



TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) held an All TOPS Walk on October 2 at the Old Rodney Town Hall. Pictured left to right are TOPS members, TOPS Area Captian Pam Baddams, Twila McWilliams, West Lorne TOPS leader Wendy Collins, Shirley Slaats, Olive Chambers and Alice Menard.

OCT. 2002

Daffodil Society helps out needy at Christmas



Volunteers of the Daffodil Society were busy last Wednesday handing out baskets of donated goods and foods for the needy. This year 60 families were registered to receive a special Christmas basket. Pictured are volunteers Lorne Milton, George Smith, Ruth Wight, Terry Heeney and Helen Mooser. Again this year, Erie Flooring donated 12 turkeys. Daffodil wants to give a hardy thanks for all the groups and individuals who also helped donate to the cause this year.

DEC. 2002

DEC. 2002 The Chronicle

Optimists honour youth for their dedication



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently honoured local youth for their dedicated work in the community and their achievements. Each honouree received a certificate of achievement. Front row (l-r) Mary Jane Peternel, Jeff Kosciak, Shobha Sharma, and Christine Alves. Back row: Kory Preston, Morgan McWilliam, Ilse Fleuren, Jennifer Drummelsmith, Connor Wilson and Brett Fleming.



Lyle Simms (right) prepare to lay the wreath commemorating the death of four Canadians in Afghanistan this year at the West Lorne ceremony, along with Sergeant at Arms Wayne Gaudon.



Father and son George and Edd Bell held the flags at the West Lorne ceremony.



Members of the West Elgin RCAC 2884 posed for pictures.

NOVEMBER 11, 2002

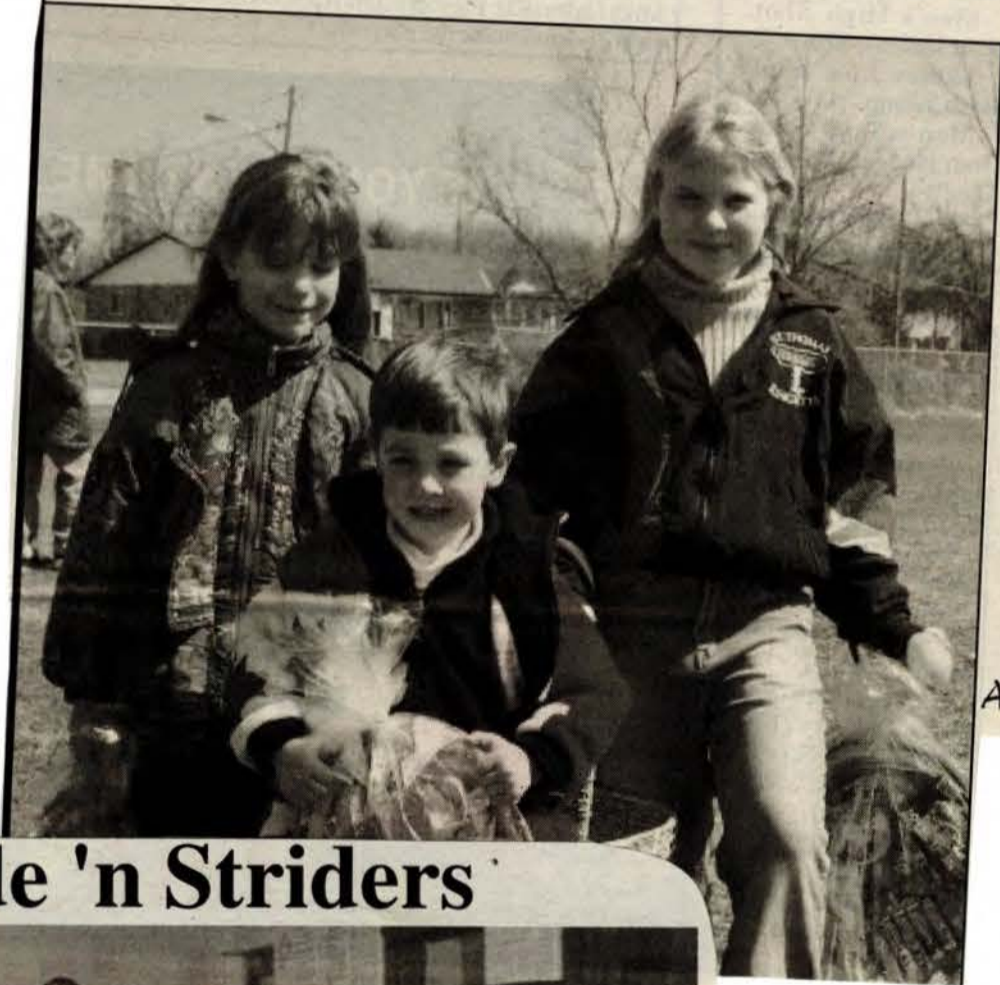
*Lest
We
Forget*

Those spring time smiles



Five year old Rosie Butler of West Lorne gets her face painted by Dana Kuska of West Lorne at the West Lorne & Community Horticulture Society's Garden Fair on May 11. Society members were astounded by the turnout and the sales that were made at the second annual event. They doubled their revenue made from last year. This could only mean one thing. The people in West Elgin must be really anxious for spring weather. Weather analysts made things worse by noting that March was a warmer month than May and April combined. Keep smiling though, it supposed to cause the sun to come out

Chasing bunny rabbits in West Elgin



THE WINNERS OF THE OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT at St. Mary's School yard. At left is Chelsey VanBreda winner in the ages 5, 6, 7 group. At centre is Sean Ricker of the ages four and younger. At right is Dakota Abram winner of the eight and older group.

APR. 8/02

Great Ride 'n Striders



Participants of West Lorne's Great Ride 'n' Stride gathered for a picture while waiting for the rain to end on Sunday April 28. The Great Ride 'n' Stride has been held for 16 years in West Lorne. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society.

MAY 2002

WEDS stages world premier of BOXES

The West Elgin Dramatics Society is staging the world premiere of a play by two area playwrights that the group expects will be a hit.

"It's a very funny play," said Tracy Gordon, who is directing Boxes, a comedy by Mike Mulhern of West Lorne and Fred Campbell of Forest. "Everyone who has stopped by during our rehearsals leaves laughing."

Underneath the play's witty banter is an underlying message about life and love, Gordon adds.

"There's a real feel-good message," she said.

The play opens April 5 at the WEDS Performing Art's Centre in Dutton. April 6, WEDS is hosting a meet-the-authors night. Both playwrights

will be on hand for a wine and cheese reception following the performance. There is also a matinee April 7 and two additional evening performances April 12 and 13.

Mulhern and Campbell co-wrote the play in 1995, but the pair were unsuccessful getting the play produced at Byth or the Grand Theatre in London.

"It seemed no one wanted to take a chance on an unknown work," Mulhern said.

After the initial disappointment, the play sat on the shelf until WEDS artistic director Leslie Moll showed an interest in it.

"We're very pleased to see it produced," said Mulhern. "I've met Tracy and her cast and I think it will be a great production."



Mike Mulhern of West Lorne

Campbell is returning early from a Florida vacation to see the play.

"I wouldn't miss it," he said. "I had pretty much given up on it."

Mulhern and Campbell are former co-workers from *The London Free Press*.

Campbell, once the paper's police reporter eventually became the paper's Assignment Editor, while Mulhern worked his way up to Entertainment Editor.

Campbell came up with the basic idea for the play and together the pair fleshed out the characters and came up with the basic plot.

The play stars four actors, two goldfish and a lot of boxes. The latter belong to Linda (played by Jennifer Gaudon of Talbotville) and her stock-broker husband Brad (played by Ron

Pokraka of Rodney). In between moves from one temporary residence to another, the couple hire Carl (Dennis Pederson of Dutton) to move their boxes and their pet fish in with Linda's dad Frank (Serge Lebedz of Rodney), a widower and retired police officer.

Frank, who gets suspicious of his non-committal son-in-law, does some sleuthing. What he learns clears his kitchen but crowds his social calendar.

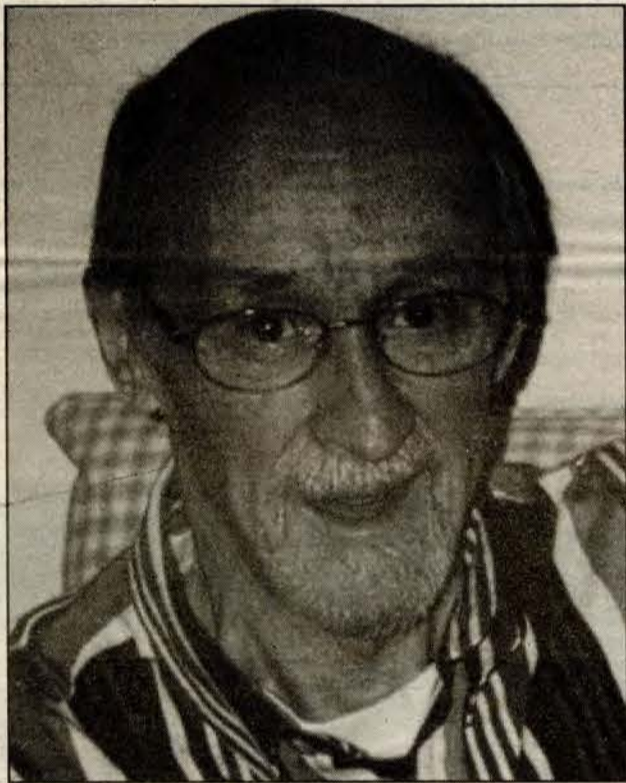
Tickets and information are available by calling Shenanigans at 762-5662, and are also available at Highland Pharmacy in Dutton, Krebsz Jewellery in West Lorne and Marg's Variety in Rodney.

MAR. 18, 2002



Jim Mabbe, District 10 Director of the Ontario Horticultural Society and Liz Clark, President of the West Lorne & Community Horticultural Society, cut the cake commemorating WLCHS's 75th anniversary last Tuesday. It was celebrated at the West Lorne Complex, on the grounds of the original meeting place, back in 1927. A moment of silence was spent commemorating those members who have passed away. A plaque was also revealed containing the names of past presidents. Clark said the future is full of expectations and projects to continue beautifying the community.

SEPT 2002



Fred Campbell of Forest

The Chronicle

MAY 20, 2002

Community Band is ready for anniversary show



Sharon Little conducts the West Elgin Community Band, which is celebrating 10 years with a public concert May 25 at WEDS hall in Dutton at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Over 30 current and past members of the West Elgin Community Band are expected to show up this Saturday night for a 10th Anniversary concert, but possibly many more than that.

Conductor Sharon Little said they will be playing some old favourites their supporters would have heard before, but there will also be new selections. She said past members who want to play

again can show up with their instruments and join in.

According to the original members of the band - Carrie Kelly (flute), Joanne Bobier (tenor sax) and Elizabeth Sebesyen (french horn) the band's openness and comradery has not changed much since the fall of 1991 when the band was started by conductor Mike and Patti Letovsky.

"It's been my Monday nights for 10 years," said Kelly.

Bobier said the push to join the band came from her family and she was thankful she eventually joined it. It the beginning the band was designed to help parents understand what music students at WESES were experiencing.

The three members pointed out the remarkable aspect of the band being comprised of diverse people, from diverse backgrounds coming together for the love of music.

"We all come from different backgrounds," they said.

Newcomer to the band, Andrea Fordham said she couldn't read a note when she joined in September. Today she is enjoying the band and learning the bass drum.

"I really enjoy it, even though I sometimes sit back and laugh at myself," she said.

Tickets to the concert are \$5 at the door. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Tracy Gordon, director of Boxes

West Lorne Adult Club news

by Barbara Popham,
Secretary, The West
Lorne Adult Club

"The biweekly April meetings of the **West Lorne Adult Club** have been both entertaining and informative. On April 9, Miss Orchard and Miss McLean presented a humorous skit of filing income taxes as a Senior's Moment of Frenzy.

On April 22, Mrs Sharma and her Daughter Shobha, presented slides and a perspective on their homeland, the Punjab in northern India, highlighting the Taj Mahal and the Golden Temple. Mrs Sharma described the

typical Indian dress and presented fine examples of the various beautifully handcrafted sahris.

Shobha entertained us with a traditional Indian dance. Mrs Sharma surprised the group with a taste of Indian delicacies following the meeting.

The West Lorne Adult Club presented \$100.00 to Larry Schneider, principal of WESS to assist in the purchase of new instruments for the Music Department.

The May 13 meeting of the West Lorne Adult Club will be a potluck lunch at 12:00 noon.

See you there!!!

MAY 2002

Chamber Chat

West Elgin Chamber
of Commerce

Our community
is:
"Centre to
everything.
Second to
None!"

at. The
Chronicle in
West Lorne
or Marg's
Variety in
Rodney and
pick up your
special

Canada Day 2002
Plans are well under way for special celebrations on July 1, 2002. The best place for you and your family and friends to be on this busy weekend is right here. Yard sales in West Lorne and Rodney. Friendly ball games, fun contests, local music, great food, and fireworks in West Lorne - its all happening in West Elgin.

Register your yardsale

identification. The weekend will also include the always-popular car show. Watch your newspaper for updates on more happenings.

If you, or your organization, wish to become involved, or have ideas that you would like to see implemented, please phone the township office at 785-0560.

Internationally renown singer comes to West Lorne

BIRGIT ROHOWSKY TAKES THE STAGE WITH THE WEST ELGIN CHORAL SOCIETY

Fresh from performances with England's Opera Nova and the Abbey Opera Company, singer Birgit Rohowsky will be the guest soloist with West Elgin Choral Society at their Easter concert March 24 in West Lorne.

The internationally known musician will sing the soprano solo in Schubert's Mass in G major, No. 2 with the choral society and the London Community Orchestra, under the direction of Wayne Carroll.

"This is not just a wonderful opportunity for the choir, but a great opportunity for the entire community, the entire region," said Carroll.

"It's very exciting." Birgit is coming to the region to visit her mother, Rose Rohowsky, in Dutton. A soprano in the choir, Rose tried to buy her daughter and her family tickets to the concert when Carroll pressed the idea of having mother and daughter on the same stage.

Rose Rohowsky, once a professional opera singer herself, will sing a solo in Handel's Largo in the same program.

In a program packed with highlights, the London Community Orchestra will perform Handel's Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 6 under the direction of Len Ingraio.

Ironically, Birgit, who has sung such



Birgit Rohowsky will be appearing March 24 in West Lorne

demanding roles as Queen of the Night in Mozart's Magic Flute and Sophie in Der Rosenkavalier, was told by her first singing teacher she didn't have the voice to be an opera singer.

"I gave up in my late teens. I turned to the piano as a second choice," said Birgit from her home in Sussex, England. "I had already been studying piano because I thought it was a good thing for a singer."

Birgit had no trouble finding work as a pianist. From the time she was ten years old she accompanied her parents and brother in family concerts. Her late father, Karl, was a flautist, Rose a soprano and brother Herman is a violinist. The Rohowsky family, living in Toronto at the time, performed often in the Toronto, Barrie and

Brantford areas.

Once she gave up on her dream of being a singer, Birgit pursued piano studies, first at the Texas Christian University and then in England at the Royal Academy of Music and the University of London where she earned a Masters in piano performance.

She was well-known as a specialist in 20th century piano music and performed extensively throughout the United Kingdom and Italy.

"I played a lot of chamber music, but I was never really happy with it," said Birgit of the piano. "I was petrified performing in a way I never am singing."

However, starting again as a singer wasn't an easy decision.

"Everybody, including my mother probably, thought I was insane because I was a very good pianist and a lousy singer."

Not so, it turns out.

Birgit has a dramatic coloratura voice, one capable of both a big, powerful sound and great agility and speed.

Other operatic roles include title roles in Donizetti's Lucia de Lammermoor and Delibes's Lakme, plus Norina in Donizetti's Don Pasquale, Giulietta in Donizetti's I Capuletti e i Montecchi, Vitellia in Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito and Miss Jessel in Benjamin Britten's The Turn of The Screw. Oratorio performances include Handel's Messiah, the Mozart Requiem, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and the Vivaldi Gloria.

In addition, with pianist Julian Barber, she has given song recitals throughout England, Scotland and Ireland.

This spring will be Birgit's second visit to West Elgin since her mother retired here to be closer to Herman, owner of Cherry Turbos in Wallacetown. On her first visit several years ago, she married Dr. Mike Miller in her mother's garden.

Despite her burgeoning singing career, Birgit's West Lorne performance will be one of her last for several months.

The couple is expecting their third child in July.

The concert March 24, at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in West Lorne.

The program begins at 7 p.m. Advance tickets, available at Shenanigan's, 159B Main St., Dutton, 762-5662, are \$10. Tickets may be available at the door for \$12.



RCL Branch 221 recently accepted a Trillium Fund Grant for \$39,600 to pay for energy efficiency projects and wheelchair access. Pictured l-r is Robert White (past President), Dennis Joyce (new President), Richard Swan (bar steward), Sheila Simpson (Trillium Foundation), Joe Leunissen (building chair), MPP Steve Peters and Harry Mezenberg (Grant Review Member).

JUNE 2002



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently installed its new Board of Directors for the 2002/2003 year. Pictured back row (l-r) Dave Varga (2 yr. director), Bill Trask (1 yr. director), Ken Neil (1 yr. director), Don Boos (Sec./Treas.), Doronty Staddon (1st VP), Ric Whyte (1 yr. director), Doug Staddon (2 yr. director); front row (l-r) John Eagleson (Past Pres.), Karen Goncalves (Pres.) and Larry Babcock of Ridgeway (Lt. Governor) who conducted the installation. Missing are Brad Reive (2nd VP), Julie Lawrence (Pres. Elect) and Shirley Lorch (2 yr. director).

Eagle offers great training for area cadets

By Times-Journal Staff

Learning skills in a drill hall is one thing for cadets. It's another to try to master new techniques in a wooded area in the dead of winter.

Sixty-four cadets from the Royal Canadian Army Cadets No. 7 and 741 Air Cadets were at the Warwick Conservation Area last weekend, participating in a winter indoctrination program.

Topics covered included winter survival, mapping and compass work, first aid, bush craft, and a biathlon, the skill of snowshoeing and target shooting.

"We use advanced cadets who are further on in the program as leaders," Lt. Jason Chabot, one of several adult supervisors.

The Warwick Conservation Area near Eagle, covered in light brush and rolling slopes, is the perfect setting for this type of training, Chabot said.

The big tests over the weekend came for cadets doing night mapping and compass work.

"It tests all your skills," Chabot said.

Weather conditions, with the temperature hovering right around freezing, were perfect, he said. There was enough snow for a winter setting and cold enough to challenge cadets, without a serious risk of frostbite or hypothermia.

Cadets had all the camping gear, winter clothing and specialty equipment they needed.

One of the more challenging tests was the biathlon. Cadets were required to snowshoe a certain distance, then

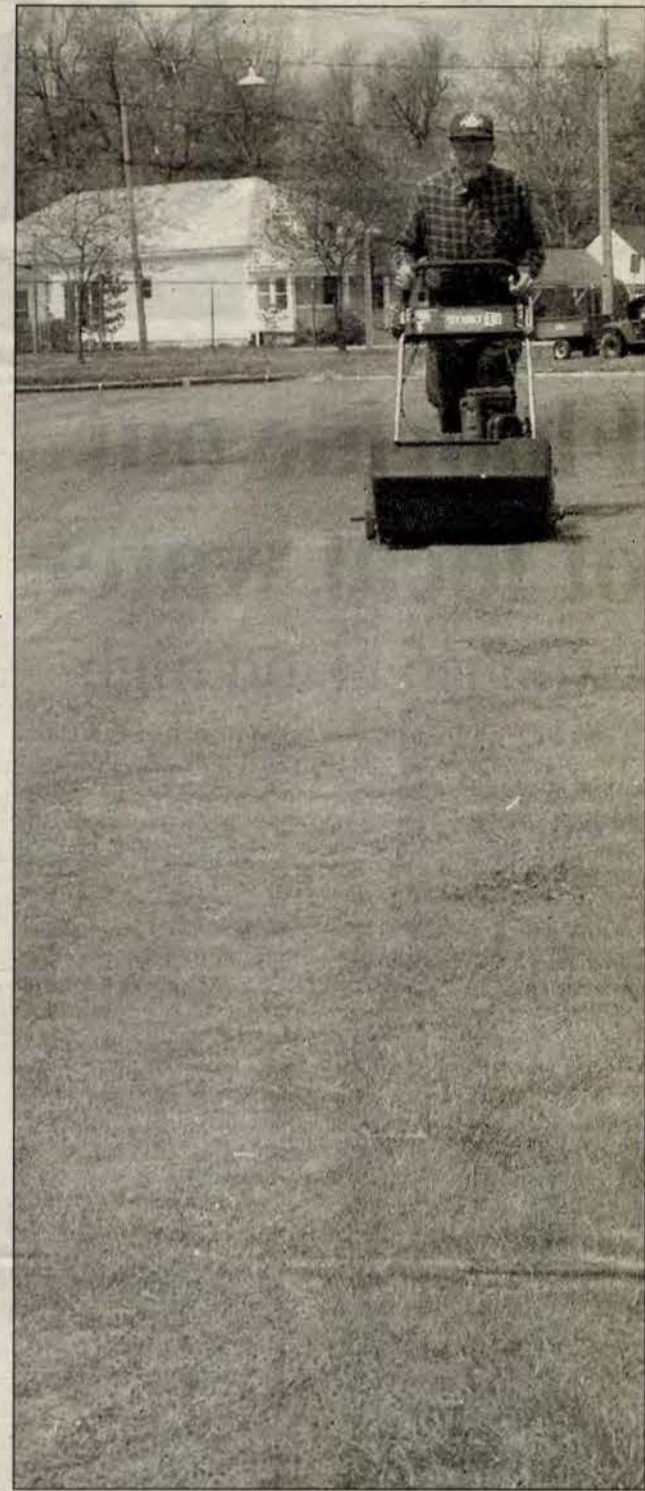


Sixty-four members of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets No. 7 and 741 Air were at the Warwick Conservation Area last weekend for a winter indoctrination program.

stop and shoot targets.

"It shows how breathing affects shooting," Chabot said, explaining how challenging it would be for a shooter who has just come through physical exertion to hold a rifle perfectly still.

The weekend wasn't all work for the cadets. Some indoor social events were planned for evenings.



The West Lorne lawn bowling club is ready for action. Play could begin any day now depending on the weather. Club members were there last week getting the greens and clubhouse ready.



Volunteer kitchen staff at Br. 221 of the Royal Canadian Legion in West Lorne surround kitchen manager Mary Jane Lemon during the final Friday lunch held on May 30. This was Mary Jane's last day as manager before her retirement from the volunteer position after some 6 years. Mary Jane and her staff were presented with an appreciation gift from Pres. Dennis Joyce during the final lunch. Pictured are (l-r) Georgina Jensen, Eileen Kozdras, Jean Jamieson, Pres. Dennis Joyce, Ray Jobson and seated is Mary Jane Lemon. Photo by: Suzanne McGregor



RCL Branch 221 West Elgin welcomes new members

West Elgin Legion Br. 221 recently held initiations of new members pictured are l-r Branch President Dennis Joyce, new members John T. Dalkin, Elsie Beaudoin, Membership chairperson Joe Santos, new members Peggy-Sue McGill, Dave Page, Assoc. member Dave Scafe and Deputy zone commander Robert White.



HOSPITAL DONATION...

Joe Santos (left) President of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 221, West Elgin makes a presentation of \$1,000 from their Poppy Fund to the STEGH Foundation. Accepting the gift (from left) Dave MacIntyre, Foundation President, Linda Millard, STEGH Vice President of Patient Services, Brenda Lambert, STEGH Director of Ambulatory Program and Anita Grant, STEGH Director of Medical Program. The money will be used to purchase GERI chairs for patients.

Submitted photo



Jim Hathaway, right, and Bill Graham second from right, present cheques for \$735 and \$300 from the Rodney and West Lorne Kiwanis Clubs to Kiwanis Governor Bill Stewart, joined by Lt. Gov. Ken Monteith, far left. The money will go toward Stuart's charity, Sleeping Children Around the World which provides bed kits to children in underdeveloped countries. The presentation was made at a recent meeting.

WL Kiwanis donate to WECHC



The Kiwanis Club of West Lorne has donated \$3000 to the West Elgin Community Health Centre towards its new building. Pictured left to right are Kiwanians Les Sewell, Ralph Chambers, and Bill Graham. Accepting the cheque are Angela Doherty of WECHC and Paul Mistele Chair of WECHC board of directors. Handing over the cheque is Ray Jobson of the Kiwanians. *JAN. 27/03*



The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently made a \$300 donation to the Dutton Co-operative Child Care Centre. (l - r) Optimist VP Dorothy Staddon hands over the cheque to Iona Woolley and Barb Jackson, both of the Centre which services families of children ages 3 months to 12 in the West Elgin and Dutton-Dunwich areas. Call 762-2399 for information

West Lorne Hort news

January 14 was the date for the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting. President Liz Clark welcomed everyone, and thanked the members for all their hard work, over the past year.

Elections were held for the coming year, and the results were as follows:

President: Liz Clark; Vice-President: DiAnne Dowling; Treasurer: Betty McKillop; Secretary: Susan Lilley. Directors for 2003: Pat Watterworth, Mary Lippold, Frances McCallum, Betty McKillop, Susan Lilley. Directors for 2003-2004: Colin Kittmer, Nancy Baillie, Elmer Dean, Helen Kovacs, Betty Van Overmeir.

Committees were also set up, for 2003, with the following people chairing them: Planting Committee- Pat Watterworth; Flower Show- Betty McKillop; Tree Planting- Colin Kittmer; Programs/ Trips- Liz Clark; Craft Nights- Betty Van Overmeir; Publicity- Susan Lilley; Yearbook- DiAnne Dowling; Garden Fair- Liz Clark.

Programs, for this year,

will include such topics as Native Plants of South-Western Ontario, Edible Plants, Seed Starting, and "How to Be Judged Successfully" (sure to be a hit with June 13th Flower Show enthusiasts), just to name a few.

The society will also be working on the bed at the Complex, so be sure to keep an eye on the improvements, there. We will also be working on all the other flower beds and hanging baskets, which we maintain, around town.

If anyone is interested in joining any of the committees, or just lending a helping hand, please contact any of the Directors or Executive. Our next general meeting will be February 11, 7:00 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex. The guest speaker will be Joan Pierson, and her topic will be Container Gardening. Come on out and learn about this popular trend in gardening. Remember, our meetings are always fun, free, and informative. Everyone is welcome; see you there!

FEB. 3, 2003



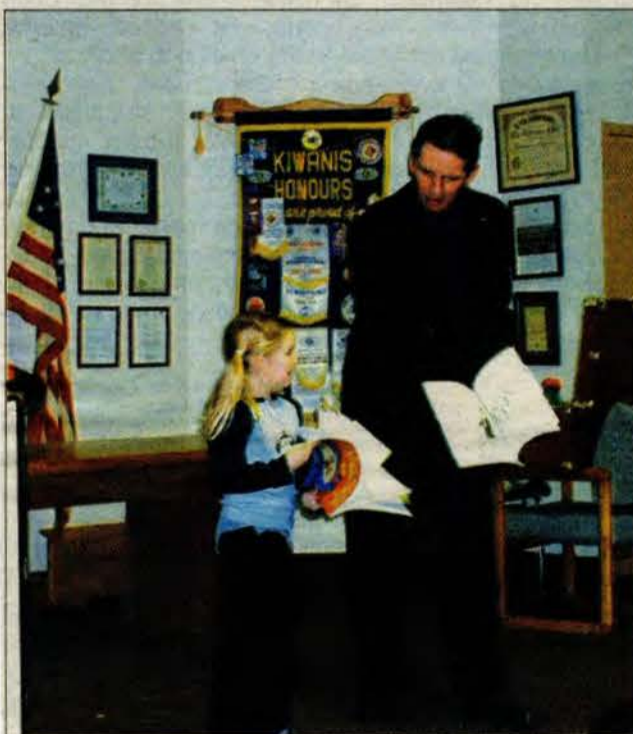
It's magic *MAR. 20 2003*

The Impossibleist, JK McQuik, performs a magic wand trick with Jamie McKillop assisting while Paton Snobelen helps with a magic colouring book at the West Lorne Library. McQuik performed a show Thursday afternoon at West Lorne and Dutton Library as part of a series of March break activities.

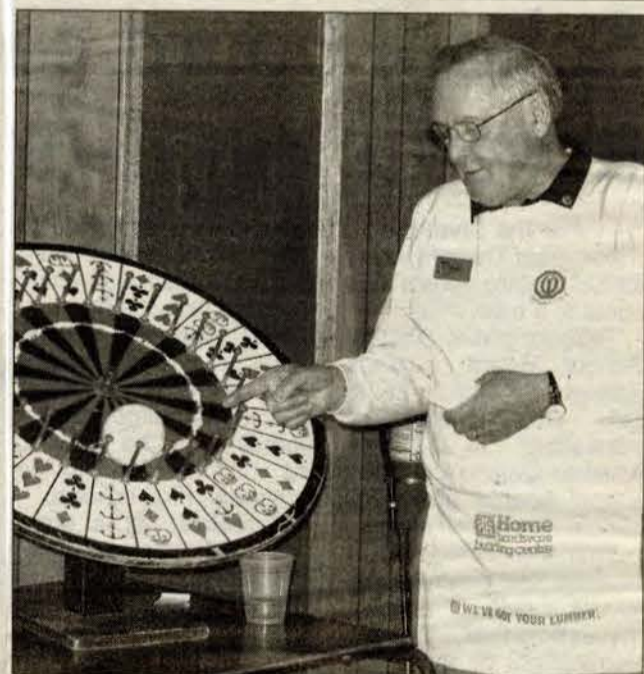
MAR. 6, 2003 The Chronicle



The 1st West Lorne Girl Guides visited in Byron as part of Thinking Day. Via ham radio, they connected with Girl Guide groups in England and Nova Scotia. Pictured are in front, Jessica Degraw; with Kelsey Shaw at the microphone, and l to r Katherine Mindinger, Katelyn Doan, Beth Kolar, Evie Thody and Sheila Finkbeiner. *Submitted photo*



APR. 3, 2003



Optimist Club West Lorne member Jim Carmichael points out the winning sequence on the Crown and Anchor game at the clubs recent fundraising Fun Night, Auction and Elimination draw. Draw winners were Robert White (\$500); Dave Huver (\$25); Irene Loveland (\$25); David Fletcher (\$25); Tracy VanBreda (\$25) and Lynda Pandura (\$25). All proceeds are contributed to the youth of our communities.