle photo



## GOING ONCE...

Auctioneer Gary Slaght sells another item at the St. Mary's School silent and live auction. Slaght was one of several auctioneers helping out during the fund raising event last Saturday for the school. A huge crowd was on hand to help out as hundreds of donated items went on the auction block which raised more than \$16,000 according to early estimates.

Chronicle photo

Nov. 03



# Work internship program already proves rewarding

By Larry Schnieder

Principal, West Elgin Secondary School

It is very hard to believe that we are already in the sixth week of the school year, but we indeed are, with students receiving their initial progress reports from their teachers in each of their classes on Oct. 10.

These reports will be in a new format from the program "Markbook", and will indicate each individual assignment to date.

Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Oct. 15, from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and 6:30- 8:30 p.m., in the gym.

Oct. 5 was the United Nations International Teachers Day, and I would like to commend the excellent teaching and support staff here at West Elgin, who do so much to enrich the lives of our students.

On Oct. 10, we had a spirit assembly to introduce our fall teams and their coaches, and gave out the first "Purple Paw" awards, given to those students who have reached out to their school community in unique ways for the benefit of their fellow students and the school.

In a time when so many lament the sad state of "youth", we are extremely proud of our students, who, whenever we take a field trip anywhere, have the comment made to their supervisors that these are absolutely the best behaved and most polite students which the organizers of the events to which we have travelled have experienced.

I get to sign the volunteer hours completion sheets for all students, and it is most uplifting to read of the many hours which our students have given to the community. In many cases the students have given two or three times the required number of hours, and continue to volunteer even after their form has been completed and submitted to me.

We will have another opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our students at our Commencement exercises, held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 25, where graduates will receive their diplomas, bursaries, and prizes, and other scholarships which they have received will be announced, along with the graduate's current pursuits.

Our returning students will also receive a variety of awards, including Honours and citizenship awards.

Our new school council will have had their second meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

This year's Chair is again Tracy Grant; Anne Bray is our Vice-Chair; and our new secretary is Kim Jewell, who replaces Bonnie Roest after several years of dedicated work as our secretary. Student Council President Richa Sharma, who attends our meetings to update us on student activities, will also serve as our representative on the Breakfast Club committee; and Anji Sharma will be our representative on the Wellness Centre Committee.

Tracy Grant is also our School Council representative on the Accommodations Study Committee, and

our Community Representative is Dan McKillop.

The Accommodations Study Committee met last week at North Middlesex D.H.S. in Parkhill, where the focus was on current school enrollments, future enrollment projections, and current school boundaries.

All Accommodations Study meetings are open to the public.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 27 at Glencoe D.H.S., and the Nov. 24 meeting will be held here at WESS, with a school tour at 7 p.m. and the actual meeting starting at 7:30.

Our Work Internship Program is well under way, a new program which we are offering for those students who will likely be going straight into the work force upon leaving WESS.

The organizing committee has put in a large number of hours organizing this program, along with our job coach Aida Oliveira, and in conjunction with our employer partners in the area have created a wonderful, rewarding program for our students.

An upcoming article will describe this program in detail.

Students may now log on to the Board's web site to enter their student portal, where parents and students can view course information, attendance data, and eventually, homework assigned by teachers, their marks (after our mid-term report cards have been issued in November) and other aspects about the school.

The public and parents may also visit our school's web site, clicking on School Profiles at the left of the screen, then selecting our area, school, and the school's Web site.

This site is new and is still under construction, and will be expanded and updated in the near future by our communications classes.

On the mornings of Oct. 22 and 23 all Grade 10 students (those in their second year of high school, whether they passed Grade 9 or not) will be writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

Students who were not successful in passing the test in previous attempts will have to write it as well in October.

Donations from the public to our school are always welcome, and tax receipts will be given for any donation over \$20.

Please consider donating to your community school in one of the following areas:

Commencement awards for the year of the double cohort, and/or future graduating classes; our breakfast program which provides a much-needed nutritional enhancement for many students; our ongoing fundraising efforts for our school band instruments; for the upgrading of our computer resources; plus our OFSSA championship fund, established to help offset costs for teams which go to the provincial championships each year, most often in Senior Boys and Girls Volleyball.

The community's ongoing support of our school makes a big difference. It really does take a community to raise a child.



## SANTA VS LORD OF THE RINGS...

Brianne Hein as Rudolph and Craig Watterworth as Santa were part of a West Elgin Secondary School skit featuring a clash between Santa Claus and the characters from Lord of the Rings. Students performed a variety of skits and musical acts to wrap up the day on Friday before the Christmas break officially began.

Chronicle photo

# Elgin high school students form own county-based organization, saying Thames Valley school district too large to serve them

For The Chronicle

Saying Thames Valley school district is just too large to serve their needs, high school student councils in St. Thomas and Elgin are forming their own, county-based organization.

Founder Dave Gouthro, president of the student council at Arthur Voaden Secondary School, says the new Greater Elgin School Union should not be seen as a separatist movement. The union includes representation from West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne.

"We created the council to bring the students of Elgin County together, not to separate from the board."

But Elgin school trustee Linda Stevenson says the formation last month of the group underscores concerns by Thames Valley's rural trustees in Elgin and Oxford that the London-based school board fails to fully understand their schools' particular needs.

"Yes, it does. It legitimizes my concerns. How much more legitimate can you get? These are the children young peo-

ple, I should say who are in our schools every day."

All the same, Stevenson said she wants to focus with the student union on the positive.

"I don't want to get them in the middle of the confrontational issue. They have the ability as a small group to do some really wonderful things for their schools and I think that remains their focus."

Gouthro, a politically active Grade 12 student whose credentials include representing local Liberal youth at the Paul Martin leadership convention last month in Toronto, says he felt the need for a local student organization when he saw not all Elgin high school representatives were able to attend meetings in London.

"A lot of them just feel alone as student councils. Until this meeting, some of us had never been together."

He said the Elgin reps hope to share things like successful fundraising ideas, and plan regional activities like sports competitions and drama festivals.

Gouthro says student reps who met for

a second time this week, also support creation of a seat on the school board for a second student trustee to represent rural interest.

The Elgin group was welcomed by TVDSB chairman Jan Hunter.

"My first reaction is it's great," she said.

"Any time you can get students together, brainstorming, and bring their ideas forward to us, that's the straight course to some good information," she also said.

Hunter, herself a Middlesex trustee from Parkhill, disagreed formation of a local student group is a marker of the school board's difficulty with rural-urban issues.

"I don't agree with you there."

And she said student representation on the school board can be increased. But it's up to students to agree how to spend the set budget for the position that's mandated by the province.

The student union was to have elected officers last week but voting has been postponed to January.

DEC '03



## West Elgin Youth Participate in Provincial Meeting

West Elgin Community Health Centre was well represented by two young people from West Lorne recently.

Celia Almeida and Steph Tobias, two OAC students from West Elgin Secondary School participated in a provincial Youth Forum with 39 young people from across Ontario and presented their recommendations on developing advice to the Ontario Rural Council and some 300 participants at this year's Annual Meeting held in Alliston.

Straight talk from rural youth on what it takes to attract young people to rural areas... and what you can do to attract youth back home to live, work, and raise a family was the centre piece of the recommendations that these fine young adults formulated many excellent solutions.

The Ontario Rural Council is a forum that brings together those who share a commitment to building strong rural communities and organizations. The Council provides a unique and important opportunity for multi-sector co-operation within the rural sector.

The Council act as a convener, bringing together rural organizations and communities to discuss issues through open forums and as a network, linking people, information and activities that support rural community development.

Other participants from the area that attended this meeting where Graham Warwick, Michael Mosser



WESS OAC students Celia Almeida and Steph Tobias and Douglas Graham.

Both Almeida and Tobias said they would like to thank the employees at the West Elgin Community Health Centre and especially thanked Angela Dougherty at the Centre, who drove them to the train

station at 3am, when they went to Alliston.

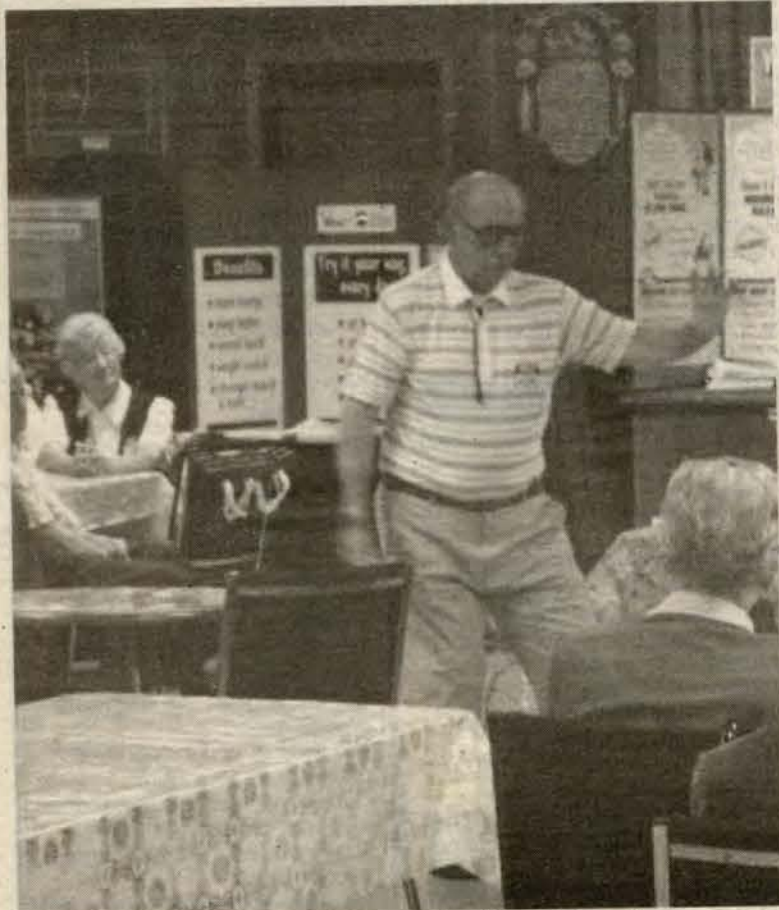
Both students are planning on taking Criminology and Sociology in University when they graduate this coming spring.

NOV. 2001

## Great turnout for multi-culturalism!



Over 250 people checked out the first ever Multi-Cultural Event held on Sunday November 18 in West Lorne. The people packed into St. Mary's Parish Hall to take in the sights, tastes and sounds of 14 different cultural found in the West Elgin region. Pictured here, two patrons take in some Indian food- 'Samosa.' The event was so well received, the West Elgin Community Health Centre is making plans to have it annually and moved to a even larger location.



Ken Hulls does a Tai Chi demonstration during the very successful "Don't Fall in the Fall" health and safety workshop held last Thursday at the West Lorne Legion. Nov. '01

## Doctor Jones has left Health Centre

Doctor Stephen Jones has recently resigned from the West Elgin Community Health Centre in West Lorne.

Health Centre executive director Doug Graham confirmed last week that Jones has resigned from the facility.

He is still practicing at the Four Counties Hospital in Newbury.

West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick said the work that Jones did was always appreciated and he was very dedicated. Warwick said Jones will be missed.

"It should be noted how appreciated doctor Jones was in the community. He really stuck it out when thousands wouldn't," said Warwick.



Linda Carmichael receives a traditional "meflendi" design on her hand by Sangeeta Saxena of London while Sangeeta's mother Dr. Kashyap looks on.

## Drivers needed to continue program

### WEST ELGIN TRANSPORTATION NETWORK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

West Elgin Transportation Network is in dire need of some volunteer drivers to help the West Elgin Community Health Centre continue this important program.

Shelly Vergeer, Volunteer Coordinator at the West Elgin Community Health Centre says they are facing a crisis because they do not have enough drivers.

Firstly, they have some drivers who are currently on vacation. They need to be temporarily replaced.

Vergeer says they have seen a de-

crease in volunteers for varied reasons.

The result is unfortunate, says Vergeer, who announced they currently can not supply all of their clients travel demands and at this rate it will get much worse.

"We are in a crisis," confirmed Vergeer last Tuesday.

These volunteer drivers drive seniors and disabled people to various places for the basic necessities of life including grocery stores, drug stores and medical appointments but also to visit family and friends and sometimes even to social events.

The drivers cover the areas of West Lorne, Rodney and Dutton and surrounding areas.

These seniors are billed by WETN when the driver fills out an invoice. The fare is based on .25 cents per kilometre.

The driver is reimbursed for mileage incurred when the invoice is sent in.

In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, there were 18 volunteers for this program. In the past year they have volunteered 840 hours. Currently there are only 12 drivers.

The volunteer driver program was first initiated by the West Elgin Seniors Projects Action Committee (WESPAC). Currently funding for transportation and several other seniors support programs is received from the Ministry of Health-Long Term Care.

The Heath Centre's other Long Term Care Programs include, Meals on Wheels, Friendly Visiting, Congregate Dining, and Hospice Visiting.

Anyone wishing to help the program continue and wants to volunteer can call the Shelly at 768-1715, ext 2210.



# Think of your safety this fall

There will be more reminders this year to be safe this fall. The 3rd annual "Don't Fall in the Fall" program, sponsored by Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit and West Elgin Community Health Centre promises to further offer safety tips for anyone now that the colder season has begun.

"Don't Fall in the Fall," scheduled for November 12 at the West Elgin Legion in West Lorne from 9 am to 1 pm, is an informative public session, open to all ages which focuses on better health and safety.

This year the major focus will be on exercise tips, nutrition tips and also medication tips. Registered Practical Nurse Joy Scafe has offered her services to help people who have a lot of medication and may not know what needs to be thrown out.

"People can bring their medications in a bag, to help sort out and identify what should be discarded," said Scafe.

Scafe says a rule of thumb for people on medication is to look at a spring and fall clean of the medicine cabinet and get rid of any medication that is overdue. The problem is, you should not throw these in the garbage as they are not a waste product and there are programs available for their proper disposal.

There will also be a food demonstration by WECHC Community Dietician Shari Mizzen who will speak on how best to cook for one or two people. This can be a problem, because there are many items at grocery stores that are not meant for single people.

Optometrist Doctor Shirley Kovacs will show the importance of good balance and strength and how it affects every day life.

Physical activity will also be an important topic at "Don't Fall."



"Don't Fall in the Fall" committee members Kathy Nesbitt (left) and Janic Gorayeb (right) watch Joy Scafe review medication dates for pills.

Pharmacist Steve Bond is also scheduled to speak.

There will also be displays from local organizations at the event, including exhibits from VON, Red Cross Community Service, Lifeline, Alzheimer's Society Elgin-St. Thomas, Elgin Audiology, St Thomas Elgin Health Unit, Envision Health and Rehabilitation, Jewel International, West Elgin Community Health Centre, WESPAC, and Connect Care.

Stan Taylor will again be the motivational speaker. Taylor spoke at last year's "Don't Fall."

Entertainment this year will be provided by the "Cloggers," a dance troop from the St. Thomas Seniors Centre.

This year's Don't Fall in the Fall committee consists of Anita VanRaes, Mary Howard, Madeleine Cross, Shelly Vergeer and Janic Gorayeb, Joy Scafe and Kathy Nesbitt. These people have been working

hard to bring new ideas to the program.

Again there will be free gifts for people who take part in "Don't Fall in the Fall." Special canvas bags will include safety tips, exercise tips and pill organizers which can hold a week's worth of pills.

There are also stretch bands and special stretch bands available for people

who are allergic to latex.

This year the admittance price to Don't Fall in the Fall has increased from two dollars to five dollars. Anyone can attend.

To register, call Shelly Vergeer at 768-1715, extension 2210 by this Tuesday, November 5.

NOVEMBER 18, 2002 The Chronicle



Local pharmacist Steve Bond helped educate people on the dangers of over and under-medicating at last weeks well attended Don't Fall in the Fall seminar at the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne. Approximately 90 people registered for the annual event.



HEALTH + WELFARE  
2002

# Local support for WECHC

West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company President Cliff Johnston, on behalf of Board of Directors announced last week a \$10,000 donation to the West Elgin Community Health Centre's Capital Building Fund to assist with the construction costs of a new health centre in the West Elgin County area in the town of West Lorne. Johnston, called on other business community partners and citizens to join their company in making the future of West Elgin Community Health Centre an integral part of Elgin County for years to come in delivering primary health care services.

Brian Downie, General Business Manager for West Elgin Mutual Insurance cited the successes of West Elgin Community Health Centre over the past few years and specifically noted the recent Government Report, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care looking at the benefits of Community Health Centres in Rural Ontario as proof that the CHC model works especially in rural communities like West Elgin.

Harry Mezenberg, past Chair of the Board of Directors for West Elgin Community Health Centre and member of the Capital Building Fundraising Committee stated, "A Community Health Centre is governed by a community Board, CHC's operate with a team of health and social service professionals. All staff including physicians are paid a fixed salary rather than a fee for service. Health Promotion and education are a priority in the services offered at the Community Health Centre".

Hilde Morden, Chairperson, Capital Fundraising Committee for the West Elgin Community Health Centre applauded the Board of Directors for West Elgin Mutual Insurance Company for their demonstration of support and commitment to the future health services in Elgin County and thanked the Company for their generous donation to assist in the building of a new Centre in West Lorne.

The building committee is pleased that many



Harry Mezenberg, Douglas Graham, Hilde Morden (Chairperson) Fundraising Committee, Cliff Johnston (West Elgin Mutual Insurance Board President) with a \$10,000 donation to WECHC, and Brian Downie, (West Elgin Mutual Insurance General Manager).

businesses have shown that they have embraced the idea of corporate social responsibility that includes among other things, creating a strong

healthy environment through such opportunities to give back to the community through such donations.

## Support for WECHC building



The Bank of Montreal in West Lorne has donated a corporate amount of \$7500 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre Building Campaign. Pictured are building committee members Diane VanDyk, Liz McNeil, and Hilde Morden. Presenting the cheque at right is Bank of Montreal's Wendy Vergeer and Marlene Goos.



The Rodney Kiwanis Club have donated \$2000 this year to the WECHC Building Campaign. Pictured left to right are Harry Mezenburg, WECHC Building Committee member, Jim Hathaway President of Rodney Kiwanis, and WECHC Executive director Doug Graham.

DEC. 2002



# 2nd annual Multi-cultural Celebration being planned

Coming off the great success of last year's event, the organizers of the 2nd Annual Multi-Cultural Celebration are hoping for a bigger celebration and bigger bash.

Presented by the West Elgin Community Health Centre, this year's Multi-Cultural Celebration is expected to be bigger and needed a larger venue. The event for November 24, 2002 is to be held at the Elgin International Club. Last year it was held at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

People will get the chance to hear the different types of music, art, dance and food of many different cultures of West Elgin. The WECHC puts on the display in hopes of educating the public on the many different ethnic cultures in West Elgin.

Diane Van Dyk, Community Outreach Worker/Community Development for WECHC says they are looking for more people and more displays than last year. Van Dyk was helped this year by Margaret Bennetto of Dutton and grade 12 student at West Elgin Secondary School. Bennetto's position of Multi-Cultural Program

Assistant was made possible by a grant.

Bennetto's eight week program ended two weeks ago and she calls it "a great experience."

Bennetto says with the larger hall at Elgin International Club, they are hoping to have more displays and more people to take part in them.

Last year there were displays from the following ethnic groups from these countries and cultures: Oneida, Romania, Yugoslavia, India, Hungary, Slovakia, Portugal, Germany, Holland, Scotland, Mohawk and also contained booth and information from the Genealogical Society.

They would like the same people back this year, but are also pleading to the following groups to take part this November: Islamic, Italian, Irish, Japanese, Amish, African, Ukrainian, French and American.

Any culture or origin not listed that is found in West Elgin, is also invited to take part.

So far entertainment has been booked for Mike Bilty of Thamesville (accordion), Jim

Carmichael (pipes) and Bob King (storytelling). They are still looking for more entertainers to sign up.

Bennetto says they would really like to see Highland and Portuguese dancers.

The three hours of programs will consist of

tasting exotic foods, experiencing different music, watching traditional dances and admiring different artwork.

People interested in participating or volunteering in the Multi-Cultural Celebration are asked to contact Diane at the WECHC at 768-1715.



Margaret Bennetto, Multi-cultural program assistant

HEALTH & WELFARE 2002

## WECHC hosts succesful Fall Family Fun Night

The Fourth Annual Fall Family Fun Night held recently in Rodney Recreation Centre held a very successful opportunity in the Celebration of Family and Fun on October 28th.

Community Health Worker and event leader, Angela Dougherty said this event was an outstanding success and the written evaluations filled out by participants were clear demonstration of the importance of opportunities for families to come together in such a community event. Along with many activities, such as ring toss, face painting, bingo, carving pumpkins, there was lots of healthy food to sample. The event also had display booths on early childhood development programs offered by WECHC and their community partner St. Thomas Elgin Health Unit.

As well, many staff were on hand along with youth and adult volunteers to assist with the many activities and food outlets all free of



Kids enjoy face painting at Celebration of Family and Fun.

charge. Executive Director, Douglas Graham highlighted the community partnerships in making this event so successful. We would not have these outcomes without the support of the Municipality of West Elgin, service clubs and businesses that donate so generously without hesitation.

Dougherty stated we hold this event annually around this time as a celebration of the family and in addition strategically timed near International Week of the Child. She also notes that there was a total of 400 hundred registered

participants in addition to another 100 individuals who did not sign in and with the many volunteers and staff from WECHC and other partners such as the Health Unit.

Graham acknowledges the leadership provided by Angela Dougherty in planning this year's event along with her planning group and volunteers who assisted on the evening of activities. Participants came from all areas of West Elgin, Dutton and Dunwich. There were children from the ages of 1-14 years of age accompanied by parents, grandparents and caregivers.

Nov 18/02

## Seniors Day in the Park



Old Boys Park, New Glasgow was the location for the first annual Seniors Day at the Park on August 28. It was a chance for seniors to meet old friends and make new ones. A whole afternoon was spent enjoying the weather with some fun, interactive displays. Many food vendors and bake sales were present at the park. There was also a car show. The attendance for the event was very good with people coming from different communities in the area. WECHC staff said they were thrilled with the turnout of 110 registered. Plans will be made to make it an annual event.

NOV 9 2002





# New face at West Elgin Health Centre

## CHIROPODY SERVICE CHANGES HANDS AS TAYLOR MOVES ON

by Keith Peever  
The Chronicle

There will be a new face at the West Elgin Community Health Centre when you visit next week.

Jacqueline Jackson is replacing Robert Taylor who leaves the centre this Wednesday January 30.

Last week Jackson took part in orientation sessions at the Health Centre to familiarize herself with the centre and the community.

"I'm becoming more familiar with the other service providers and learning their roles," said an eager Jackson who said she looks forward to working in the community.

It has also been a chance for Taylor and Jackson to review Taylor's own client list who have been coming to the Health Centre over the years for chiropody care.

Taylor said he was pleased to see he will be replaced by Jackson who "has lots of experience," and invites his clients to continue their service needs with Mrs. Jackson, when she starts in February.

Jackson has been a chiropodist for the past seven years. Her schooling started at the University of Waterloo and went to Toronto to become a Chiropodist, for the care and treatment of the feet.

Her latest experience before coming to West Elgin was as chiropodist at St. Joseph's Health



Footcare is changing hands at Health Centre as new chiropodist Jacqueline Jackson at right is replacing Robert Taylor at right, who is leaving the Health Centre later this week.

Services in Brantford.

She is originally from Chatham, and now lives with her husband and children in Wheatley and said the choice to work closer to home made the choice to work in West Elgin an easier one.

Jackson also said she is looking forward to the major changes that are happening at the Health Centre. By the summer of 2003, the new building is expected to be built, offering more space and services.

While Jackson was meeting and greeting people last week, it was a time for Taylor to

mention to clients that he is moving on. Taylor is taking time to work on such things as his thesis and protocol.

Taylor said he is leaving at an exciting time for the Health Centre which continues to grow in leaps and bounds, and the new larger building is just one step away.

"I'm hoping they'll invite me to the opening," chuckled Taylor, who said it was a shame that he had to wait so long for a new building and it comes at a time when he is leaving.

In all seriousness, Taylor said he was very

excited for the Health Centre and commented the new building comes at an exciting time where there is incredible growth at the Health Centre.

"It's definitely going to take it to a new level," said Taylor, who added, "within 5 years they'll be looking at expanding again."

With prevention through education, Taylor said the Health Centres are a huge success.

"When you look at having a chiropodist for example, it keeps a lot of people out of the hospital," he said.

JAN. '02

HEALTH &  
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2002

July 2002



The donations towards the West Elgin Community Health Centre's new building keep coming in. Here Executive Director Doug Graham accepts a \$1,000 cheque from Carl Staddon of the Eagle Adult Club. The money was made from proceeds of bus trips the Adult Club has taken part in. So far \$100,000 has been raised towards the WECHC building goal of \$250,000.

## Good news came in twos for WECHC

West Elgin Community Health Centre's Executive Director Doug Graham was all smiles last week as he heard good news on two fronts.

First, he was excited to announce they have been approved by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to go to tender for their new building.

Currently the Capital Building Committee has been working on raising \$250,000 through corporate and individual sponsorships. Graham said that as of last week they have raised close to \$120,000 and will be rallying harder now that the summer is nearing an end. The target goal for the community is \$250,000 by February 2003.

The building is being funded by the Ministry for \$2.31 million with \$300,000 still under review.

The second positive news he received was

they have been approved of a government grant to begin an early childhood program. The grant is \$85,000 annually until 2006.

A position for a Family Supporter Worker has also opened up at the Health Centre and the position is advertised in this paper.

The program has been proposed to work with 11 other local programs that offer childhood programs including the local schools, Children's Aid Society, Dutton Co-Operative Child Care Centre, West Elgin Community Parent Child Resource Centre (Tiny Tots), Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit among the list.

Graham also said he is working very hard to find a second full-time doctor for the health centre. Graham said their current doctor, Kevin Mardell, has been there for six years and he needs

support.

He is currently negotiating with three doctor prospects but it is not always easy finding one, because "it is tough to compete with salaries."

Graham said larger markets have made it difficult by offering larger salaries which cannot be achieved locally. He said there is a misconception that salaries at the Health Centre are based on

today's Toronto wages.

The Executive Director was also excited to announce that a partnership with the Dutton Medical Clinic is continuing strong. For the last eight months Health Centre workers have been at the Medical Centre to help increase services there.

"It's one step at a time," Graham said of the Health Centre's growth.



Doug Graham



The new directors of West Elgin Community Health Centre 2002-2003. Back row: John Kavelaars (director), Harry Mezenberg (Past Chair), Paul Mistele (new Chair), Liz McNeil (director), and AGM guest speaker Frank Ingratta (Deputy Minister Agriculture and Food). Seated: Jerry Prince (director), Mary Vergeer (new director), June Lunn (new director) and director Agnes Gosnell. Absent are director Martin Joldersma and new director Connie Baptista-Reaume. JUNE 24/02

## WECHC hold 9th AGM

The West Elgin Community Health Care Centre held its 9th Annual General Meeting on June 19 to review official business and appoint new faces on the board of directors.

Major topic of discussion for the night was the building of the new Health Centre which is hoped to be erected by next summer.

Resigning from the Board of Directors this year is Tom Ford after many years on the board. Ford confessed when he first came onto the board he was naive about the Health Centre and it's importance. Today he is of a different opinion and speaks highly of the facility and looks forward to the new building, which he said clients will enjoy.

Also resigning was Celia Almeida. Almeida is leaving for post-secondary education. WECHC Executive Director Doug Graham pointed out Almeida as one of the youngest board members in the province.

The Chair, Harry Mezenberg also stepped down and Paul Mistele steps up from vice to chair for the 2002-2003 year.

Three new faces will be on the board this year. Mary Vergeer, June Lunn and Connie Baptista-Reaume were approved by the membership. They were approved prior to the meeting by the WECHC nominating committee and no nominations came from the floor.

Guest speaker for the evening was Frank Ingratta, Deputy Minister Ministry of Agriculture and Food. 82

Aug 2002



## 'Unique' book donated to Elgin libraries

Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit has donated a unique book to Elgin County libraries.

Last week Public Health Nurse Rosemarie Vandenberg donated the book *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* to West Elgin's libraries, but it is also available in Dutton/Dunwich and Southwold.

The book has been donated to help the children of Elgin County and their families and friends cope with cancer. *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* will be helpful for mothers of young children that have been diagnosed with breast cancer, and for families with grandmothers, aunts, or family friends who are going through breast cancer treatment.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has sponsored this book for preschool children. It promotes an encourages discussion and understanding about breast cancer.

West Elgin librarian Shelley Fleming said last week they are grateful for the donation of the book. Fleming said the book is "unique, particularly for that age group."

Fani Madill, a breast cancer survivor, wrote *My Mummy is Sick, A Story About Breast Cancer* after she was unable to find a book to help her oldest daughter understand what her family was going through. Told through the eyes of a child, this story follows a mother's experience with her illness and how it affects the family. Fani found a lump in her breast when she was 7 months pregnant with her youngest daughter, and at the age of 34, two months after her daughter's birth, she was diagnosed with



Public Health Nurse Rosemarie Vandenberg (left) hands a new donated book to Shelley Fleming, librarian for both Rodney and West Lorne libraries.

breast cancer.

The book is illustrated by Nancy Broerse, also a breast cancer survivor.

The Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, Elgin County's libraries and the Ontario Early Years Centre work together to promote the health of women and their families. One in every 9 women in Ontario can expect to develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

Some facts in Elgin County:

- by 1980-1998, there was an average of 39 new cases of breast cancer per year, an incident of 112 per 100,000 (women of all ages).

- between 1986-1997 there was an average of 15 deaths per year from breast cancer, an incident rate of 40 per 100,000 women.

- breast cancer is the leading cause of death for women between 35 and 54 years of age.

Women aged 50 to 69 are encouraged to call the Ontario Breast Screening Program for a screening mammogram.

For more information call Rosemarie Vandenberg RN 631-9900 ext 267.

# HEALTH & WELFARE 2002

APR. 2002

The Chronicle

## Health Centre committee takes up fundraising challenge



Some of the team behind the West Elgin Community Health Centre's fundraising drive. Seated left to right, Joann Vergeer, Chair Hilde Mordan, and Doug Graham. Standing behind is left to right Diane VanDyk, Harry Mezenberg, Lita West and Michelle Quintyn.

The support is growing for the 'building fundraiser' of the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

The Health Centre's fundraising committee includes chair Hilde Mordan, Joann Vergeer, Doug Graham, Harry Mezenberg, Bill Nicolsan, Diane VanDyk, Helen Kovacs, Lita West, Michelle Quintyn, Liz McNeil, Paul Mistele, Jerry Prince,

Larry Schneider, Anne Wroebel, Martin Joldersma, and Angela Dougherty.

The committee has been busy staying on top of leads and it was formed to discuss the strategies of fundraising that can be done in West Elgin and Dutton/Dunwich.

Chair Hilde Mordan says the committee is strong because of its members.

"They're all leaders in their

community," says Mordan.

The group needs to raise \$250,000 by spring 2003 and already \$75,000 has been committed thanks to the hard work of the committee and the generous support of the communities involved.

The committee itself has gone beyond the political boundaries in its fundraising.

Major donations have been made by the Royal Bank

Foundation, Pioneer Hi-Bred, West Elgin Pharmacy and also memorial foundations including Liz McPhail Foundation and Katharina Mezenberg.

The new Health Centre, to be built in 2003 is to accommodate the explosion of growth at the current building.

The Health Centre continues to increase its programs available for the public.



## Multi-cultural displays

Mary and Joy Scafe (left) dropped by the Slovakian display at the Multi-Cultural Celebration held November 24. At right is Sophie Howse who did the display. The 2nd annual celebration was another great success with over 300 people enjoying the different cultures and displays for the event hosted by WEHC.

2002