

# Looking back on 2003



## JUNE...

Beef farmers began bracing themselves for the impact of mad cow disease after borders with the United States closed in late May. The ramifications of the disease, now found in the United States, is still making headlines in 2004.



## AUGUST...

Lawrence Holland found a crop circle in his Wallacetown-area fields, attracting crowds of spectators and researchers. August also saw Wallacetown's Chris Enns named the first male ambassador to the CNE amidst a massive blackout across parts of Ontario and several American states.



## MARCH...

The West Elgin Community Health Centre held the groundbreaking for its new \$3 million expansion. The new building is expected to be ready this month.



## NOVEMBER...

The West Elgin Dramatics Society offered "Just Say Yes" as its fall production. Municipal elections saw Jim McIntyre, Graham Warwick, Bonnie Vowel, Diane Brewer and Doug Reycraft acclaimed or elected area mayors.



## JULY...

Fingal was host to more than 100 bikers attending a Christian biker organization's rally, while municipalities began deciding how to refund or handle a parking ticket nightmare that saw hundreds of tickets given out to unsuspecting homeowners, many without driveways that were now in violation of a new parking bylaw.



## MAY...

John Kenneth Galbraith was honoured with the construction of an Inuksuk at his Dutton-Dunwich homestead. The Dutton library was later named after him. May also saw the three western Elgin County municipalities seeking thousands in 401 traffic ticket money that was sent to Chatham-Kent.



## APRIL...

The West Lorne Women's Institute celebrated its 90th anniversary. April also saw hospitals brace themselves during the outbreak of SARS.



## FEBRUARY...

The Rodney Ambulance Service honoured its late owner, Bob Padfield with framed prints hung at the Rodney and Dutton stations.



## DECEMBER...

Noah Heard meets Santa Claus at West Lorne's Santa Claus Parade, hosted by the Optimist Club. December saw celebrations when a school closure reprieve was given by the newly elected Liberal government for Ontario.



## OCTOBER...

Fall fairs, derbys and family activities dominated the summer and fall months in western Elgin County.

## SEPTEMBER...

Seniors gathered in Rodney for the Seniors' Day in the Park, hosted by the West Elgin Community Health Centre. September saw a provincial election called which saw Liberal Steve Peters returned as Elgin-Middlesex-London's MP. He was later named Minister of Agriculture. August and September also saw the grandstand in Rodney upgraded and declared safe after a few tense moments leading up to the annual fair.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

To all my friends and customers over the past 22 years, I wish to announce my retirement from Ripley & Giles Motors Ltd. It has been enjoyable and I most certainly will miss the people. Al has purchased my share of the business and it's business as usual.  
 Thank you  
 Bob Ripley

# CHRONICLING THE PAST



The students of SS #7 Aldborough included, front, left, Gladys Forsythe, Marjorie Tunks, Audrey Tenant, Barbara Heard, Blanche McDonald, Catherine Degraw, Marion Downie, Mildred Fleming, Constance Tenant, Charlie Cappe, Albert Cappe, Ross McDonald, Shirley James, Bilton McDonald, middle, left, Sidney Heard, Phyllis McMillan, Mary Tunks, Lillian Heard, Eleanor Clark, Donna Fleming, Frances Campbell, Flora Cook, Lester Comeau, Cameron Scott, Jimmy Tunks, Lloyd Clark, back, left, Howard McCallum, Alex James, Donald McDougall, Clarence Cappe, Armond James and Teacher Miss Newcombe.

Photo submitted by Donna Miller

The Chronicle welcomes your historical images of life in western Elgin County's past. Please send your historic photos to our office or they can be dropped off at Marg's Variety in Rodney or the Village Crier in Dutton. Your photos can be picked up again after they appear. **Aug 7 2003**

The Chronicle

# CHRONICLING THE PAST



This 1944 photo of Katherine McMillan's class includes the following area students: Anne Bea, Elizabeth Varga, Paul Izgherian, Julia Izgherian, John Bandeen, Anne Lupsor, Paul Cholak, Virginia Lupsor, Irene Varga, Shirley Brown, Clara Vince, Bobby Varga, Ernie Varga, George Vince, Gorden Vince, Gorden Doan, Tommy Cholak, Sara Varga, Helen M. Varga, Billy Varga, Melvin Doan, Margaret Bea, Mary Izgherian, Carol Sepergia, Mary Lupsor, Helen Varga, Amy Ingratta, Steven Fodor, John Ingratta and John Okilishan.

Submitted photo

The Chronicle welcomes your historical images of life in western Elgin County's past. Please send your historic photos to our office or they can be dropped off at Marg's Variety in Rodney or the Village Crier in Dutton. Your photos can be picked up again after they appear. **DEC**

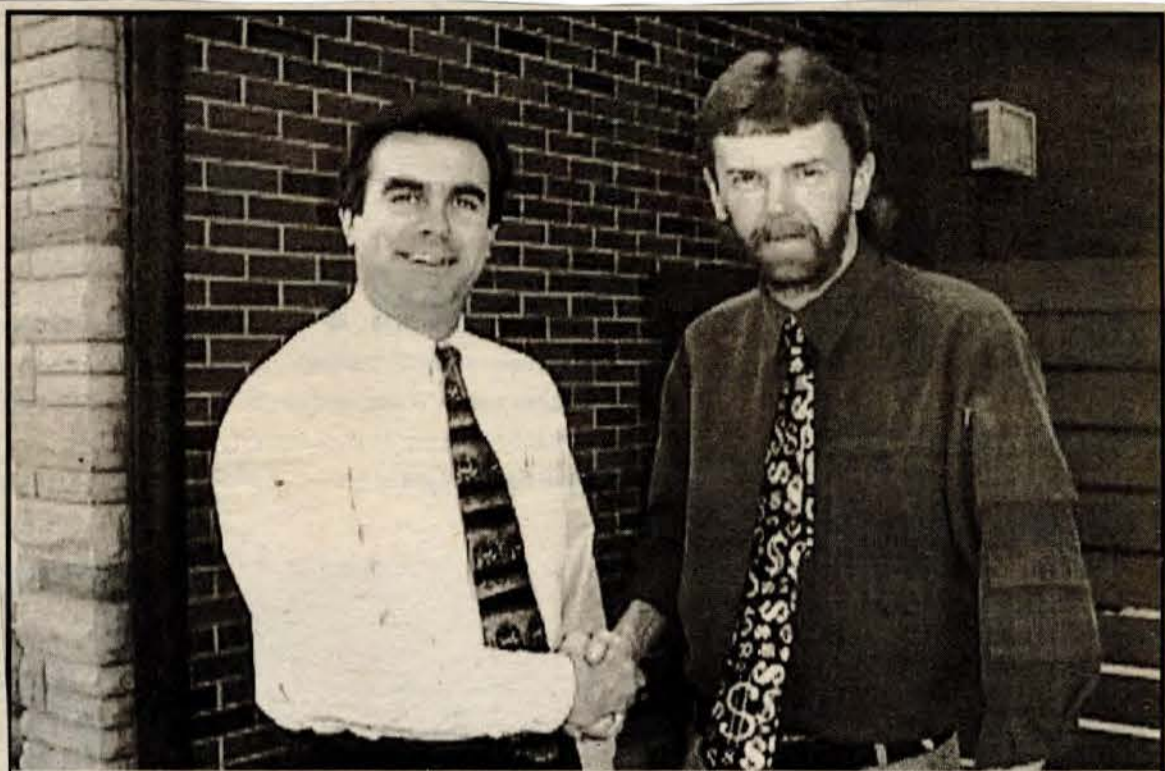
FEB 2001



### Hammer Time!

Gerree Hind, left, and Audrey Bellefeuille were among the volunteers from the West Elgin Nature Club who gathered in Ken Wilton's workshop recently to build birdhouses. In total 100 bluebird houses were built along with 11 wood duck houses and 12 wren houses. The club has been building houses for 20 years, having probably made over 1,000 houses in that time. As well as being placed all over the township, some of the houses will go as far away as Aylmer thanks to the Elgin Stewardship Council.

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### FEB 26, 2001 Working together

The West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the West Lorne Business Association have formally combined in order to benefit members of both organizations and have a unified voice on issues facing local business owners. Chamber President Serge Lebedz and Business Association Chairman Tom Jones shake hands on the deal that brings merchants in all of West Elgin together.

## Local business associations join forces

Knowing that there is strength in numbers, the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce and the West Lorne Business Association have joined forces. The re-organized group will be known as the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce.

The West Elgin Chamber evolved from the Rodney Industrial Commission, which was instrumental in bringing Walterscheid and Dresden Industrial to the area.

West Elgin Municipal Council appoints two of its members to the chamber. In return the chamber attends council meetings when necessary to voice any concerns or offer input.

One of the main benefits expected to be realized from combining the two business associations is improved economic development opportunities.

Better organization of special

events and a committee to oversee ideas to beautify the main streets of the two communities are other potential benefits. Presenting a stronger voice on the issues that concern local businesses is another reason the two groups decided to work as one.

The amalgamated organization has already worked together to produce a local telephone directory highlighting local business numbers. Signage on the 401 for Rodney and West Lorne is being investigated. A Downhill Derby may be held in Rodney thanks in part to the efforts of the West Lorne Downhill Derby committee and chamber members.

The West Elgin Chamber is pleased that municipal council responded to them by adding a winter night shift to maintain the business sections of the villages.

While the expanded West Elgin

Chamber might have committees to plan things for each of Rodney and West Lorne, the organization will operate as one unit, not simply as two organizations sharing one name.

Things that were done in West Lorne and Rodney will be maintained and, hopefully with the larger group support, will be improved for both communities.

### Dove Rebekah Card Party

Winners at the Dove Rebekah Lodge Card Party on February 21st were, on the White card - high, Pauline Jensen; lone hands, Märg Gowan.

For the Yellow card - high, Carl Staddon; lone hands, Mike Ingratta.

The 50/50 draw was won by Marg Gowan.



### Supporting Young Skaters

The Rodney Kiwanis Club made a donation to the West Elgin Skating Club to help offset the costs of the club's annual skating carnival which was held on March 3rd. Pictured, Kiwanis President Jim Hathaway, left, presents a \$300.00 cheque to Skating Club President Dianne DeLouw.



### Daffodil day

The annual start to Cancer Month was held across the area on March 30th as volunteers with the Canadian Cancer Society sold the organization's symbol - the daffodil. Carmina DaSilva, left, purchased a bunch of the beautiful blooms from Helen Mooser who was one of the volunteers on duty at the West Lorne IGA.

APR. 9, 2001



### Remembrance Contest Winners FEB 26/01

These local young ladies took top honours at the Zone level of the annual Remembrance Day Contests. The West Elgin Legion Br. 221 presented each of them with a framed certificate to commemorate their achievement as well as a monetary donation. Pictured with Legion President Ray Jobson, centre, are, from left to right: Melissa Warren, 1st place, black and white poster; Mallory Peternel, 1st place, essay; Katie Campigotto, 2nd place, essay, and Kelsey Budgell, 2nd place, colour poster.



**Ready to respond**

Wanting to be available as quickly as possible in times of need, the West Elgin Ministerial Association, OPP and West Elgin Community Health Centre have created a crisis response system. Pictured, OPP Constable Dennis Harwood, left, Joy Scafe, from the Health Centre and Rev. Kirby Breithaupt go over some of the details of the new initiative.



**Spectacular Speakers**

The West Lorne Optimist Club was pleased with the participation in this year's Oratorical Contest. Pictured are, left to right: front row - Amanda Jamieson, Gayle McFadden, 2nd place girl; Richa Sharma, 1st place girl; Kylie Hilliard, 3rd place girl; A.J. Fordham, 2nd place boy; back row - Lisa McCallum, Amanda Bellefeuille, Jackie Geisler, Blair Noddin, 1st place boy, and Optimist Nancy Coburn, chairperson of the event. (photo contributed)



**Working towards a cure**

About 30 people took part in the West Lorne 'Great Ride 'N Stride to Beat Cancer' on April 29th. Pledges gathered by the participants amounted to around \$3,200. Organizers were pleased with this year's event which saw more people take part and more money raised for the Canadian Cancer Society than in 2000.

MAY 7 2001



**A Very Good Deed**

It's quite a transformation! Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation, extensive renovatios completed at the 1st West Lorne Scouts Hall. An open house as held to show off the spruced up facility. Taking part in the ribbon cutting ceremony were, left to right - Scout Derek Podebry, Theresa Whalen, West Elgin Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick, Beaver Nicky Martin, Trillium representative Harry Mezenberg and Cub Tiffany Leeson.

APR 1/01



**Teaching about baby care**

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club donated five copies of the video "Never Shake a Baby" to the West Elgin Community Health Centre. Two of the copies will be kept at the Parent Child Resource Centre in Rodney for people to sign out. The videos are part of the Kiwanis Club's "Children Priority 1" project of Kiwanis International. Kiwanian Bill Graham, left, made the presentation to Paula Cousins, WECHC Nurse Practitioner. APR 30/01



**Training aids**

The West Elgin Army Cadets recently presented laminated pictures of the medals and badges they earn and the training syllabus they follow to the West Elgin Legion Br. 221, where the cadets train. Captain Bill Stinson, left, Adjutant of the West Elgin Army Cadets and Legion President Ray Jobson display the placques which will be hung in the legion to help the cadets with their training.

APR 23/01

### 51st West Lorne Kiwanis Talent Show

The West Lorne Kiwanis Club hosted their 51st Talent Show on April 20th and 21st in the WEDS Performing Arts Centre in Dutton.

Talent Show chairman Bill Graham commented that "the quality of the performers was at the top of the excellence scale. The adjudication by Karen Ann Schuessler of London was very professional and Karen was personally in touch with every one of the contestants." The highest mark awarded - 90 - went to Caren Campbell for her violin solo.

There were a few "glitches" in the timing on Friday night, but hopefully this will not discourage anyone from taking part next year.

First, second, and third place

standings in the various classes are as follows:

Pop piano 10 and under: Sabrina Griffin, 86; Nicole Hilliard, 83; Breanne Carter, 82.

Piano age 10: Rebecca Stone, 87.

Pop vocal age 13: Jonathan Wright, 88.

Piano age 11: Becky Lee, 87; Danielle Schneckeburger, 85; Katharine Wright, 84.

Other instruments: recorder duet - Stephen and Christine Van't Voort, 85. Brass trio - Daniel, Michael and Brian Van't Voort, 84. Baritone - Michael Van't Voort, 87. Trumpet - Daniel Van't Voort, 84. Clarinet - Peter Westerveld, 86. Flute - David Westerveld, 85. Violin - Caren Campbell, 90.

Piano age 12: Laurie Van't Voort, 87; Jackie Hwang, 86; Erin Fleming, 83.

Piano age 13: Lisa King, 87; Jonathan Wright, 84; Stacie Gowan, 83.

Pop piano 14 and under: Jonathan Wright, 88; Amanda Ford, 87; Jamie Stone, 85.

Vocal open class: Jonathan Wright; Michelle Smith; Heidi Berkelmans.

Piano duo: Jackie Hwang; Jonathan Wright.

Piano age 14: Vanessa Gray, 85; Candace Vanden Dries 84.

Piano age 15: Matt Mistele, 87; Becki Koscik, 86.

Piano age 16: Holly LeBlanc, 83.

Piano age 17: David Westerveld, 86.

Piano duet age 13 and over: Laurie Van't Voort and David Westerveld, 85; Hillary Krier and Kim Krier, 82.

Piano duet age 15: Matt Mistele and Becki Koscik.

Piano duo: Matt Mistele and Becki Koscik.

Pop piano over 14: Holly LeBlanc, 87; Jennifer LeBlanc, 85.

Piano age 6: Morgan Ross, 85; Stephen Carter, 84; Evan Ross, 83.

Piano age 7: Katie Stone, 88; Allison Kornaker, 85.

Piano age 8: Madison Hayes,

89; Breanne Carter, 87; Christine Van't Voort, 86.

Piano age 9: Sabrina Griffin, 89; Madison Hayes, 88; Hillary Hodder, 87.

Trumpet solo: Daniel Van't Voort, 85.

Choir: Dutton Christian Fellowship Junior Choir, director Karen Sloetjes, 88.

Vocal open class age 8: Naomi Brown, 87.

Vocal open class age 10: Vicki Close, 87; Hillary Hodder, 85.

Vocal solo age 11: Hillary Hodder, 85; Katharine Wright, 84.

Vocal solo age 8: Madison Hayes, 87; Naomi Brown, 86; Cassie Wright, 83.

Piano duet 12 and under: Hillary Hodder and Madison Hayes, 87; Charlotte Schaeken and Katharine Wright, 86; Tracy Donaldson and Amanda Ford, and Rebecca Stone and Jamie Stone, 85 (tied).

Vocal duet age 10: Michelle Smith and Heidi Berkelmans, 85; Hillary Hodder and Heather Heyboer, 84.

Spelling bee: Grade 3 - Cassie Wright, Molly Schleichauf, Ashley Willey, Breanne Carter, Tyler Ross.

Grade 4 - Nicole Hilliard, Jordan Hamm, Andrea Gibbons, Molly McWilliam.

Grade 6 - Becky Lee, Craig Howard.



Piano age 10: Rebecca Stone, 1st



Recorder duet: Christine and Steven Van't Voort, 1st



Pop piano 10 and under: Sabrina Griffin, 1st; Nicole Hilliard, 3rd.



Other instruments: Peter Westerveld, clarinet; David Westerveld, flute; Caren Campbell, violin.



Pop vocal age 13: Jonathan Wright



Piano age 11: Danielle Schneckeburger, 2nd, Becky Lee, 1st, Katharine Wright, 3rd.



### Tickling the ivories

Breanna Carter was one of the first participants in the West Lorne Kiwanis Club's 51st Talent Show to have the privilege of playing the shiny, new black grand piano. This year the two-day event was held in the newly renovated WEDS Performing Arts Centre in Dutton. For more coverage see page 15.