



Harley Lashbrook, left, Shirley Lashbrook (the wife of former Rodney Mercury and West Lorne Sun editor Lynn) and West Lorne Kiwanis Club members, Sylvia Logan and Ray Jobson, treasurer, read through one of the bound editions of the old newspapers Harley had collected. Here, they opened up a 1954 book after delivering them to the West Lorne Library and were surprised to find the first page had a picture of Harley and Lynn's parents' home.

History preserved

Bound editions of old newspapers made available to local libraries

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

With the help of a \$5,000 Trillium Foundation grant through the West Lorne Kiwanis Club, Harley Lashbrook's collection of old newspapers are now in bound editions in the West Lorne and Rodney libraries.

"I kept copies of all the old newspapers," said Lashbrook, whose family became owners of some of the original newspaper operations in the area.

His father, Ernest bought the the West Elgin Sun in 1921. The newspaper eventually became the West Lorne Sun and he also bought the Rodney Mercury.

Lashbrook's brother, Lynn, became the owner and editor of the paper and in 1947, Harley joined the staff.

"I started as just a job-boy around the place," he said.

He retired 14 years ago as the assistant editor but not before collecting decades worth of the publications.

The Mercury and Sun changed hands a few times in the 80s and early to mid-90s when they were merged into The Mercury Sun before closing down.

"I wanted them to be preserved forever," said Lashbrook, knowing how much local history is contained in those pages.

Both he and his wife

have written books about the area with research coming from those publications.

His wife, Nancy, wrote Aldborough: The Township with a Past, and he wrote, West Lorne: 90 Years a Village, which included much information found within the pages of the newspaper.

Working with the Kiwanis Club, he was able to receive a Trillium grant to have the papers bound in a format that will make the history in those pages available to anyone.

There are 110 bound books produced, dating back to 1949. the bulk of the books will go to the West Lorne library which

Continued on page 2

The Chronicle

JUNE 12, 2003



Ben Welch, a member of 1st West Lorne Cubs, is framed by a mine detector Saturday at Camp Timken, where he was one of about 185 boys and girls at the annual end-of-the-year camp for Elgin Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. The mine detector was part of a display by 31 CER (The Elgins); Dutton/Dunwich volunteer Fire Department was also on hand.

Scout year wraps up with camp

For The Chronicle

They jumped in puddles.
They tug of warred across mud.
They walked on stilts through ponds.
The theme of the weekend was "wet and wild."
And, like they say, themes do come true.
"In other words, the kids are getting wet and dirty, and they're having fun," said Kevin Morland.

A Scout leader and Venturer advisor for the 20th St. Thomas at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Morland was convener of the weekend's all-sections Scout camp at Camp Timken near Iona.

Close to 185 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers from Aylmer through St. Thomas to West Lorne, participated in the annual wrapup for the Scout year.



Alex Biddell marches past members of the 2884 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps at the conclusion of the corps' first-ever ceremonial review Saturday at the West Elgin Arena.



First inspection

Family and dignitaries were among the guests at the West Elgin Arena Saturday for the first annual review of the Army Cadet Corps. At left, Danial Balint, Shane Brown and Matt Loos participate in a 'march past' of the guests following the inspection while at right, Chris Knight, in the foreground, helps carry a stretcher with cadets, Alex Biddell, Shane Brown and Kathrine DrummelSmith. In the stretcher is Jessica Kalita. The five were one team demonstrating a game cadets play.

Most stayed overnight Friday and Saturday; the Beavers, Scouting's youngest, visited for the day on Saturday.

And the weekend was fun, said eight-year-old Darcy Brown, of the 1st Shedden Cubs.

"I got to make a woggle, and I got to sleep in my tent by myself," he said.

"It's the food, hot dogs and pancakes," said 13-year-old Rob MacFarlane, of the 20th St. Thomas Scouts.

"Meeting new people, getting to do stuff, getting to play around and run around - it's pretty nice around here," said eight-year-old Sheltina Beke, of the 1st West Lorne Cubs.

"You get to run around," agreed nine-year-old best friend Katie Welch, also of 1st West Lorne Cubs.

In addition to games and other Scout activities, both 31 CER (The Elgins) and Dutton/Dunwich volunteer firefighters set up displays.

Four new members join ranks of West Lorne Optimist Club

By Karen Goncalves

The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently welcomed the installation of four new members to its organization.

The new additions are Bill and Elsie Beaudoin, Bill Goncalves and Richard Hale all of West Lorne. These new members came in at a great time. This summer is going to be a busy one for the club where good help is required.

If your planning to visit Dave Simmon's Automotive Barrel O Rama horse show on Crinan Line this June 21 and 22 be sure to stop by the Optimist food booth for a hamburger or hot dog or even better, on-site fresh cut fries.

Canada Day is approaching us quickly. This is when the celebrations start with the 8th Annual Optimist Show n Shine car show on Sunday, June 29 at Miller Park and an all you can eat breakfast at the IOOF Hall on Chestnut Street starting at 9am. The cost is \$5. Canada Day (Tues. July 1) has many events planned including the official opening of the Optimist

skate board park with professional BMX and skateboard demonstrations to follow.

The disc golf league, one of our areas newest sports is sponsored by the Optimist club that began this May. If your interested in joining this league call Greg Pinnegar at 785-1380 or Brian Congdon at 762-5567. It is open to ages 7 and up and played at Miller Park.

Aldborough Public School was the place for the Optimist Annual Bicycle Rodeo on May 28. Many students participated with their own bicycles going thru safety courses and having their bikes safety inspected by Optimist members. A bicycle draw was held and the winner was grade 2 student Codi Vander Gulik of Rodney.

West Lorne Minor Soccer has invited the Optimist club to be one of the food providers at this years Soccer Cup day on August 16 at Miller Park. This event attracts thousands of players and spectators to the games. Come on out and watch the games. West Lorne is well known for its great players of all ages.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne supports the youth of our community and surrounding areas, just like the Optimist organizations internationally. Focusing on the youth, who are the key to our future, members can concentrate on volunteering for better education, sports and the quality of life for less fortunate kids. The Optimist Club of West Lorne was

JUNE 2003

chartered in 1975 and currently has a membership of 29. This club does many great things for our kids. If your interested in joining a club that has lots of fun call 768-1055.

"Optimist - Friend of Youth"

MAY 22/03 The Chronicle

Society members learn about how judging is done

The May 13 meeting, of the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society, opened with President Liz Clark welcoming everyone, in attendance. President Clark thanked the members for their efforts, at this year's Garden Fair. We had a profit, this year, of just over \$1400.00, some of which will go towards community beautification.

Congratulations go to Larry Walls, of Wardsville, who won the his/hers adirondack chairs, in our raffle draw. President Clark, also, mentioned the June 5 bus trip, to the Royal Botanical Gardens.

This trip is just about sold out, at a cost of \$50.00 members/\$55.00 non-members, bus fare, gratuities, admission, and a great meal, at the Elmhurst Inn, inclusive.

Liz Clark introduced our evening's guest speaker, District 10 Director, Jim Mabee. Mabee, an accredited horticultural judge, discussed the June 13 Flower Show schedule, with our members and guests.

Publication 34, used by judges at flower shows, will be updated, republished, and available, in August. For now, we will use the current issue, for judging standards. Mabee gave his listeners many good tips and advice, sometimes going into great detail.

After his discussion, Mabee answered questions, from novices to seasoned exhibitors. Flower Show schedules are available from Betty McKillop, 768-1646. President Clark thanked Jim Mabee, for such an inspiring talk. Everyone then enjoyed a social hour.

There will be a car pool, to the Lambeth Horticultural Society's Annual Rose and Flower Show, June 25. Anyone interested in going, should contact Liz Clark, 768-1282, or Susan Lilley, 768-2665, before that date.

Our next meeting will be held June 10 at 7 p.m. at the West Lorne Complex, with guest speaker, Christine Dennis, talking about "Practical Uses of Common Garden Weeds and Herbs".

Everyone is always welcome at our meetings, including non-members. Come on out and learn something new, have a cup of tea, and a lot of fun.

Society learns from medical herbalist

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's last general meeting, before the summer break was June 10.

President Liz Clark welcomed members and guests and reminded the directors that there will be a Directors' Meeting on June 25, 7:30 p.m., at the West Lorne Complex.

The bus trip, to the Royal Botanical Gardens, was a great success, and everyone enjoyed the wonderful supper at the Elmhurst Inn, to finish off a fun-filled day. The Bus Trip Committee will be convening, soon, so if you have a favourite gardening destination, and you would like to see it included in a bus trip, please call Liz Clark, 768-1282.

The guest speaker for the evening was Christine Dennis of Tillsonburg. Dennis has a Bachelor of Science in Herbal Medicine, and is working on her master's degree.

She is one of only 12 people, in North America, with this type of accreditation. Dennis is a "medical herbalist", working closely with a medical physician, to treat people with a variety of disorders. Dennis believes in the medicinal and edible qualities of common garden weeds, flowers, and herbs. Her motto is: "If you can't beat them, eat them!"

Some common garden weeds, and their abilities are: Mustard- seed pods are good in salads; good for circulatory system.

Stinging Nettle- very high in nutrients; seeds help you adapt to stress, roots are good for prostate problems(handle this plant very carefully; use heavy gloves).

Dandelion- flowers and leaves are good in salads (high in potassium and calcium); roots can be ground up and used as a coffee substitute.

Chickweed- very nutritious; leaves can be put into bathwater, to relieve eczema.

Motherwort- excellent for menopausal, and other hormonal symptoms.

Echinacea- well known cold fighter.

Lemon Balm- has anti-viral properties; good for cold sores.

Lavender- used as a tea, it has relaxing qualities.

Dennis holds workshops, at her Tillsonburg home, which she and her husband have named "Little Nettle Herb Farm".

If anyone is interested in attending a future workshop, please contact Liz Clark, 768-1282 or Susan Lilley, 768-2665.

President Clark thanked Dennis for her knowledgeable presentation, and presented her with a gift. Clark also reminded members about a farewell get-together for Harold and Evelyn Lancaster, who are moving to Forest. This will be held at the West Lorne Legion, June 22, from 2-4 p.m. If you would like to say good-bye to this wonderful couple (and Bentley), who will be greatly missed in our community, please drop by the Legion and wish them well. Best wishes only.

Our society will be taking our usual summer break, but we will be back on Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m. at the Complex, with guest speaker Jennifer Grant of Lambeth, who will be talking about, and demonstrating "Edible Plants: A New Kind of Salad".



Optimistic speakers

Shobah Sharma, left, Andrea Goos and Brittany Hein sponsored by the Optimist Club of West Lorne and Jacob Rowe, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Wallacetown competed and won in the 2-clubs oratorical competitions. All four speakers advanced to the regional competition held in Shedden April 12. Shobah Sharma won first in the girls division and advances to District held in Sarnia on April 26.

Horticultural society learning about life in Southwestern Ontario's Carolinian forests

Mathis Natvik, of Orford Ridges Nursery, was the guest speaker, at the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's general meeting.

Natvik, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology, spoke to the society's members and visitors about the "Native Plant Community in Southwestern Ontario".

Natvik's slide presentation and discussion educated the audience, and taught us that southwestern Ontario wasn't completely covered with trees- there were also savannahs and prairies: savannahs have 25 per cent tree cover, and prairies are treeless. If you were to draw a line from Grand Bend to Toronto, the area to the south of that line, in Ontario, is known as the Carolinian Life Zone. It is also known as the eastern deciduous forest area.

This area has a more diverse variety of plant species, wildlife, and insects than almost any other area in North America, and is a merging area for many ecosystems.

Southwestern Ontario has 10 per cent of its natural habitat remaining, Elgin County has 10-11 per cent coverage, and Natvik's home county of Chatham-Kent has only three per cent of natural habitat left.

That is the lowest coverage in southwestern Ontario. Natvik feels that people should become more vocal in preserving the environment, and he recommends supporting the Nature Conservancy of Canada, if you feel the same as he. Natvik was also involved in the preservation of the Clear Creek forest, near Duart. His nursery business keeps him busy, as a wholesale supplier to businesses and governments all over North America.

He specializes in native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses. Susan Lilley thanked Natvik, for his presentation, and presented him with a parting gift. Members and visitors then enjoyed refreshments, from a table decorated with a Spring theme.

Members are reminded of the Garden Fair, on May 10, at 196 Graham Road, West Lorne (Nancy Baillie's). If you have any plants, in your garden, that need a new home or dividing, pot them up and bring them to the plant sale. Be sure to pot the plants up ahead of time, to allow sufficient time to adjust, keep them watered, and, if possible, label them with a name, colour, height, etc., to help out its new owner. We also need donations of

baked goods, candy, etc., so if you're handy in the kitchen, we'd appreciate the help. Any vendors or artisans, interested in promoting their garden-related wares, should contact Liz Clark 768-1282, for details. Plant questions should be directed to Susan Lilley 768-2665.

Our flower show schedules are now available. The show will be held June 13, at the West Lorne Complex, and is open to horticultural members of Elgin County. For a schedule, or information, call Betty McKillop 768-1646.

Our next meeting will be May 13, with District 10 Director Jim Mabee trying his best to educate us about "How to Be Judged Successfully", in preparation for the flower show.



While Saturday's heavy skies eventually cleared into a great day, it was May showers that greeted early shoppers at the West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society Garden Fair. All of the horticultural societies in the area are very active and the money raised at these events goes back into beautifying the communities they serve. Last week was Rodney's plant sale and Saturday, Dutton-Dunwich's society is holding its annual plant sale.

2003

Lawnbowling club to get lights with some help from council

By Scott Hilgendorff
The Chronicle

The West Elgin Lawnbowling Club will be seeing the light real soon - the light of \$15,000 in new lighting for the currently dark greens.

West Elgin Council approved a \$6,000 donation to the club that will allow it to use a \$6,000 Trillium Foundation grant toward the lighting project.

"The lighting is the worst. Some come on. Some don't," said Joan Lashbrook, club president, at council's Aug. 14 meeting.

"I think it's a good investment in the community," said Deputy Mayor Graham Warwick. "If we can provide more lights, that will let them bring more people to town."

Lashbrook said last week, club members have to pack it in by 8:30 p.m. because it's too dark to play but that proper lighting would allow them to extend their season into October and offer evening play and night tournaments to increase the activity at the club.

Tournaments attract players from across

Ontario but the club is currently limited to daytime tournaments in a shorter season.

Right now, the club's biggest needs are lighting and new gutters around the greens that keep the balls in place.

While they originally were hoping for a \$35,000 Trillium Foundation grant to make some other improvements to the park, the foundation approved \$6,000 for new gutters.

The foundation didn't understand the priority of lighting in the club's application.

However, Lashbrook said they approached the foundation and appealed to it to allow them to use the money for lighting. They reached an agreement that, if the club could match the \$6,000 and have work started by Oct. 1, the money could go toward lighting.

The work will cost about \$15,000. Lashbrook said the club has enough to cover the rest but needed \$6,000 in a hurry to be able to get the grant-use changed.

She said they would reapply next year for the gutters. AUG/03

After that, she said the club has no major needs it can't look after through its membership and money raised through hosting tournaments, more of which they will be able to operate with the new lighting.

Warwick said in the past, council has found it's wise to invest in volunteers who, in turn, host events and activities that bring people to the communities.

While council's budget is set, work on grandstand upgrades is expected to come in under budget, leaving extra room to make the donation.

Lashbrook thanked council for its support and said, "Please come and play with us one night."

The club is currently trying to attract new and younger members to the club. While the game was never traditionally a seniors' sport, in the past few generations, it has become one and clubs across Ontario are trying to reintroduce younger generations to the sport.

"I might take you up on that. My soccer days are over," said Warwick.

OCT 16/03

Executive elected for 2003-04 chamber

A special presentation about the future of Internet service in West Elgin was a highlight at the Annual General Meeting of the West Elgin Chamber of Commerce was held on Oct. 7 at the International Club.

The evening began with a "meet and greet" and was well-attended.

This was followed by three guest speakers.

Donna Lunn provided an update on the progress of Elginconnects, a community initiative interested in developing Elgin/St. Thomas toward a Smart Community concept to close the gap that our county has with Internet services.

Marg Emery gave a presentation regarding the St. Thomas /Elgin County Tourist Association.

Anne Kenny, our final speaker spoke in regard to the small business development services that are available through Elgin Community Futures Organization.

The meeting received reports on all the sub committee activity throughout the year, a treasurers report and elections were held for the 2003 - 2004 Board of Directors. The 2003-2004 Board is: Tom Jones - President; Ted Uffen - Vice President; Irene Puddester - Secretary; Mary Bodnar - Treasurer; Robert White; Keith Fretter; Jeff Knight; John Eagleson - Directors.

The evening ended with thanks to those members of the chamber that generously sponsored the refreshments and the meeting facilities.

The Living and the Dying

Take a man and put him alone,
 put him 12,000 miles from home.
 empty his heart of all but blood,
 make him live in sweat and mud.
 This is the life I have to live.
 And my soul to the devil I give.
 You peace boys rant from your easy chairs,
 but you don't know what it's like over here.
 You have a mere ball without trying,
 while over here our boys are dying.
 You burn your draft cards and march at dawn,
 to plant your flags on the White House lawn.
 You all want to ban the bomb,
 you say there's no war in Vietnam.
 Use your drugs and have your fun,
 then refuse to lift a gun.
 And I'm supposed to DIE for you!
 I'LL HATE YOU TILL THE DAY I DIE!!
 You made me see my buddy cry.
 I saw his arm a bloody shred,
 I heard them say, "This one's dead"
 It's quite a price he had to pay,
 not to live another day.
 He had the guts to fight and die,
 He paid the price but what did he buy?
 He bought your life by losing his,
 But who gives a damn what a soldier gives?
 His wife does, and of course his son,
 But they're about the only ones.

by Robert N. White Nov 23/70. R.V.N.

**In Flanders
 Fields**

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
 (1872-1918) Canadian Army

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS
 the poppies blow
 Between the crosses,
 row on row,
 That mark our place,
 and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the
 guns below.**

**We are the Dead.
 Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn,
 saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved,
 and now we lie
 In Flanders Fields.**

**Take up our quarrel
 with the foe:
 To you from failing hands
 we throw
 The torch; be yours to
 hold it high.
 If ye break faith with
 us who die
 We shall not sleep,
 though poppies grow
 In Flanders Fields.**



REMEMBERING

A crowd gathered Tuesday morning for West Lorne's Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph at the West Elgin Arena. The event was hosted by the West Elgin Legion Branch 221. Rodney Legion Branch 525 also hosted a service Tuesday. At right, incoming West Elgin Mayor Graham Warwick is joined by council and Legion member Mike Mooser in laying a wreath at the cenotaph.

Chronicle photo



NOV 13/03



No. 2 Platoon "A" Coy ~ No. 3 C.W.A.C (B)TC, Kitchener, ON

Feb. 1944

The Chronicle

NOV 20, 2003

West Lorne horticulturalists creates wreath that's for the birds

A group of busy crafters gathered to create "A Christmas Wreath for the Birds" at The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society's monthly meeting, at the West Lorne Complex, on Nov. 11.

President Liz Clark opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending. She had a few announcements, starting with the upcoming potluck supper, in December.

District 10 Director Jim Mabee will be attending, to give us an update on the 2004 OHA Convention, which will be held in London. Plans, for the float that we will be entering in the West Lorne Santa Claus Parade, were mentioned. Anyone wishing to help out should contact Pat Watterworth at 768-1657 or Susan Lilley at 768-2665.

And last, but not least, our society and the Rodney & District Horticultural Society, are sponsoring a "Welcome the Season" decorating competition, open to all residents of the Municipality of West Elgin. To enter, you must register in one of two categories: The first is the front entrance or porch competition using natural materials and items created with natural materials, create an inviting welcome to your home. Natural materials may include evergreen boughs, pinecones, lotus blossom pods, driftwood, red osier dogwood, grapevine, etc. The winning entry will

receive \$100.00; runner-up \$75.00. The second contest is to create a welcoming wreath, up to 20 inches in diameter; no restrictions on material used. Originality rewarded. The winning entry will receive \$50.00; runner-up \$25.00. We welcome everyone to participate, but you must call to register by December 12. Judging will take place Dec. 13 and 14 and the winners will be announced in the December 18 issue of the Chronicle. To enter, please call one of the following: Susan Lilley 768-2665, Nancy Baillie 768-0468, Carolyn Guest 785-0321, or Theresa Niccolls 785-2062. Good luck to all the participants.

The craft night got underway, with instructor Betty Van Overmeire in charge. A fresh wreath, made of grapevine, spruce, and cedar, was adorned with a string of peanuts, cranberries, dried orange slices, the rind of half a grapefruit filled with suet and seeds, and a bow. Liz Clark thanked Betty and George Van Overmeire, for donating all the materials needed to make the holiday wreaths.

Our next meeting will be the annual Potluck Supper, on Dec. 9, at the West Lorne Complex. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m., and everyone is welcome to attend, including non-members. So, please stop in and say "Hello!"; you would be most welcome.

West Lorne Horticultural Society learns from biologist about using edible plants

The West Lorne and Community Horticultural Society returned to action, after a summer hiatus, with guest speaker Jennifer Grant, of the Lambeth Horticultural Society, discussing "Edible Plants: A New Kind of Salad".

Grant is also the Assistant Director for Middlesex, in District 10, and a busy Master Gardener.

She is also a biologist, and is keenly interested in edible plants, whether they be flowers, herbs, or weeds.

As Grant explained to our group, when our country was being settled,

many of the people new to Canada brought with them medicinal plants, since they were unsure of what they would find in this unknown country.

Plantain was a popular plant, used as a poultice to heal infected wounds. Mint was good for digestion, and lemon balm was used to treat headaches. Many times, a person's life would depend on the availability of medicinal plants, and the skill of the women, who were responsible for learning how to use these plants.

Other examples of edible plants are: chives, garlic, borage, thyme, oregano, and sage, all

herbs used to flavour our food; calendulas, carnations, roses, nasturtiums, violets, and day lilies, all flowers used to enhance salads; purslane, chickweed, cattails, red-rooted pigweed, lamb's quarters, and milkweed, all weeds used as a food, first by the settlers, and more recently

by people interested in their beneficial qualities. Grant brought with her several examples of each of these edible plant categories. She also prepared peppermint tea, mint punch, and handed out cattail biscuits. There was also a large platter of edible plants, for the group to taste, of which many

members took advantage. For the less brave and adventurous, a light luncheon was available, served from a very "sunflowery" table.

Vice-president DiAnne Dowling opened and closed the meeting, thanking Jennifer Grant for her interesting and beautiful presentation.

The next General Meeting will be on Oct. 14, 7 p.m., at the Complex, and the guest speaker will be Alf Langner, of the London Bonsai Society, with an "Introduction to Bonsai".

The public is invited to attend; there is never a fee to any of our meetings involving a speaker.

The Chronicle

JULY 10 / 03



Flower show brightens day

The West Lorne Horticultural Society hosted its annual flower show at the West Elgin Complex in West Lorne on Friday. While plenty of spring rain has caused problems for farmers, it helped produce beautiful flower displays. Entries were received in the morning and then judged before the displays were opened up to the public for viewing during the afternoon. Results of the show were not available at press time.



Legion Week came to an end this past Sunday for legions across the province. Many local branches held special events to promote their services to their communities and veterans. Here Br. 221 West Elgin Legion member, Tom Leitch, carves the beef that what part of the special dinner that took place at the West Lorne branch on Sunday, September 21, opening day for legion week. OCT. 2/03 Chronicle photo

Warbrides tell their stories

The October meeting of West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society consisted of a panel of speakers, Edith Frankland of London, Mary Lippold of West Lorne, and Peg Wheeler of Wallacetown, all war brides.

Each related the story of their travel to Canada and their introduction to a new life here, sometimes

humorous and sometimes trying.

One suffered from homesickness, and she and her family returned to England, but remained only one year.

In general, they were impressed by the accepting and generous nature of Canadians at that time. In addition, they were impressed by the

concern for and support of veterans by the Ministry of Veteran's Affairs. The audience was impressed by the courage they possessed to leave their families and familiar surroundings and to venture to an unknown land.

The business portion of the meeting followed a break for refreshments.

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The Chronicle

OPTIMIST CLUB OF WEST LORNE INSTALLS NEW BOARD FOR 03/04

The Optimist Club of West Lorne recently held its installation of new officers for October 2003 to October 2004. Shown making their oath to community service within the organization is (l to r) Optimists John Eagleson (Pres. Elect), Bill Trask (Treas.); Julie Lawrence (Pres.); Dorothy Staddon (Sec.); Ken Neil (VP); Shirley Lorch (Dir.); Doug Staddon (Dir.). Missing in photo are directors Ric Whyte, Dave Varga, Lynn Martin and VP Brad Reive. The club has worked hard the past year fundraising for the youth of our community including completing its \$2500 commitment to The Childrens Hospital. Members look forward to the same success for the year ahead.

The Optimist Club of West Lorne is offering free public skating at West Elgin Arena on Nov. 23 in conjunction with Youth Appreciation Week
Chronicle photo



'Welcome to the Season' decorating winners announced

DEC 2003

The West Lorne and Community and Rodney and District Horticultural Societies announce the winners of the "Welcome to the Season" competitions as follows:

Front Porch/Entrance

Winner:
Ed and Rosa Bell \$100
Runner up: Jane McColl \$75

Honourable mention: Brenda Brown
Wreath:

Winner: Janet Smith \$50
Runner up: Helen Mooser \$25
Honourable mention: Karen Degraw

The societies congratulate everyone for their participation in helping to brighten dark December days.

Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary, January 23rd
 Conrad & Katie Felder



Love, your family
HAPPY 30TH DEREK!



Thanks for loving me so much. You're the bestest Grandma in the whole world!

Happy Mother's Day
 Love, Michael-Anne and Mommy & Daddy too!

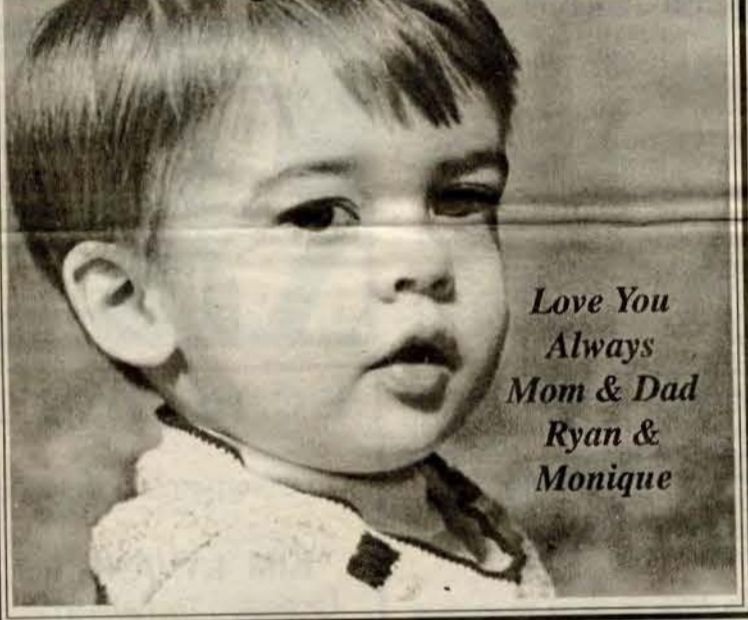


Happy 80th Birthday

Henrica Vergeer
 With love from your family.
 Open House Sunday, January 28th ~ 2-5pm
 St. Mary's Parish Centre, West Lorne.
 Best wishes only please.

Happy 30th Birthday

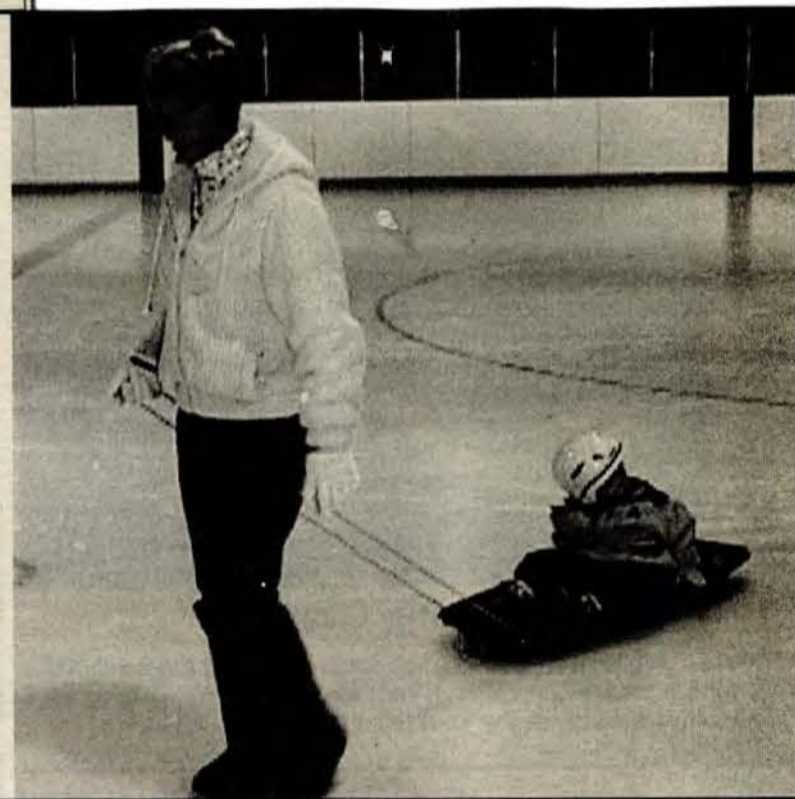
Jeremy McGahan



Love You Always
 Mom & Dad
 Ryan & Monique

Why Walk When You Can Ride?

Kristen Kirschner enjoyed the ride she had being pulled around the ice by her grandma, Brenda Doucette. Many area youngsters take the ice in West Lorne for special Tots skating times.



DEC. 20, 2001

7th Annual Angel Tree ceremony held in West Lorne

People of the West Lorne area took the time to pay tribute to the memory of loved ones on Friday, December 14 in the seventh Annual Angel Tree ceremony.

Names that were tributed this year were:

Sid and Josie Authier, Katherine Lynn Alderton, Abigail Kate Banded, Matthew Earl Banded, Christopher Beer, Michelle Beer, Joey Beer, Christopher Cowan, Pam Cowan, Shane Cowan, Timothy Cowan, Daniel Cowan, Andy Dewulf, Lloyd Cecil Doan, Doris Doan, Wilfrid Doan, Michael Doan, Marnie Fleming, Michael Gammon, Jason Kayelites, Ashley Ann Murray, Margaret McColl, Jeremy Robinet, Wille A.R. Merks, Sonia Oliviera, Alicia Marie Tomczyk, Elaine Watterworth, Patty Winter, Janet Oakey, Donna Smiljanick, Munroe McMillan, Nickie Lipan, Sam Lipan, Sophie Lipan, Constantine Lipan, Mary Lipan, Grace Haven's.

Kim Okolisan, Jim Shostack, Bill Griffin, Lorne McGill, John Hulaj, Yancy Begin, Justin Ray Bell, Roy Dos Santos, Chris Ayling, Gordon Haven, Chris

Kauzen, Murray Keys, Charles Begin, Elizabeth Nettling, Frany Redinger, Fred Redinger, Paul Balin, Wayne Van Breda, Edna Ray, Jean Wyatt, Joe Simpson, Ralph Simpson, Jamie Schnekenburger, Steve Vaterlaus, Cindy Van Kaevedan, Dennis Dodge, Wilson Peter Dodge, Charles Dodge, Mrs. Susie Staddon, John McCallum, Jean Love, James Hale Senior, James Hale Junior, Alice Hale, Jose Dos Santos, Marie Sadecky, Ivan Buck Edwards, Joanne Bell, Armand Caellu, Nellie Hewings, Helen and Wilfrid Rewbottom, Catherine and George Driver, Sydney Miles Duffins.

Joe Nash, Bill Nash, Terry Lamb, Mary Gammon, George Johnson, Ralph VanHee, Harry Buck, Ed McCallum, Finn McRae, Winnis Van Lierop, David Newman, Jason Szabo, Hazel Stalker and Mrs. Barb Spring.

\$120 was collected in donations and will be turned over to The London Children's Hospital.

A similar remembrance service was also held in Rodney on December 19 at Rodney Baptist Church.



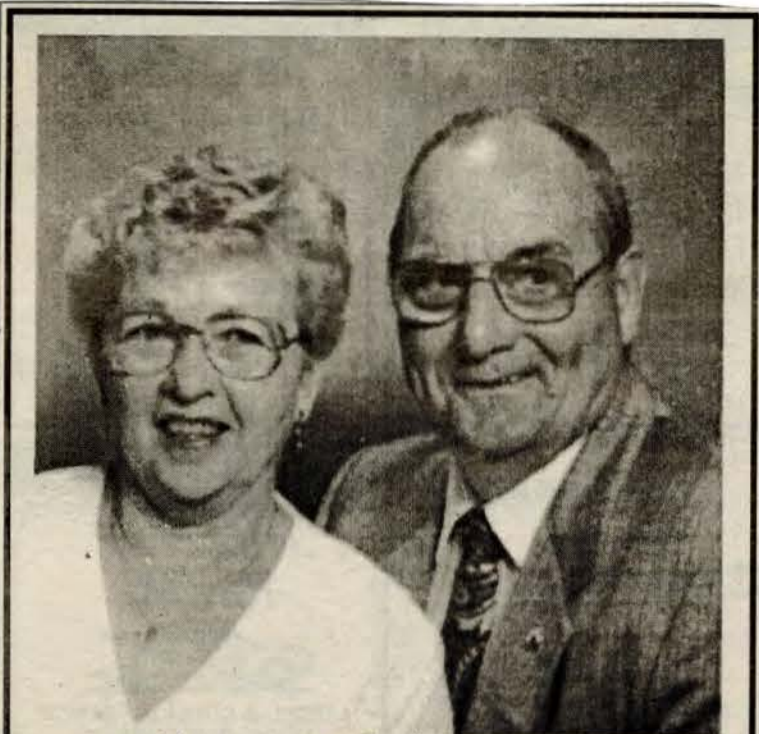
West Lorne and area residents lit candles on December 14 in a Christmas service in memory of loved ones who have passed away over the years. A similar, nondenominational ceremony was held last Wednesday in Rodney at Rodney Baptist Church.

Graduation



MIKE BUTTINGER graduated from Ontario Police College and is a constable with the London Police Force. *Congratulations from your family and friends.*

AUG. 2001



Happy 55th Anniversary
George & Marie Bell ~ July 12th, 1946 ~ 2001
Love Edd, Michelle & Shaunna, Tony, Judy & Scotty

Wedding Announcement



Blair Payne and Rhonda Smith wish to announce their upcoming marriage on June 29, 2001. The couple will reside at RR # 6, St. Thomas.

**VINTAGE
1935 MODEL**



NOT FOR SALE

One of a kind classic, no reconditioning necessary! No surface rust - all original parts. Low maintenance - totally reliable. Getting a pension - travelling in future.

NO OFFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. A FAMILY TREASURE

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
GRACE**

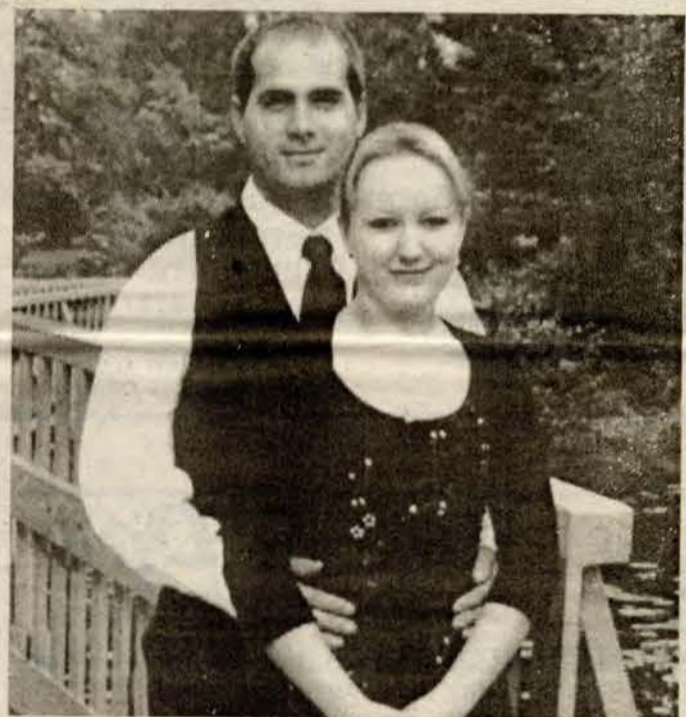
Love from your family
Also,

**Happy Mother's Day and
Happy Anniversary
Victor & Grace
49 Years
May 10, 2001**

Wedding Announcement



Richard & Wendy Hollingsworth of Toronto are thrilled to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Kathryn Ellen to Jimmy Mac Kirschner, son of Fred & Chris Kirschner of West Lorne. This celebration will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2001 at Knox Presbyterian Church in New Glasgow.



Mr. & Mrs. George Nute would like to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Jennifer to Craig Elliott son of Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Elliott and Barb Sinclair. The wedding to take place July 14th, 2001 at the West Lorne United Church.

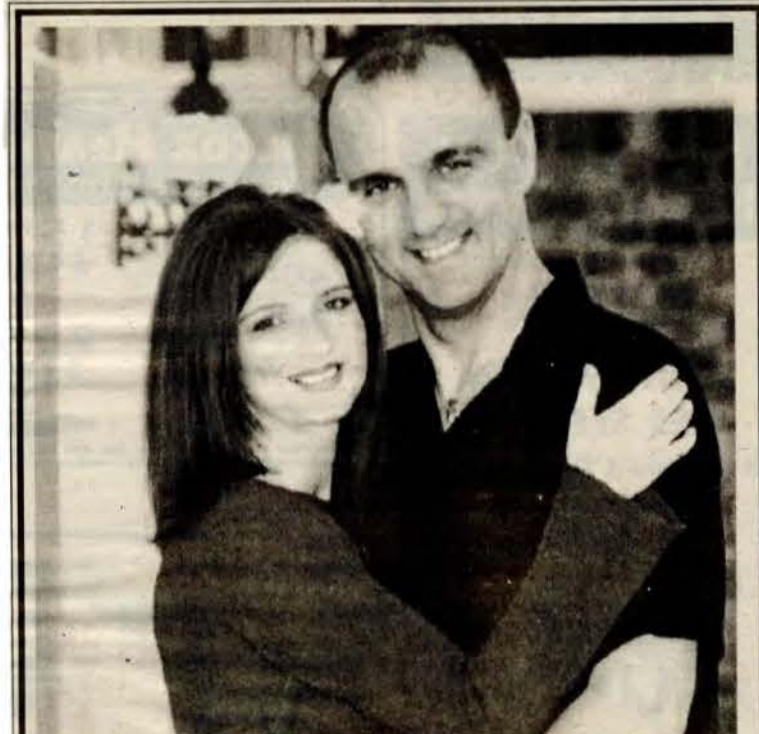
Engagement Announcement



Crandall ~ Towers

Nathan Crandall, son of Rick & Rose Crandall, Rodney and Sarah Towers, daughter of Tom Towers, West Lorne and Beth Towers, London will be married on June 16, 2001 at the Rodney Calvary United Church. Nathan has graduated from Fanshawe College in the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program. Sarah has also graduated from Fanshawe College in the Legal Assistant / Law Clerk Program.

Engagement



Rose ~ Tremtsidis

Kenneth & Veronica Rose of West Lorne are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Loretta Ella to Jim Tremtsidis, son of the late Anastasios and Melpomeni Tremtsidis of Toronto.

*Happy 90th
Birthday*

Mary Gammon
April 26th



You're invited to an open house celebration in honour of Mary's Birthday on May 12 from 2-4pm at West Lorne Baptist Church Best Wishes Only.