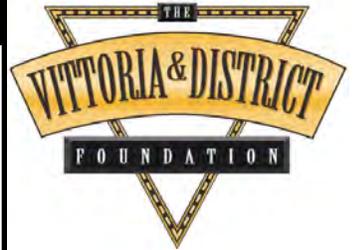


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# The Vittoria Booster

The Vittoria Booster Newsletter is published twice a year by The Vittoria & District Foundation for its Members and Supporters.

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A ▼ in front of a person's name indicates that he or she is a member of The Vittoria & District Foundation

## In Memoriam

Leonard McKenzie Taylor - 86 - on June 16  
 Alice (Payne) Krouse - 90 - on June 20  
 Alice McConville - 76 - on June 22  
 ▼ Bonnie (Hutchinson) Frank - 80 - on July 5  
 Lorraine Burke - 92 - on July 7  
 Phyllis Eileen (Wheildon) Anderson - 90 - on July 15  
 Barbara Joan (Mason) Waldick - 71 - on July 15  
 James "Jim" Franklin Ryerson - 84 - on July 22  
 Albert Verstraeten - 84 - on August 5  
 John Gordon Butler - 69 - on August 6  
 Donald Charles Buckle - 53 - on August 8  
 Stanley Kozak - 85 - on August 22  
 Ena (Swick) Voegtle - 90 - on September 12  
 Marcel Jacobs - 71 - on October 4  
 Vera Vince - 97 - on October 18  
 Donna Joan (Wheaton) Waldick - 75 - on November 1  
 Lorene Marie (MacDonald) Davis - 83 - on November 17  
 Melba Rosine Smith - 85 - on November 18  
 Kathleen Gladys (Oakes) Hunter - 90 - on November 19  
 Serafina Smelko - 98 - on November 24  
 Frances Margaret (White) Anstee - 99 - on December 3  
 John VanRooy Sr. - 73 - on December 3  
 ▼ Fern (Hodgson)(Topp) Verstraeten - 89 - on December 6  
 Kimberly Ann (Wigmore) Giroux - 31 - on December 6  
 Christine Lambert - 76 - on December 14  
 Theresa Keller - 86 - on December 15  
 George Henry "Joe" Arnold - 72 - on December 16

## AGM NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of The Vittoria & District Foundation will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at the Vittoria & District Community Centre beginning at 7:00 pm, to hold Trustee elections, and to review By-Laws related to the incorporation of the V&DF.

## Milestone Anniversaries Celebrated

▼ Joan and ▼ Tom Haskett - 45 years - August 20  
 ▼ Wendy and ▼ Steve Slaven - 40 years - September 10  
 Dorothy and ▼ Larry Guthrie - 45 years - October 8  
 ▼ Marie and ▼ Larry Sinden - 45 years - October 8  
 Bernice and John Depner - 50 years - October 21  
 Shirley and ▼ John Luke - 60 years - November 10  
 Sharon and ▼ Duncan Walsh - 45 years - November 22  
 ▼ Myrtle and ▼ Doug Smith - 65 years - December 27

### OTHERS IN THE OVER 60 CLUB

▼ Frances and ▼ Stan Voigt - 62 years - July 16  
 ▼ Muriel and ▼ Tom Millar - 66 years - August 3  
 ▼ Violet and ▼ Charles Monroe - 69 years - August 23  
 Faye and Harold Jarvis - 62 years - September 10  
 Irene and Bill Nicoll - 71 years - September 17  
 Edna and Cliff Frost - 62 years - September 17  
 ▼ Lenore and ▼ Ross Broughton - 61 years - October 10

## Milestone Birthdays Celebrated

▼ John Luke - 80 - on July 22  
 ▼ Gladys Howe - 90 - on September 9  
 ▼ Marie-Jose Maenhaut - 90 - on September 23  
 ▼ Verne Melville 75 on November 16  
 ▼ Twila Cruickshank - 75 - on November 26  
 ▼ Lenore Broughton - 80 - on November 28  
 Joyce Harris - 80 - on December 1  
 ▼ Jim Pepper - 75 - on December 1  
 ▼ John Donaldson - 75 - on December 21  
 ▼ Kenneth Smith - 80 - on December 23  
 ▼ Irene McKee - 80 - on December 28

### OTHERS IN THE OVER 90 CLUB

▼ Norah Moore - 91 years - on August 2  
 Marion Lockhart - 99 years - on August 4  
 Erna Tischer - 92 years - on August 13  
 Frances Woolley - 92 years - on December 16  
 Lillian Aitken - 91 years -

# Abbey McGuire

## Winner of 2011 Scholarship

Abbey McGuire, a resident of Vittoria and a graduate of Simcoe Composite School, is this year's winner of the \$2500 scholarship awarded annually by the Vittoria & District Foundation.

This scholarship was initiated in 1997 by the Heritage Committee of the Vittoria & District Foundation to recognize scholastic and extra-curricular achievement and to provide financial assistance to young people of Vittoria and district in their pursuit of post-secondary education. The applications submitted were studied by the selection committee consisting of ▼Ray Danley, ▼Don Fort and ▼Linda Vancso.

Chairman Don Fort noted that all applicants in the competition were individually outstanding, the committee judged the applicants written application, references, essay and interview. These students have accomplished remarkable goals and are a credit to their families, schools and community.

Abbey is enrolled in the Theatre Arts-Performance Course at the Humber Institute of Technology this fall.

Abbey has received multiple awards from the Ontario Sears Drama Festival, as well as playing lead roles in the annual school musicals. Drama teacher Julie Kohli describes Abbey as "being a pleasure to work with, and that her love of theatre is evident in her approach when working with other." Ms. Kohli notes that Abbey can easily assume a leadership role or blend into the ensemble.

Outside of school, Abbey has been a member of the Young Theatre Players. Last year Abbey received top honours at the Norfolk Arts Festival.

Abbey recalls that one of her early performances was on the stage of the Country Singing competition, held successfully in Simcoe for many years.

Abbey notes that "growing up with an amputation showed me that different is good. It showed me that to reach your goals, you have to work hard. I worked hard every day toward simple goals like doing my hair and tying my shoes, I reached the smaller goals and they gave me the push to work toward the bigger goals, and the biggest, newly found goal of a life on the lighted stage. Without the amputation I would not know what it was like to push through the tough to find the easy. I would not know that to live a full and happy life, and to reach all of your goals, you have to embrace every piece of yourself and make people embrace you, for you."

After her performance as Bloody Mary in South Pacific, Abbey reflects "I wanted to connect with every person I could. I wanted to make them laugh, cry, smile, or frown; I love making people feel, and performing lets me do that."

Congratulations Abbey!

(Abbey is the daughter of ▼Mike and Patti ▼McGuire)



Scholarship Committee Chair ▼Don Fort (left) and Committee member ▼Linda Vancso (right) presented Abbey McGuire with a framed certificate and a Scholarship Award of \$2,500.

## My Obstacle

- an essay by Abbey McGuire

Every person faces an obstacle at some point in their childhood. This obstacle may be that they find it difficult to read, or that they are not very quick on their feet. This obstacle will be something that sets them apart from their peers, even in the slightest of ways. More often than not, children will find a way around this obstacle. Even then, most children find a way to hide it; they find a way to hide their insecurity. On rare occasions however, a child faces an obstacle they can never change; something they have to live with and adapt to. I am one of those children.

Being born and living with an amputation is something that can bring you down, or if you choose to, it can make you a stronger person. I chose to be stronger.

When I was very young, I didn't see myself as any different from any one person on this planet. Yes, I was missing my right arm below the elbow, but I did not see a contrast between myself and others. I attended War Amps Seminars and saw hundreds of kids who were missing limbs just like I was. In my young brain, there was not an "me" and a "them", there was "we".

Everyone on this planet was equal. As clichéd as it is, my Mom always told me I was special, but I never came to the realization that it was because of my amputation and who I would become because of it.

It was not until I started school that I saw how different I was. I saw this through the eyes and words of my peers. Within the first few days, everyone in my kindergarten class had stared enough to have gone cross-eyed and worked up the courage to ask, "What

# Abbey McGuire, and Women of Excellence

happened to your arm?" And I responded, at first politely, then not-so-much, "Nothing. I was born this way." As irritating as it became for me, I didn't know how important that phrase was. I was born this way, and it is up to me to use it to my advantage. After years of being the odd one out, of trying to hide my amputation, I began to embrace it. I am different and there is nothing I can do to change that. It was not until later that I realized that being different was exactly what I needed to succeed.

In grade nine I auditioned for the spring production of "South Pacific" at Simcoe Composite School. I ended up with the role of Bloody Mary in a cast full of senior students. It was the most terrifying, yet greatest thing I had ever done. For me to put myself out there and audition, not knowing whether they were going to hate me or love me, it took courage. I would not have had this courage had I not grown up with the difficulties I had faced. Growing up with an amputation showed me that different is good. It showed me that to reach your goals, you have to work hard. I worked hard every day toward simple goals like doing my hair and tying my shoes. I reached the smaller goals, and they gave me the push to work toward the bigger goals, and the biggest, newly found goal of a life on the lighted stage. After "South Pacific", I wanted to spend all of my time on stage. I wanted to connect with every person I could. I wanted to make them laugh, cry, smile, or frown; I love making people feel, and performing lets me do that. People laugh sometimes, but when they ask me what I want to do for a living, I say a want to be famous, without even a hint of a joking tone. Without my amputation, I would not know what it was like to push through the tough to find the easy. I would not know that to live a full and happy life, and to reach all of your goals, you have to embrace every piece of you, and make people embrace you for you.

My amputation was my obstacle. It forced me to find a different way of doing lots of things. From jump rope to tying my hair up. My amputation forced me to look at things differently, things that most said I couldn't do. Until I saw that I could do it; maybe not in the way most people would, but I could do it. If I had not been born with my amputation, I would not have the drive and willpower to push toward and achieve every goal I set my mind on. I would not be attending Humber College's Theatre: Performance program in the fall. If I had not been born with my amputation, I would not have landed my first role. Without that role I would not have set the goal of attending a Performing Arts program in post secondary. I have achieved my goals because my amputation forced me to find a way around life's obstacles. Without my amputation, I would not have reached my goals or set a goal of superstardom for the future; I would not be the person I am today.

**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." – Edmund Burke**

## Women Of Excellence in Agriculture Awards

- contributed by ▼Madaline Wilson

At this year's Norfolk County Fair, Norfolk District Women's Institute members ▼Joan Johnstone and Helen Young were presented with "Women of Excellence In Agriculture" Awards.

Joan Johnstone is a member of the Vittoria Branch of the W.I. She is described as follows:

- cheerful, dedicated, committed, reliable, a Norfolk County Fair worker for 37 years!
- director at Norfolk County Fair since 1974, serving also as secretary and president of the Women's Division
- Now an honorary director but still helps set up, assist judges, and helps prepare lunches held once a month as fund raiser for fair
- an ambassador for the Home craft Division Committee - recruiting members
- also active with the junior fair sharing ideas and assisting.
- Joan is an example of true excellence and dedication to service to Norfolk County Fair and also to her community. Bravo Joan!



Woman of Excellence fair awards were presented by Norfolk Women's Institute president, Marie Dickens, centre, of Langton branch to Helen Young, left, of Marburg WI and ▼Joan Johnstone of Vittoria WI at the opening ceremonies of the Norfolk County Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011. These awards are given annually to Women's Institute members who have volunteered and supported the fair for many years.

Helen Young is a member of the Marburg Branch of the W.I. She is described as follows:

- Contributor par excellence to Norfolk County Fair for 50 years!
- sets the bar for baking, preserves, needlework, crafts, arts and flowers, making 30 plus entries!

# Women of Excellence, and Homecare Heroes

- Has won numerous trophies for best product in a category, as well as the most points in a section and overall champ! (Schuyler, Halmo, Taylor Trophies)
- She has published her own cookbook, raising money for our hospital
- Helen is an example of never-idle hands when it comes to her branch, her church, her community and the fair! To Helen - our hats are waving!



Photo by Monte Sonnenberg of the Times-Reformer  
The Norfolk Agricultural Society presented an Agriculture Service Award posthumously to ▼Ruth Gundry, of Vittoria, during the opening ceremonies of the Norfolk County Fair on Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011. Making the presentation, at left, is Fred Cooper, president of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies. Accepting on behalf of Ruth Gundry are her daughters Lynn Konkoly of Simcoe, centre, and Sue Donovan of Caledonia.

## In-home care providers are a valuable asset

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Health care is expensive and getting costlier by the day. The situation worries the public and policy makers alike.

However, we would all have much more to be concerned about if the system reflected the full cost of services provided by volunteer caregivers.

The Canadian Caregiver Coalition estimates that volunteers provide 80% of the care to individuals with long-term conditions. Were these individuals paid for their work, CCC estimates it would add another \$5 billion to Canada's health-care costs.

"Our informal caregivers tend to be family, friends and volunteers," says Mary Sieger, director of communications with the Community Care Access Centre serving Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant. "What really stands out is their



The Community Care Access Centre honoured ▼Joan Stewart of Simcoe, left and 33 others at an Awards event at the Greens of Renton last week. With Joan is Charlene Wilson, a case manager with the Haldimand-Norfolk CCAC office in Simcoe.

commitment to those they are caring for. We couldn't do our job without them."

A total of 34 volunteer caregivers from the local area were invited to a reception at the Greens at Renton Thursday for the exceptional efforts they have made helping people in need remain at home and active in the community.

Among those cited were ▼Joan (Dunkin) Stewart and Lu Ann Crandall, both of Simcoe.

Joan was there for 53 years for her late son Donald Buckle. Donald, who was born with cerebral palsy, died earlier this year from esophageal cancer. Today, Joan's attentions have been turned to her husband Fred, who is coping with Alzheimer's disease.

Joan has fond memories of her son, as do many in the community who came to know him.

"His personality was wonderful," Joan said prior to the ceremony. "I received dozens of cards from people who said they always remembered his smile. He had a great sense of humour. When it came time for his funeral, the funeral home could not hold them all. He is certainly missed at our place."

Lu Ann Crandall was married to local softball star Larry Crandall, ace pitcher for the Simcoe

# Homecare Heroes, and Sports Hall of Recognition

Mitchell-Crandall Fuels team in the heyday of the Tri-County Fastball League. He finished his career in the Vittoria Oldtimers Fastball League.

Lu Ann, a retired nurse, was looking forward to a long retirement with her husband when she left the workforce in June of 2009. However, two months later, Larry Crandall began displaying symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a lethal motor neuron condition also known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

The diagnosis was confirmed in November of 2009. A year later, Larry was gone.

"We were told from the beginning it was terminal," his widow said. "His case was very aggressive. It started in his lungs and progressed through to his speech. But it gave us time to talk about how we wanted to handle this. He wanted to die at home and he wanted me as his primary caregiver."

In a news release, Ms. Siegner describes Joan as "an inspiring heroine in her home, to her family and to her many friends."

Ms. Siegner added Lu Ann Crandall "cared for Larry at home and ensured his final months were special for both of them. Lu Ann says she was blessed to give this last, special gift to her husband."

## Celebrating excellence

- adapted from an article by Heather Walters in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

Saturday July 9 marked "the important occasion when Norfolk formally recognizes the participation, dedication and contribution of those who embrace an active and healthy lifestyle, encourage participation in sport, have achieved a personal best in their chosen endeavour, and have helped put Norfolk on the map." These opening remarks of Mayor Dennis Travale describe the attributes of all eight inductees that were honoured at a ceremony held at the Greens at Renton. This gala event is held every two years.

Five of the eight honourees call Port Dover their hometown and all proudly trace back their beginnings to this community.

### Fred Bridgwater

Fred Bridgwater is known to anyone that has spent some time inside the Port Dover arena or at the ball diamond. He is an example of how one individual can influence an entire community in a positive way

In an emotional testimonial, Fred said he began to play hockey at about age 6 and continued right through to Juvenile. It was at the tender age of 11 though that he suffered the sudden loss of his father and he described how pivotal it was that the community of Port Dover rallied around him and his family, making sure he had the equipment he needed to continue playing, making sure he got to all his games, and cheering him from the stands. He says that unsolicited support got him through this difficult time in his life, kept him off the streets, and ultimately inspired him to help others in much the same way.

Fred excelled as a player, but once his game days were over, he became involved in Port Dover Minor Hockey in a major way. He is now, after 30-plus years of service, a lifetime member of this organization. He was instrumental in developing the AE (Additional Entry) level teams, in creating and running the Power Skating programs, (Jassen Cullimore was one of his many proteges) and helped resurrect the Junior Hockey team. He was also heavily involved in minor baseball, introduced the Fred Bridgwater Trophy into Rep Baseball, and was named Port Dover's Citizen of the Year in 1996. In his closing remarks, when asked to recollect a highlight of some of the years, he smiled and said it meant a lot that when Jassen Cullimore made his first NHL team, he called Fred up and said, "Thanks".

### Jassen Cullimore

Jassen Cullimore (2009 inductee) began his hockey career at the age of 3 under Fred's watchful eye. He openly admits that at the beginning he was "not that good" and grew frustrated trying to do cross-overs, but with Fred's encouragement at the old Dover arena, "I seemed to get the hang of it".

That seems to be a bit of an understatement as this particular inductee was drafted by the Vancouver Canucks in 1994. He played a couple of seasons with the Montreal Canadiens, a couple of AHL seasons in Fredericton and Providence before moving on to the Tampa Bay Lightning (NHL) team. In 2004 Tampa Bay won the Stanley Cup. A parade through Port Dover and a chance to see the Stanley Cup brought a huge crowd.

This 6' 5" defenceman continues to make Norfolk proud, as a member of the Chicago Blackhawks, with his charity work and mentoring of young local athletes.

### Amanda VanPaassen-Bolen

Amanda VanPaassen-Bolen (2010 inductee) attended St. Cecilia's School, but it was at Port Dover Composite School that she began to really shine as a leader.



Port Dover inductees to the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition included, left to right, Terry Karges, Amanda VanPaassen-Bolen, Fred Bridgwater and Jassen Cullimore.

# Sports Hall of Recognition

Laughingly, she states that at an early age she kept insisting she “wanted to play hockey” but, typically, her parents enrolled her in figure skating. She said she finished her season of lessons, and as soon as they were over, she asked again “Can I play hockey now?”

Her parents recognized her determination and at age 9 enrolled her in Atom/PeeWee, a mixed team in Port Dover. She recalls going to her very first practice, never having tried boys hockey skates. She persevered, improved and by age 16 was the only girl to make the Port Dover Composite School boys hockey team. She admits she had the advantage of size over many of them at that time, and “when they went down, they went down hard!” Her last year at PDCS she earned a compliment from the boys - they said “Amanda, you wear the C - you earned it!”

She moved on to play women’s hockey at Wilfrid Laurier and played B.A.D. girl’s hockey (Belmont, Aylmer, Dorchester) which was one of the best AA Senior hockey women’s teams in Ontario. She then signed with the Oakville Ice in 2005 winning bronze in 2006 and provincial silver with the Barrie Sharks in 2010.

She now resides with her husband and two small children in Orillia and continues to lead and mentor athletes both on the ice and off, coaching hockey and soccer.

## Terry Karges

Terry Karges (2010 inductee) grew up in Port Dover, and began playing hockey in the Port Dover Minor Hockey system at the age of eight or so. He continued into Junior C in Simcoe, then returned to Port Dover with the ORHA Thunderbirds, the Intermediates, and the Commercial League. By age 19 he also began his long career of coaching minor hockey and serving on the executive.

Summers saw him out at the ball diamonds coaching softball. In 1959 he revived the Port Dover Men’s Softball League that quickly grew from three teams to eight. He played Old Timer’s Hockey for nearly 15 years, working tirelessly behind the scenes as well, organizing and restructuring. He was awarded a lifetime membership in PDMHL in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of hockey in this area. He was often the PDMHL rep at the OMHA conventions in Toronto.

Terry credits his father Gerald “Gerry” Karges as “having a big influence on everything I did.” Clearly his dad led by example. He was also inducted, in 2006, with an impressive list of coaching, playing, volunteerism and fundraising. “He was still coaching when he passed away,” Terry said, clearly very proud of his father. He then added quietly, “I know he would be proud of me too.”

Terry’s plaque was presented by hockey legend, Red Kelly.

**Sports do not build character. They reveal it.**

## Kevin Farr

Kevin Farr (2010 inductee) began to run while in high school here in Port Dover. 25 years later a couple of his records still stand – a fact that makes him quite proud. He is best known for his running the 400 m, 800 m, and 1500 m races. He shone at cross county and basketball as well. He is the only three-time School Athlete of the Year at PDCS.

As Kevin grew older, he moved to the University of Windsor to continue his training. He admits quite honestly that success didn’t come right away. “I went from being the big fish in the small pond to being the small fish in the big pond. And it was very intimidating.”

He says good coaching and a strong mental attitude helped him move forward. Eventually, he found himself on the same track as legends such as Ben Johnson, Donovan Bailey and Darnell Hall.

Kevin said in his address at the ceremony that “What draws me to running is that it is the purest form of sport, no equipment needed, other than shoes.” and went on to say that “the most satisfying thing for me was always representing Port Dover.”

After finishing university, Kevin took some time off and then hooked up with local runner Scot Brockbank at the Runner’s Den. Scot introduced Kevin to the Masters level of competition (over 40) and he has not looked back. He began to train again and has set his sights on some distance runs abroad. In the past two years he has collected nearly 50 medals for top place finishes.

Kevin’s plaque was also presented by Red Kelly.



Kevin Farr, Centre, proudly accepts his plaque from hockey legend Red Kelly, left, and Norfolk Mayor ▼Dennis Travale.

**Norfolk Hub Editor Dave Scott asked Jack Bingleman how much he thought he’d be making if he were playing baseball now. “Oh, about \$500,000,” Jack said. “But, Jack,” replied the surprised editor, “guys these days are making \$7 million.” “Yeah,” Jack answered, “but I’m 65 years old.”**

# The Millars pass the Torch, and Flowers Galore

## Changing of the guard

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

▼Tom Millar – a man more commonly known as “the mayor” of Turkey Point – is preparing to step down as president of the Turkey Point Property Owners Association.

Tom has held the post for nearly 40 years. When he finally takes his place in the gallery as just another resident of the resort community, he will be joined by his wife ▼Muriel, who has served as the association’s secretary for just as long.

“I’m 84 years old,” Tom said Thursday. “I feel it would be better to have someone take over so the association doesn’t fail Turkey Point. We feel we’re getting on in years and need someone a little younger to take it on.”

When the Millars formally step aside at the upcoming annual general meeting, Toronto realtor John Rogers will take over as chair.

John Rogers’ family has owned property in Turkey Point for 80 years. He has vacationed in Norfolk every summer since he was a child. John said the Millars are a dynamic couple whose contribution will be tough to duplicate.

“No one is going to spend the time and effort on these matters that Tom and Muriel have,” he said. “It was such a big part of their lives. They wake up every day in Turkey Point and go to bed every night in Turkey Point.”

John has chaired the past two annual general meetings of the association, which has about 375 members. His immediate priority is establishing an email connection with as many association members as possible.

“We have to update,” John said. “We have to be current because of the information superhighway and instant messaging. We have to better prepare to inform our community about its concerns.”

TPPOA has accomplished a lot under Tom Millar’s leadership. He’s particularly proud of the citizen patrols he helped organize in the 1980s during the winter season. These patrols have brought to an end the off-season break-and-enters which used to be such a serious problem in Turkey Point.

Tom is also gratified by the strong working relationship the association has established with the managers of Turkey Point Provincial Park. The association has been instrumental in recent years in getting action on the phragmites outbreak along the west section of beachfront.

Park managers were initially reluctant to deal with the tall grass due to habitat considerations. However, they have since agreed to help eradicate the invasive species, something that has greatly improved beach access for cottagers in that part of the community.

Taking Muriel Millar’s place as secretary is Lonna Booker. The new executive has created a position for a treasurer. Serving in that capacity is Paul Meiklejohn.

## Blooms undeterred by weather

- adapted from an article by Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

It was the miracle in the mud.

In the spring, ▼Betty Goode’s garden was under water. For three straight months.

An avid horticulturist, Betty asked her husband,

▼Howard to disc the ground on their property west of Port Dover to dry it out.

Howard went one way with the disc, and back the other, exposing the soil to the sun and the air. Betty had timing on her side. A couple of dry, hot days that followed did the job. She was able to get her flowers and vegetables into the ground.

What should have been a terrible growing season -- a long, cold, wet spring followed by a devastating drought in July – turned out to be not so bad.

Betty took home seven first prizes and five second prizes in the Port Dover and Woodhouse Horticultural Society’s annual flower show. Her asters were named grand champion and her gladioli were remarkable.

The top of the soil in her garden dried out enough to allow germination, while all that water from the spring was close enough to the surface for the roots to reach, she explained.

Betty gave her glads doses of fertilizer in the last three weeks to help them along. But with the date of the flower show looming, they still hadn’t flowered.

It wasn’t until the morning of the show when she went into the garden that a handful came into bloom.

“It’s just like something happened. These flowers jumped up overnight,” Betty said while overlooking the show’s entries at St. Paul’s Anglican Church parish hall in Port Dover. “It’s just a miracle. I can’t believe it.”

“That’s what you get when you look after things.”

There was no shortage of entries in the show this year despite the weather, said horticultural society president Stephanie Wilson. There were hundreds of entries in 130 categories.

The long spring and July drought, Stephanie said, “certainly hindered growth in a number of plants.”

But, as it turned out, it was no showstopper.

## Walsh Students aid Mother Nature

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Simcoe Reformer

Students of Walsh Public School braved drizzly conditions to come to Mother Nature’s aid.

Scouring the Turkey Point beach, Grade 7 and 8 students cleaned up cigarette butts, beer bottles and even a retainer during the International Coastal Cleanup.

Every September, the ocean conservancy challenges hundreds of thousands of people from across the world to clean up beaches and waterways for a single day. They also ask participants to record their findings on a data sheet.

Armed with clipboards, teams of Walsh students set

# Walsh Students Clean Up, and Turkey Point Summerfest

out to pick up and note the litter along the Inner Bay. Students were shocked by what they found left behind on the beach.

"I'm surprised by how many cigarettes that were put down," said student Wesley Freeman.

Students estimated they found 1,500 cigarette butts before 1 p.m.

"It's not like one person leaves one," Wesley added. "It's many people leaving many."

The sand wasn't the only magnet for garbage. Litter was found under trees, on beach walkways and tucked into fencing.

"They can hide it, but everyone finds it," said student Jenna Woolridge.

Grade 7 teacher Jennifer Flintoft was also surprised by all the litter.

"I bet you we have about eight bags full," she said, adding students were separating apart the garbage and recyclables.

She and fellow teacher Amie Salembier-Wright had an incentive for their students. The three teams who collected the most garbage would be rewarded with a pizza party.

## Putting Summerfest to bed

- adapted from an article by Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

Hey, this is supposed to be fun.

Turkey Point Summerfest is all about family, games, contests, meals, and raising money for the community.

But when it comes to the bed races, winning apparently comes first.

As the final two beds headed to the finish line in the championship heat at the community park here Saturday afternoon, they were neck-and-neck. One crew, pushing for victory, accidentally got too close to the other, forcing it to veer left.

Spectators cried out and scurried to safety. Nearby vehicles were threatened with collision.

"I think we were willing to pay for the damages on a car just to get the win," said Justin Stevens, 19, of Brantford, who captained the winning team, which included his two brothers and two cousins.

"A lot of hard work paid off for us ... the biggest thing is we have bragging rights for the rest of the summer."

The bed races were one of several events held in Turkey Point on the weekend in a celebration that brings together cottagers, area residents, and weekend visitors.

It includes a dance under the pavilion in the park on Saturday night, a Friday night dinner, and a Sunday morning breakfast – all attracting hundreds of people.

There's also a sand sculpture contest, a beach volleyball tournament, and bocce ball.

The spirit of the festival, say organizers, is one of fellowship and fun. There are things to do for children as well as parents. Families that have summered in



Race action during the 2011 Turkey Point Summerfest Bed Race.

the village for generations – including the Stevens clan – make a point of getting together on this weekend and participating.

"It's good, basic, old-time family entertainment," said Al Reid, president of Turkey Point Summerfest Corporation.

Even the bed races really weren't that serious.

Truth is, Justin Stevens runs a fitness program for young people every day during the summer at the beachside resort, and most of the other teams were made up of the youngsters he trains.

"The whole weekend is pure fun," explained Justin, who plays junior hockey in the United States and is the nephew of Los Angeles Kings assistant coach John Stevens. "The whole atmosphere is awesome. We look forward to it all summer."

The weekend also raises money for the community park at the base of the hill as you enter the village.

Some years, the event brings in \$20,000.

The pavilion needs a new concrete floor and the playing field behind it needs to be fixed up, said Al



Finishing in a very close second place at the 2011 Turkey Point Bed race was the "Squeebz". Team members were Tristen Moyaert, Lucas Burnett, Liam Burnett, Jordan Land, Tommy Land. The "Squeebz" were ahead of the winning "Gongers" until they were overtaken in the final seconds of the last leg of the race. Each team consisted of four runners and one person who remained on the bed.

# Strip Room Wine a Winner!

Reid. If the field is upgraded, more events could be added, he said.

This year's festival, he added, was a success. Finding a parking spot at the community park has always been a problem. A shuttle bus that runs through the village has helped solve that, Al noted.

"We continue to do good things good," he commented.

Possible additions in the future, Al said, include carnival rides and live turkey races, which have become popular in some parts of the United States.

## Queen's Park chooses Strip Room wine

- adapted from an article by Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

Norfolk County's burgeoning wine industry has hit another high: one of the area's vintages was chosen this week as the official red wine for Queen's Park.

The Burning Kiln's Strip Room, a merlot-cabernet blend, beat out five other entries from Niagara wineries in a taste test among MPPs on Monday night.

It will now be served to the province's lawmakers and at all legislative functions for the next year.

Michael Nazareth, Burning Kiln's operations consultant, called the win "huge news" and said it "puts the whole South Coast in focus" not only in Ontario but also internationally. The Strip Room, he noted, will be served to foreign dignitaries visiting Queen's Park.

"It's global recognition in a way," Michael said.

Judy Buck, administrator for the South Coast Wineries and Grape Growers' Association, said the award will also help attract wine lovers to the South Coast area.

"People will now make a point of finding Burning Kiln," Judy said. "When one winery does well, we all do well."

The wine industry has been slowly building in Norfolk and its surrounding counties in the Ontario sand plain, with vineyards often going into fields where tobacco plants once stood.

Right now, the association includes nine wineries. More than 100 acres of wine-grapes are under cultivation across the region and once that number exceeds 125, the association can apply for a Designated Viticulture Area designation – a status symbol that helps in marketing.

Mike McArthur, president of the association and one of the partners at Burning Kiln, said his company's win at Queen's Park can act "as a real leadership piece" for the area and help build the tourism and "culinary tradition" that goes along with being a wine-producing region.

"It also shows we are not only just for wineries. We can compete at the highest levels. It holds really great promise for the area."

Burning Kiln's philosophy, Mike added, "isn't just about wine. It's about engaging our community into a



The Burning Kiln Winery located on the Front Road, west of Turkey Point was honoured to have their Strip Room wine chosen as the official red wine of the Ontario Legislature.

larger base."

Burning Kiln, situated on a former tobacco farm just west of Turkey Point, has been under development for a few years but didn't officially open until last June.

"It's newly opened. No vineyard has done this before," Michael Nazareth, who was at Queen's Park for the taste test, said of being named an official wine.

The winery produces about 50,000 bottles of red and white wine a year and has 25 acres of land under cultivation.

The process makes use not only of the area's sandy soil but also the detritus of the tobacco growing industry: the grapes used for the merlot in Strip Room are dried in abandoned kilns, giving it a unique flavour.

## Police rescue fading swimmers

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Norfolk OPP suspect they prevented several drownings at the end of the annual Pottahawk boater bash south of Turkey Point.

OPP marine units pulled six exhausted individuals from Long Point Bay after they tried to swim from Pottahawk Point to Turkey Point Sunday night. The distance between the two is 15 minutes in a fast boat.

As has happened in years past, people hitching a ride to Pottahawk with no plans for the return trip proved to be a problem this weekend. By the end of the festivities, OPP had to give 50 individuals a ride to shore who otherwise would have been stranded in the shallows on the east side of the Long Point spit.

Const. Kari Lee, spokesperson for the Norfolk OPP, says there is little police can do to deter this behaviour. The OPP deal with it, she said, as a matter of public safety.

# Party at Pottahawk, the OPP, and Weeds on the Beach

"We want people to have a plan before they go out there; to ensure they have a ride back," Const. Lee said. "Have a plan and stick to it so we don't have issues like this. We would hope people would be responsible and make arrangements for this."

This year's boater bash was a big one because of sunny skies and hot weather. OPP estimate 9,000 people in 2,400 boats attended.

Aside from the near drownings, there were no serious incidents. In total, police laid 69 charges under the Liquor Licence Act, 38 federal charges for boating violations, three drinking and driving charges, and issued eight three-day licence suspensions.

Police were also called on to tow five vessels and participated in eight medical assists.

## Norfolk OPP marine unit sails to banner season

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Simcoe Reformer

As the boating season wound to a close, the Norfolk OPP Marine Unit reported a strong first year of full-time operation.

This season, the unit expanded its operation, running more two-officer night patrols to maintain the safety of county waterways. Officers clocked 596 hours patrolling from the west side of Long Point into Haldimand County.

As a result, the Norfolk unit ranked first in charges laid of the 12 units in the OPP's west region. They laid 121 charges to boaters during regular patrol hours.

While the Norfolk unit issued 42% of all charges across the region, officers "warn people way more than we charge," said Sgt. Jim Millson, the Norfolk supervisor. Officers are more concerned about educating the public on safe boating.

"We did a lot of (public education) work at the beginning of the year," Sgt. Millson said. "We went to four different marinas and the Power Squadron open house to educate the public."

Sgt. Millson and his eight marine officers prevented several potential incidents during regular patrol. Over the course of two weekends, they caught five impaired boaters.

"In two occasions, they were riding without lights, which caught our attention," he said, adding the driver and passengers were intoxicated in both incidents.

Norfolk OPP were also kept busy with patrolling Pottahawk this year. Fellow OPP marine and land officers from across southern and eastern Ontario continue to assist with policing the annual party held south of Turkey Point.

Nighttime patrols of the waterway have become important during Pottahawk festivities. Two hundred vessels were stationed at Pottahawk Point on the Saturday. "It's become more and more of an overnight event," Millson said.

Police pulled six people from the water and laid 73

charges under the Liquor Licence Act alone that weekend. They also laid 34 charges under the Canada Shipping Act for inadequate safety equipment, such as life jackets, flares and lighting.

"The comment we always get from experienced boaters is if we weren't there, there'd be fatalities," Sgt. Millson said.

While the boating season has wrapped up, the marine unit will be kept busy patrolling ice fishing huts and performing ice rescues this winter. It is also responsible for patrolling ATV trailers during the summer months.

Next summer, the Norfolk marine unit plans to expand its patrols to include more of Haldimand and Elgin counties. Its 32-foot twin diesel launch will also be added back into the fold.

The marine unit has received positive public response to this year's expanded program, Sgt. Millson said. "They feel there's an increased amount of safety and they support us in monitoring boating and drinking because it affects everyone's safety."

## Cottagers weary of weedy view

- adapted from an article by Daniel Pearce in the Simcoe Reformer

Turkey Point cottagers fed up with staring at two-and three-metre high weeds instead of Lake Erie will get relief this fall provided the weather co-operates, says the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Spraying of the Ordnance Ave. beach area in the west end of the village to eradicate phragmites, an invasive grass that spreads rapidly and overtakes everything around it, is planned for the season's end, said Mike Postma, superintendent of the Turkey Point Provincial Park.

In order to be successful, however, the killed weeds must be rolled and burned and the area has been too wet for that, due mainly to high water levels, said Mike.

"In the first half of September, we should be spraying. The burn is planned to take place in the last part of October, the first part of November."

But the news has not completely eased fears of cottage owners, who have been in conflict with the MNR since the province took over the beach about 15 years ago.

At one time, the Ordnance Ave. stretch was pure beach: basically all sand from the road to the water's edge. The MNR declared the area a Class A wetland and allowed natural grasses to grow in the shallow areas between the road and the water's edge.

The result has been the creation of a mini-bog. Phragmites shoot high in the air. Stagnant water breeds mosquitoes. And the only routes to the lake are narrow pathways through the weeds to tiny spots of beach.

"It's brutal," said Ken Lindsay of Ancaster, whose family has had a cottage on Ordnance for 20 years. The bog area, he said, is "getting wider all the time," and there's no view of the lake from the cottages.

# Weeds on the Beach, and the Pottahawk Swim

Cottagers have been dealing with the MNR on the beach issue for years. They say they have heard all this before and hope that this time they'll get results.

"We've just run out of patience," said Miles Humphrey of Cambridge, a neighbour of Lindsay's.

Other conflicts have arisen when frustrated cottagers have tried to cut grass or weeds themselves.

This year summer residents put up a volleyball net on the sandy area next to the road as well as a swing in a tree – and were promptly told to take them down, said Tony Henrique of Brantford.

Mike Postma said the beach is a public area and people can put up volleyball nets provided they remove them at the end of the day "so it doesn't look like somebody's permanent yard."

The area, Henrique noted, is promoted to tourists as Ontario's South Coast yet nothing is being done to clean up the weeds.

"This is the worst government project I've seen," he said. "It's as dry as it possibly can be. They (the weeds) are as high as they can be. We're saying clean it up."

There is reason for hope, said John Rogers, chair of the Turkey Point Ratepayers Association.

In the spring, the MNR sprayed four plots along Ordnance Ave. and successfully killed the phragmites. However, they were unable to get in to roll and burn the dead weeds following rainy weather in May and the first part of June.

Postma addressed the association's annual general meeting and told the group "when conditions are right, they'll finish the job," John Rogers said.

## She wanted to help them

- adapted from an article by Jacob Robinson in the Times-Reformer

At first glance, Annaleise Carr looks just like any other regular 13-year-old girl. The soon-to-be Grade 8 pupil at Walsh elementary school proved she's anything but on Sunday.

Annaleise, along with nine others, braved the waters of Lake Erie for the third annual Pottahawk Swim, a 10km journey from the tiny island off the coast of Long Point to Turkey Point beach.

Started by a foursome of North Shore swimmers in 2009, the event has grown to more than double its size -- and has never featured anyone under the age of 20 until this year.

Participants raised a conservative estimate of \$15,000 to go towards Camp Trillium, a Waterford-based facility that helps cancer patients and their families enjoy the outdoors in a stress-free environment.

"I don't want kids hurt, so since it was for kids, I wanted to help them," said Annaleise moments after emerging from the water.

Annaleise, a long-time competitive swimmer, was welcomed on shore by her family, including parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents and even great grandparents.

They weren't the only ones cheering. Many of the North Shore Runners Group and their families also attended the festivities, and joined the swimmers on a 10km run to Long Point Eco Adventures on Front Road for a celebration.

"It's great, it was nice to have them here and I could hear them cheering," said Annaleise.

As has been the case for three years, Chris Peters – an original member of the swim – was first to finish with a time of 2 hours, 24 minutes. Just behind him was fellow founding member Scot Brockbank, and the rookie Annaleise Carr at 2 hours 45 minutes.

The group trains at least twice a week during the summer for the swim, and all winter long.

To witness Annaleise finish what she started was an incredible feeling, said Marci Shea-Perry, executive director at Camp Trillium.

"Thirteen-year-olds are often times focused on themselves and it's just so refreshing to have Annaleise do this for other people. It takes a special type of person, a special type of maturity of a thirteen-year-old to sacrifice all the time and the training and the fundraising that she's done," she said.

"What an incredible, incredible girl that she is to be able to do this."

Though the water appeared calm on the shoreline Saturday morning, swimmers experienced a different Lake Erie part way through their journey. Big swells and currents following an early morning storm made life a little tougher on the 10 that braved the conditions. Though entrants have a kayaker by their side the entire swim, they are alone in their thoughts for much of the route, something cancer patients can relate to, said Marci Shea-Perry.

"They're very isolated. I look back to our kids and our families and what they're going through and they get very isolated in their communities as well," she explained. "So there's similarities but the idea is, they're going to come here and there's going to be crowds of people supporting them ... that's similar to camp."

The four swimmers who started the event – Chris Peters, Scot Brockbank, John Rolfe and Wayne Boswell – and a few others got the chance to tour the grounds of Camp Trillium a few weeks ago. The group also met with a few campers and counsellors that have been battling the devastating disease.

That meeting, said Chris, was all the motivation the group needed to finish.

"I was swimming out there and thinking of that," he said.

"When you take a stroke and it's feeling hard, you just think, 'This is nothing.' You think of Camp Trillium, the kids, their families, what they're going through and for us to do this, it's a piece of cake and we're glad that we can do it."

**Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.**

# Boats Burn, and Normandale Fish Hatchery

## Fire destroys boats at Turkey Point

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

No injuries were reported in an early-morning fire that destroyed four boats in the MacDonald Turkey Point Marina in Turkey Point.

Firefighters from Vittoria, Port Dover, Delhi and St. Williams responded to the alarm, which was called in around 3:30 a.m.

The boats were unoccupied at the time of the incident. The cause is under investigation. A quantity of gasoline from the boats spilled into the marina but it was sequestered. A cleanup was being organized late Wednesday morning.

"The good news here is no one was injured," said Brad Thomson, general manager of the marina, which is one of the biggest in Canada.

The fire occurred in a docking area in the northwest corner of the marina near Clubhouse Road. Along with the four boats, the fire destroyed some on-shore docking infrastructure. Total damage is in the range of \$150,000.

Norfolk fire prevention officer Ken Sheridan said marina fires can be a handful.

"There is a tremendous fuel load with boats," he said at the scene. "They carry a lot of gas. And they are made of fibreglass, so when they get going it's a real challenge. Limiting damage to four boats is actually pretty good."

The Canadian Coast Guard from Wallaceburg was summoned to bring in specialized equipment for mopping up the fuel spill. The Ministry of the Environment and the OPP Marine Unit have also been notified. The Ontario Fire Marshalls Office will not be involved because the fire does not meet its criteria for notification.

## Normandale Fish Culture Station to get \$6-million upgrade

- adapted from an article in the Port Rowan Good News

Since the collapse of the Normandale Fish Hatchery reservoir dam in May 2008, travelers on Front Road in Normandale have watched the restoration of the creek and road and the reconstruction of the fifty year old Gibson Creek substation. Now OMNR is ready to rebuild the Main Station at 394 Turkey Point Road, with a \$6 million reconstruction project scheduled to start in the fall of 2011. At an "Open House" on July 12th, Manager John Sager, Gordon Durant, Scott Wilson and Paige Shaw were on hand to answer questions.

John Sager explained: "We maintain a fishery that's worth tens of millions of dollars. The Normandale Stations currently supply 675,000 Atlantic Salmon, 540,000 Chinook Salmon and 120,000 Rainbow Trout



Aerial view of Normandale Fish Culture Station near 5 Corners.

annually." For Atlantic Salmon, the goal is to restore an extirpated species. Chinook Salmon is a high profile, high volume recreational species like Rainbow Trout. This Lake Erie facility has a long history of providing fish for Lake Ontario and the Golden Horseshoe. The fish are stocked as part of the provincial fisheries management plan."

The new Main Station on Turkey Point Road will have a high quality supply of filtered creekwater and 10 ground-water wells, state-of-the art recirculation system, improved disinfection and disease control capacity, improved quality effluent discharged into the creek and potentially higher fish production. "It will have 48 recirculation tanks, 9 Atlantic Salmon broodstock early rearing tanks, 10 Rainbow Trout early rearing tanks, 3 quarantine rooms, 10 upper as well as lower raceways, an egg receiving and incubation area as well as a visitor centre."

"At the moment," explained John, "we have one permanent technician and two contract positions. The Atlantic Salmon is too good a story to let it die. We're hoping we'll get a few more permanent positions when the new facility opens. We hope to choose a contractor by September 2011 with plans to finish by October 2012. We have to meet a deadline in October 2012 because we will be receiving Chinook Salmon eggs by then and we'll also be receiving Atlantic Salmon eggs by mid-December 2012. Biology dictates our schedule."

## Happy Trails

- adapted from an article by Dave Scott in the Norfolk Hub

A friend of mine invited me out for a run a few months ago ... we hit the trails just outside Normandale and ran one called Dizzy Lizzy ... for me it was a workout and I am sure I sweated off a few pounds ... meanwhile my friend tackled the trail like a walk in the park. It seems my buddy not only ran the trails but also had been mountain biking them for well over a year. I was impressed with the sheer beauty of the area we were running in. The terrain provided lots of hills, turns, sand, roots and wildlife ... but keep

# Mountain Biking, and Long Point Waterfowl Centre



Turkey Point Mountain Bike Club gets together once a week.

your focus on the trail ... so you don't end up \*\*\* over teakettle, like me.

At that time my buddy mentioned how a club was forming and he himself was going to join.

Last Thursday night, I stopped out at the Normandale Fish Hatchery and met a number of members of the newly formed Turkey Point Mountain Bike Club (TPMBC). which is dedicated to the preservation, maintenance and development of mountain biking in the Turkey Point area.

With over 40km of challenging trails with names like, Bluffs, Fin and Feather, Ridge and Humpback ... it is easy to see how these bikers are anxious to challenge their skills ... trust me, from the few trials I ran, these riders are working up a good sweat every time out.

A lot of the credit for developing the trails goes to Kevin Saunders who over the years has created some very unique runs.

Jeff Howe, President of the club, gave me a quick overview of how the club came to be ... He told me that folks had been riding the trails for the past twenty years ... that now was the right time to organize it, for local riders to get to know one another and for the group to work with the local land managers (Long Point Region Conservation Authority, Provincial Parks and St. Williams Nature Preserve, in future trail development).

The club has rapidly grown to close to fifty members with the age range going from teenagers up to the wily veterans who are in their 50's ... don't let the old guys fool you ... they have been riding for years and can still crank it up!

Another great thing the club does, is have two groups on its rides... one for the elite riders and one for the beginners. The beginner group is a great way to

get started and slowly build towards your goals ... the beginner group also has a seasoned veteran rider with it to assist the group.

Well it was time to let Jeff ride, I thanked him for his time and watched as the riders headed out onto the trails for another adventure.

TPMBC gets together once a week (Thursdays) to tackle the trails. If you would like to join or want more information check out the website [www.tpmbc.ca](http://www.tpmbc.ca), and to all the riders, "Happy Trails!"

## Long Point Waterfowl Research and Ed. Centre

- adapted from an article by Dave Scott in the Norfolk Hub

You know that sign on Turkey Point Road you always pass on your way down to the beach or to Long Point Eco-Adventures (nice little plug for my friends)? You know, the one that reads Long Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre? It's kinda' hidden just a little ... you always wonder what goes on there. Guess what, on September 25th Friends of the Long Point Waterfowl invited everyone to stop by and check it out.

Rob Smith, a member of Friends of the Long Point Waterfowl, gave me a private advance tour. He, the other thirteen members and the staff, all want to promote and support research, education and conservation for our area.

Rob himself grew up in the area and spent many a day in the marsh and on the trails enjoying all that Norfolk has to offer.

Rob explained that the goal of the group was to raise awareness of all that we have in our area and how we need to protect it ... by protecting the waterfowl, we protect their habitat ... which in turn helps the turtles and the fish, which keeps our eco-system in balance ... it is the natural thing to do. Don't forget, wetlands are also a natural filter for the water that passes through them. Rob feels this is one of the most rewarding things he has ever done in helping to protect our wetlands and marshes.

With Norfolk having such a diversity of species, it is easy to understand why research on frogs, Long Necked Ducks, Sand Hill Cranes, and Tundra Swans is going on at the Long Point Waterfowl Research and Education Centre. Rob and I chatted as we toured the grounds ... it was very cool to see all that is hidden behind that tree line on the highway.

There is a spacious kitchen and dining area, also an education centre, and lodgings for folks doing research. Walking along the trails there is a large open field area where Rob pointed out that a retriever handling demonstration will be held on September 25th, the date the first annual Duck Day at Long Point Waterfowl.

Founded in the 1980s, Long Point Waterfowl is a non-profit, non-government organization dedicated primarily to the study and conservation of waterfowl

# Long Point Waterfowl Centre Duck Day

and wetlands throughout the lower Great Lakes region. Long Point Waterfowl established the Research and Education Centre in 2007 to help further their research, conservation and outdoor education mandate.

The Research and Education Centre is located at 546 Turkey Point Road, approximately one kilometre south of Highway 24 near Turkey Point, Ontario. For more information, please contact Katelyn Weaver at [rec@longpointwaterfowl.org](mailto:rec@longpointwaterfowl.org) or 519-488-2866.

## Inaugural Duck Day

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Times-Reformer

When the Long Point Waterfowl team started planning its inaugural Duck Day, organizers weren't sure how many people would attend the public education event.

Fears were quickly put to rest Sunday. Families turned out in droves for the first Duck Day, packing the grounds of the Long Point Waterfowl's research and Education Centre near Turkey Point.

"We were so happy with the turnout today," said Katelyn Weaver, research and education centre manager.

While the event educated the public about the duck, it was also designed to raise the profile of the 40-acre Turkey Point Road property. Staff, students and visiting scientists study the distribution and staging ecology of waterfowl year-round at the centre. Its facilities, including a new trail system, are also used by youth, education and recreation-based organizations.

On Sunday, Long Point Waterfowl partnered with fellow environmental groups and naturalists to stage Duck Day. When Natural Calls, a local environmental education organization, ran a children's nature walk. Children learned about biodiversity along the trail system.

"They're really enthusiastic about it," said Colleen Dale, coordinator of When Nature Calls. "They want to tell you everything they know,"

Longtime Port Rowan wood-carver John Krestel showed the art of crafting decoys Sunday. Children crowded around to see John and his apprentice Jamie Holbrook of Langton in action.

"I've always had an interest in it and what better way to come out here and learn from him," Jamie said.

John, who has been carving wood since his youth, can spend up to 50 hours working on a single decoy. When he first started, he and his friends would craft simple decoys. Attention to detail has become more important over the years.

"Now you have to put the nostrils in correctly and the eyes have to match up," Krestel said, demonstrating on a wooden duck head.

Children were able to test their hand at painting ducks thanks to Bird Studies Canada. It ran a duck identification and decoy painting session.



Calder Cleland, of Forestville painted a decoy at Long Point Waterfowl's inaugural Duck Day.

"We've had a wide range from one year olds to adults painting decoys," said Liza Barney, of Bird Studies Canada.

The Long Point area is home to about 30 different species of ducks, Most of them are migratory.

**▼ Ron Bezzo discovered his golf game was being hampered by his failing eyesight. He could still hit the ball well but he couldn't see where it went.**

**So he asked ▼ Doug Smith, who had perfect eyesight, if he wanted to play a couple of rounds at Pine Valley, and also to serve as a spotter for Ron. Ron hit his drive at the first tee, and asked Doug if he saw where the ball landed.**

**"Yep", said Doug.**

**"Where did it go?" Ron inquired.**

**Doug replied, "Sorry, Ron, I can't remember."**

# Spooky Hollow Dogwoods, and Goodbye to Bick's Pickles

## Plan hatched to save eastern Dogwood trees

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Simcoe Reformer

Spooky Hollow north of Normandale is a mysterious place.

It is so mysterious that few people in Norfolk know that most of it has been owned by the Hamilton Naturalists' Club for the past 50 years.

HNC swooped in and bought 95 acres of the forested area for \$4,500 in 1961. HNC didn't know it at the time, but with this purchase the club became the first private-sector land trust in Canada. HNC acquired an adjoining 71 acres in 1993 with a grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation. This brought its total holdings to 166 acres.

To mark its 50th anniversary in Norfolk, HNC wants to do something special for the eastern dogwood trees under its stewardship. Eastern dogwood is a small, rare tree whose distinctive bloom serves as the official flower of Norfolk County.

Eastern dogwood has been under attack by the fungus anthracnose in recent years; however, measures are available to hold the disease at bay. Primary among them is giving dogwood space so air can circulate and sunshine can chase away the dampness. To that end, intensive trimming of pine trees and invasive species such as buckthorn and Russian olive will be a priority over the next two years.

"There are over 200 dogwoods in Spooky Hollow in the north part of the sanctuary," says Jen Barker, the Hamilton club's land trust co-ordinator. "That's considered a really high population."

Further improvement will come through controlled burns. HNC has obtained funding for these initiatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources' Species at Risk Stewardship Fund and Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Fund.

The public had a chance learn more about HNC's activities in Spooky Hollow by attending an open house in the sanctuary on Saturday, September 10. Monitoring plots were established that day. As well, HNC representatives were on hand to provide information on how local people can volunteer.

Spooky Hollow has been designated as a provincially significant Life Science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest. Rare birds that inhabit the sanctuary include the Acadian flycatcher and the hooded warbler.

HNC has built five kilometres of walking trails in the sanctuary. These are off-limits to motorized vehicles and horseback riders.

There are several legends as to how Spooky Hollow got its name. One says the hollow was a popular hideout for bootleggers during Prohibition and that several of them died in the 1920s in a confrontation with police.

Another story says a travelling salesman who

stopped at a home in the hollow in the early 1800s was murdered by the occupant. The story says the salesman was cremated in the fireplace and that his spirit has haunted the hollow ever since.

Other reports say early settlers used to travel to Spooky Hollow at twilight to watch glowing clouds of swamp gas rise from its boggy areas. These had a spectral quality and thus the location's name.

## Farmers say goodbye to Bick's Pickle era

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Simcoe Reformer

When Port Rowan area farmer Bill Reimer began growing for Bick's Pickles, he started off with about eight acres of cucumbers. Forty-eight years later, his family's cucumber operation has finished where it started - with eight acres of cucumbers under its belt this season.

"When I started growing them, there was no marketing board, so the prices were dirt cheap," said Bill, who grew 40 acres during the peak of the industry.

Local cucumber farmers contracted with J.M. Smucker Company, the parent of Bick's Pickles, marked the end of an era at a company-sponsored barbecue at ▼Tom Haskett's Bick's Grading Station 2 just outside Vittoria. Last fall, Smucker's announced the closure of its pickle tank farm north of Delhi and its vegetable processing facility in Dunnville at the end of this growing season.

As farmers brought in the last of their Bick's crop to the Vittoria grading station Saturday, they reflected on the sense of loss.

"We have a lot of other things we're doing, but we're going to miss it," said Don Pow, of Port Dover, who also grows corn and beans.

While many of these farmers have their hands in other crops, the migrant labour force that picked and graded local cucumbers will have to regroup. About 500 workers harvest the 47 farms that feed the Vittoria grading station.

Vans full of Mexican Mennonite workers turned out for the barbecue, socializing and playing with their children in the field. Some workers also kept plugging away at the grading station.

"It'll be harder on them than us because we have other things," said farmer Dan Hiebert, who works on the Reimer family operation. "It really made sense for them to have a barbecue for these guys."

Seven million pounds of cucumbers will be processed at the Vittoria grading station this year, said farmer Tom Haskett, who operates the station through a contract with Bick's Pickles. Twenty-one workers wash, sort and weigh the crop before it is either processed in Dunnville, brined in Delhi or heads into the marketplace.

Tom, who was hesitant to have media present at the

# Donnybrook, and St. Michael's Reunion

barbecue Saturday, remains optimistic about the future of the cucumber industry. He hoped to thank all the cucumber farmers that have supplied the grading station for years with the barbecue.

"It's a celebration for the growers that have grown for a number of years," he said.

## Donnybrook – an old-fashioned country fair

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Simcoe Reformer

The Donnybrook Fair continues to stick close to its roots.

In an age when big-ticket entertainers and flashy midways dominate urban fairs, Walsh's annual fall celebration remains a family affair set out in the country. Traditional activities, like a school tug-of-war contest, mini-tractor pull and baby show, were on tap at the 154th Donnybrook Fair this year.

Brenda Tompkins of Waterford brought her granddaughter Emma Watkins, 3, to the fair.

"It's a nice little children's fair," Brenda said, "It's geared for the children mostly."

Dressed in a blue and white checkered dress, Emma Watkins won for her Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz costume at the parade. Her dog Rigley accompanied her as the Cowardly Lion, carting around a stuffed Scarecrow and Tin Man to complete the look.

While 13-year-old Walsh twins Kaylee and Kristen White are starting their teen years, they still attend the fair to hang out with friends. They had a few favourite activities planned for Saturday.

"Walking around, tug of war, watching the derby,"



Megan Smith, 3 and her sister Abbie, 7 of Waterford go for a whirl at the Donnybrook Fair.

Kaylee listed some.

Donnybrook's demolition derbies continue to pack in the crowds. Saturday's four- and six-cylinder derby filled the bleachers.

"This is the main attraction of our fair," said Sherri Flynn of Walsh who organizes the derbies with John Mercier.

Norfolk firefighters were on hand Saturday, ensuring the safety of the public and competitors during the three-heat derby. The top driver walked away with \$1,000 Saturday.

The Donnybrook Fair also is known for its generous cash prizes for children's events. Last year, the Charlottesville Agricultural Society, which organizes the fair, paid out \$1,255 to area school-children competing in arts, crafts and locally grown commodities competitions.

## School days memories

- adapted from an article by Sarah Doktor in the Simcoe Reformer

Fred Guidolin spent some of his fondest years teaching at St. Michael's Catholic School in Walsh.

He taught Grades 5 and 6 at St. Michael's from 1975 to 1981.

Fred was among those attending a 50th anniversary celebration at the school on Saturday. The event included a mass service at St. Michael's Church and open house at the school for past teachers and students.

Suzu Van Sevenant-Petrosino attended St. Michael's in the 1970s. She pointed across the crowded gymnasium at Fred Guidolin on Saturday and said he was always her favourite teacher.

Fred said it was "a pure joy" teaching at St. Michael's.

"I think this is the place I really sharpened my teaching skills," said Fred. He said it was the support of the community and parents that allowed him to grow as a teacher.

"You couldn't ask for a finer school," he said.



Anthony Penich and Rosalynn Walsh attended St. Michael's Catholic School in Walsh in the 1980s. They returned to their hometown school for its 50th Anniversary reunion.

# St. Michael's Reunion, and Whelan Speaks at St. John's

He remembers refereeing hockey games at lunch during the winter. He said he wasn't a big sports fan, but at a small school everyone helps out wherever they can, and it is one of his favourite memories.

Debbie Laevens' family has attended St. Michael's for three generations. Her mother attended before her and she sent both of her daughters to St. Michael's. She said the strong sense of community has stayed the same since her days as a student.

"It was a great school," said Debbie. "It was home."

The physical structure of St. Michael's has stayed the same since an addition was put on in the 1970s, but many returning students remembered the building differently.

"It seemed so big when we were kids," said Missy Binder. Missy graduated from St. Michael's in 1978. She chatted with former classmates Irene Pstoka and Suzy Van Sevenant-Petrosino in the school's gymnasium, which they said must have shrunk.

The school's new principal Joe Ernst welcomed guests in the gym, which had a timeline of historical events and old class pictures wrapped around the walls. Past Christmas recitals played on the white boards in the classroom. Ernst said the teachers and students worked hard to put together old photos and artwork that was displayed in the hallways.

"I remember this is the place I grew up in," said Anthony Penich in one of the classrooms, holding his yearbook from 1988. He created a group on Facebook to reconnect with former classmates, and publicized the event on its "wall".

"There's a lot of heritage. People are very proud, and they should be," said Joe Ernst.

The school has actually been around since 1948 when classes were held in the basement of St. Michael's Catholic Church. The building that currently houses St. Michael's Catholic School opened its doors on Nov. 12 1961.

Joe Ernst says that there is still a strong connection with the church, and the ideas and morals have remained the same at the school.

## Eugene Whelan addressed 190th anniversary of St. John's Church

Guest speaker at the September 25th 190th anniversary service at St. John's Anglican Church was Eugene Whelan. He is a former Canadian Minister of Agriculture (1972 -1984). Following are some of the edited highlights of his comments to the large congregation on that auspicious occasion.

"St. John's Church and farming are very similar. For example, both have been a mainstay of this community for a very long time. Each week the church members stop and give praise to God for their blessings of the past week. Each day the farmers get up and give thanks for the sun and the rain. Both the



Sheila Hastie (left) and Sharon Judd placed the final touches on a display of fruits and vegetables to decorate The St. John's Anglican Church Thanksgiving Harvest Church service on September 25.

church and the farmers realize that a lot of the good works they do go unnoticed but they still "plough on" to do the work. During the last 190 years both institutions of Norfolk County have seen a lot of change, but both have retained their same focuses over that time period."

"Let's stop for a minute and think about the conditions that existed 190 years ago. Norfolk County and Upper Canada were just being populated. Many people from Europe were coming to Canada to create a new life for themselves. Most of the immigrants were farmers. It was hard work for these farmers to clear the land and to start growing crops and raising livestock. As hard and as crude as it was, this was the beginning of the most important industry of all, the industry of farming, agriculture and food."

"Now let us think about today. Think about your own farms or the farms that you see in and around Simcoe and Norfolk County. The farming industry has experienced many changes. Some changes you would never notice, such as improvements to corn seed. Most changes have been brought about by science and technological advancements."

"In the last 190 years we have come a long way. Presently agriculture and food production in Canada is one of the most efficient of all industries. One Canadian farmer can produce enough food for over 150 families. The high quality standards of our poultry, chicken, turkey and especially dairy food products, have benefited people locally and around the world."

"Another area of Agriculture Canada research which I pushed for was in grains, oil seeds, and lentils. The advancements in these areas were just as great as or

# Whelan Speaks at St. John's, and Marg's Pet Tree Frog

even greater than those made in the livestock area. One shining example, of which I am very proud to have been involved with, is a new variety of rapeseed, in the west it is known as the Cinderella crop. Most of us know it as Canola. Canola oil is the safest and best cooking oil in the world."

"There are still hungry and starving people in the world despite all of the technological improvements and advancements. As we approach the Thanksgiving season I charge each of you to think about what you can do to help feed the hungry people in the world."

"St. John's Anglican Church and the surrounding community of Simcoe and Norfolk County have never sat back and watched the world go by. The people who make up these institutions have always taken an active role in being good community citizens and great Canadians. Like the forefathers of our country they have understood about helping each other out. They are survivors. That is why they are still here today to celebrate the 190th Anniversary of St. John's Anglican Church."

Mary Field, an organizer of the church anniversary reported, "the church service was spiritually unique, exhilarating and informative". Toby Barrett introduced Mr. Whelan, providing a brief overview of the distinguished guest's dedicated career serving his country in many capacities including Federal Minister of Agriculture for 12 years, Senator, and Canada's first Ambassador to the Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome.

Mrs. Field reported that following the service those present visited with the Whelans at lunch hosted by the church in the Parish Hall. The Whelans were interested to hear it had been a cheese factory moved from Rockford to the site in 1924 and refurbished.

"It was awe-inspiring to have The Honourable Mr. Whelan attend our little rural church, and being the kind of man he is, he had researched our history and knew it better than many of us," Mrs. Field commented, adding "he and Mrs. Whelan charmed us all and set into history an event that any in attendance will never forget."

Mary Field said, "Mr. Whelan asked that we support local food banks and/or Canadian Foodgrains Bank in Winnipeg." She added, "please continue to honour his request. We will see that anything given to us gets delivered." Her address is 1213 Lynn Valley Road, north of Port Dover.

Comfort Inn in Simcoe provided accommodation and at The Blue Elephant an evening meal was enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. Whelan.

***When I was younger I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not; but my faculties are decaying now and soon I shall be so I cannot remember any but the things that never happened. It is sad to go to pieces like this but we all have to do it. —Mark Twain***

## The elusive noise on the deck

- adapted from an article by Marg Werden in the Norfolk Hub

For two summers now there has been an unusual noise on our deck that I was fairly certain was a Gray Tree frog, but I was never able to locate the frog to verify this belief. When I returned from vacation last week, I switched the water fountain on again, and as the water gushed out, much to my surprise, so did a small grayish-green frog. It had been resting in the spout of the pump.

None the worse for wear, it crawled out of the pool of water and I moved it, with some difficulty, to the plants in the garden down below. The difficulty arose because to get from the deck to the garden, I have to walk through the house. Just as I reached the basement door that leads to the garden, my little friend decided to jump out of the pail it was being carried in. My shrieks and laughter as I tried time and again to catch the frog before it got behind the furniture brought my sons running to see what my problem was. The shrieks were because the frog would occasionally jump at me and try to attach itself to my legs, which was a very strange feeling. The laughter was because both the frog and I were jumping around trying to avoid each other. Eventually, the frog was deposited in the garden, but, the next morning, it was back in the pool of water. After the first attempt to transport it, I decided to leave well enough alone.

Gray Tree frogs are one of 15 frogs and toads found in Ontario, which live in a variety of habitats throughout the province. Frogs are found worldwide, except for the Antarctic, and over almost two million years, have adapted to a variety of environments. Their sensitivity to pollution and other changes in those environments make them important indicators of the health of our world.

The Latin name for the Gray Tree frog, *Hyla versicolor*, describes one of this species' characteristics. It has the ability to change colour from greenish-gray to gray-black, depending on the colour of the substrate they are sitting on and becoming darker when the air is cooler. Its skin is mottled, bumpy and toad-like and it is often referred to as a



# Tree Frogs, and Christmas Flashbacks

tree toad. The inner thigh is bright orange or yellow, which is intended to frighten away predators when the Gray Tree frog jumps away from danger. As the name suggests, these frogs spend much of their time in trees or other tall vegetation, descending to the ground only to mate and spawn. The Gray Tree frog is a relatively tiny frog, only 3 to 6 cm in length.

The long limbs and toes of these frogs result in a superior grasping ability and the large toe discs at the end of each toe aid the frog in climbing up any surface including glass. (I'm not sure how effective it would have been climbing up my leg as both of us were too startled to find out!)

Tree frogs breed in marshes and other still water in the spring and lay their eggs late in the spring and early summer. After breeding in the spring, the adults move away from the water and into nearby trees. Tadpoles, which have brick red tails, hatch and mature quickly and have usually transformed into the adult stage by late August or early September. Gray Tree frogs hibernate under leaf litter, logs or rocks and survive freezing by increasing the amount of glucose in their organs. While the small amount of water that remains in the frog's body does freeze, the glucose does not.

Tree frogs live on a diet of caterpillars, beetles, flies, and other insects. They are "sit-and-wait" predators and use their long, quick, and very agile tongues to catch small prey that passes by during the night.

With that in mind, more tree frogs can move onto my deck any time they want and keep the mosquito population under control for me and I'll promise to try not to scream when one jumps on my leg again.

## Few potatoes and a love of glass ornaments

- adapted from an article by Donna McMillan in the Port Dover Maple Leaf

▼ Jim Cruise will never forget the Christmas of 1934 for two reasons. For this rural area, it was the worst year of the Depression because of a severe summer drought. And, it was the first time he saw and became interested in glass ornaments.

Dr. Cruise, who retired as CEO of the Royal Ontario Museum in 1985 and now lives near the Halfway corner, was raised on the family's 176 acre farm on the Lynn Valley Road at Marburg. In 1934, when he was nine, he remembers the lack of rain affecting the potato crop especially. "Instead of two great bins of potatoes stored at the foot of the basement steps, there was almost nothing," he said. "The potatoes were the size of marbles". They kept dairy cows, an old sow and workhorses. "We slaughtered two pigs in the fall for meat. And we sold cream rather than fluid milk so then we had skim milk to feed the hogs and veal calves," he said. "We were lucky on the farm. We didn't starve". But the shortage of potatoes was tough when farm families often ate them three times a day. Having



Seen in this mid-90s flashback photo with glass ornaments hanging from the ceiling of Jim Cruise's former farmhouse are (left to right) Doug and Betty Murton, Doris Landon and ▼ Arthur Loughton.

a good meal on Christmas Day was more important to his parents than gifts, Jim said. "We had two lovely roasted roosters of our own with cranberries". For gifts, Jim remembers that his Aunt Grace Cruise Hebb, a nurse married to a Nova Scotia doctor, would send a parcel for the four Cruise children. It would sit in the back parlour, Jim said, from its arrival in November until opening on Christmas morning. It always contained knitted gifts and sample toothbrushes and soaps from the doctor's office.

In 1934, Jim attended S.S. #8 Woodhouse (Marburg School) with eleven other children. Besides him, Betty Hammond (Mrs. Doug Murton) and Ruth Ryerse were in his class of three. Their teacher, Kay Lawrence, brought glass ornaments from home and decorated a real tree at the Marburg Hall for the school's Christmas concert. "I was fascinated by them," Jim said. "They were egg shell thin and made in Germany". Years later, when he had spending money, Jim began buying glass ornaments. "Decades later, when I was retired and entertaining at the farm, I got the idea to hang them from the beams of the ceiling in the livingroom", he said. Two hundred and fifty-two were systematically placed. And for those who attended one of the local Christmas House Tours in the 1990s, as this writer did, you will remember how magical it was to arrive at the brightly lit farmhouse and walk inside to a roaring fire and a magical array of glass ornaments. hanging from the ceiling of Jim's great room.

▼ **Helen Columbus had a wonderful, faithful cat. One day, when he was leaving the Community Centre, ▼ Jim Melville accidentally ran over the cat with his van. Jim went to Helen and said, "I'm terribly sorry about your cat. I'd like to replace him." "That's so nice of you!" said Helen, deeply touched. "So, how good are you at catching mice?"**

**The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but the fly comes close - Mark Twain**

# Christmas Flashbacks, and Save a Turtle

## Recalled family singalongs when far from home at Christmas

- adapted from an article in the Port Dover Maple Leaf  
Singing star Tia McGraff of Port Dover readily recalled a two-in-one Christmas memory. At Christmas-time in 2002 Tia was living in Nashville, Tennessee. One evening Tia attended a party with a number of singers, musicians and friends in the music business. Other guests included Canadian Carolyn Dawn Johnson, also Michelle Wright, and Patricia Conroy for a total of about 25 people.

Someone at the party suggested a singalong of Christmas music. A traditional song was begun by the group but quickly most of the voices faded.

Other songs would be started but soon after every start-up the words and tune petered out except those of Tia and Carolyn Dawn Johnson. The duo continued to sing out to everyone's pleasure ... and amazement.

That evening Tia was asked how was it she knew all those old songs. Tia said the guests asked the same question of Carolyn Dawn Johnson.

The answer was the same from both women. They had learned those familiar Christmas songs and music in their homes as youngsters.

Tia fondly recalled being at home during Christmas-time with her mother ▼Linda, father

▼John, sister Tammy and extended Hofgraff family members to sing popular seasonal songs and play the beloved music.

Tia commented, "I was away from home at the time and that incident made me realize, probably for the first time, how deep family traditions define who you are."

Tia McGraff released her latest CD on November 18



Tommy Parham and Tia McGraff

of Christmas music, entitled appropriately 'Listen! It's Christmas!!!'. The CD has seven traditional Christmas songs and two of Tia's original Christmas songs. Sound engineer for this CD was Ted Wiley of Port Dover. As a companion item her book 'Look, It's Christmas' is available locally at Stoney's Home Hardware on Main Street and at The Flower Shop on Queensway west in Simcoe.

Tia's album 'Diversity' broke into the top 70 on the official Americana music chart. Also, the local vocalist won the Hamilton Music Award "Best Country" recording of 2010.

Tia McGraff and her partner Tommy Parham are currently working on a new music album. In February they will be performing at the Folk Alliance in Memphis, Tennessee.

## Turtle hatching season

- adapted from an article by Marg Werden in the Norfolk Hub

My daughters were driving in the Lynn Valley area on the weekend and had to suddenly pull over to help a newly hatched turtle cross the road. Unfortunately, they weren't in time to save another one. September is the time of year that the eggs laid by female turtles in June begin to hatch and the young turtles head for the nearest water source – quite often requiring a move across a busy road.

Every June, female turtles come out of the water and, often at the risk of their own lives, begin a journey to find a suitable nesting site. This often involves moving across roads that have been built through their habitat and many of these turtles are killed by passing cars. As well, the roads themselves offer a great place to lay their eggs – the turtles are looking for a warm, sandy area to deposit their eggs



Newly hatched turtles are about the size of a loonie and one of the first hazards many face is crossing a busy road to reach water.

# Save a Turtle, and Sharing the Road

and because roads are often built higher than the surrounding area and the shoulders are composed of gravel and sand, they heat up quickly in the sunlight and they become favourable locations for the turtles' nests.

A couple of months later, when the eggs hatch and the young turtles emerge from the nest, they are in immediate danger from cars zooming past. Turtle hatchlings are about the same size as a loonie and are therefore difficult to see on the road. However, slowing down in areas where there are marshes located on either or both sides of the road will help drivers see these tiny newborns.

Even if these young reptiles make it back to the water, only a small fraction of young turtles reach adulthood, so it is important that as many as possible are able to reach the water, where they will hopefully survive the many dangers facing them and be able to lay eggs themselves, in about 12 to 15 years.

According to the U.S. environmental group PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation), turtles are disappearing from the planet faster than any other group of animal. Today, nearly 50% of turtle species are identified as threatened with extinction. However, it's not too late for our turtle heritage to be salvaged. North America has more endemic turtle species than anywhere on Earth; we live in a turtle biodiversity hotspot. Careful stewardship can preserve the rare species and keep 'common species common.'

With the number of hazards faced by first the eggs, which are often dug up and eaten by predators such as skunks and raccoons, and then the hatchlings, it is a wonder we still have turtles in our world. The question is "How much longer can they survive if we don't help them?" Do your part and watch for turtles and other animals trying to live in a habitat, that we have made inhospitable for them.

## Campaign reminds drivers to 'share the road' with bikes

- adapted from an article by Monte Sonnenberg in the Times-Reformer

Norfolk County has officially recognized the popularity of our lakeshore areas with cyclists by posting of signs reminding motorists to "Share the Road."

Twenty-five of the signs have been posted along the lakeshore from east of Port Dover to the Elgin County line. They're a reminder that a large and growing number of cyclists and, to a lesser extent, hikers, are using the Lakeshore Road for recreational purposes.

"It's something that's definitely needed as cycling becomes a way to get to work and a large recreational activity," Mayor ▼Dennis Travale said during a Share the Road news conference near Normandale on Monday. "It's important that we make motorists aware that, as cycling becomes more popular, they will have to share the road. Same road, same rules, same

rights."

Donna McMillan of Port Dover got the ball rolling as a member of the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit's Pathways for People committee.

A cyclist and a hiker as well as a motorist, McMillan has transplanted an idea in Norfolk that is already in place in Collingwood, Kitchener-Waterloo, Brant County, Europe and many communities in the United States.

"I see these signs and it makes me a little extra alert," McMillan said. "I hope it does for others as well."

The signs have been posted along the Lakeshore Road east of Port Dover, Front Road in the former Charlotteville Township and Norfolk Road 42 west of St. Williams. These routes are also popular with motorcycle enthusiasts.

Staff Sgt. Rick Tout of the Norfolk OPP says Share the Road is the law, not advice. He said police will press charges under the Highway Traffic Act if anyone – rider or motorist – isn't showing due respect to other users of public thoroughfares.

"This is an education to prevent something from happening," Tout said. "Predictable is preventable."

Joyce Flexman of Simcoe, chair of Norfolk's Pathways for People committee, says the county signage campaign is another step forward in making area roads safer for all users. Flexman cited the addition of paved shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians on recently rebuilt sections of Front Road and Norfolk Road 42 as further evidence that these areas are being put to new uses.

"You have all that extra equipment out there anyway," Flexman said. "Put down a little extra stuff."

## Vittoria hums on third weekend in November

On the third weekend in November, 1985, local artist Don Harris held an Art Show & Sale at the Vittoria & District Community Centre. He invited a few other area artists to participate in that first show. Within a few years, Don began to invite Norfolk artisans with other skills to join in – carvers, woodworkers, potters, etc. and attendance at the show gradually increased.

When Don moved to Whitefish Falls, he asked Vittoria woodturner ▼Ron Bezzo if he would take over responsibility for organizing and managing the show. Ron was still working full-time so he recruited Frank Livingstone to assist with the advertising for a few years. The two continued to broaden the appeal of the show by attracting not only different artists, but also quilters, photographers, stained glass artists, puppeteers and more.

Ron's philosophy has been to avoid bringing in artists whose work duplicates or competes with that of another vendor, so he has always striven to attract one-of-a-kind vendors. In fact, he now calls the show

## 3rd Weekend in November, and Historic Village



Photo by Barbara Simpson, Simcoe Reformer

▼ Ron Bezzo opened up his wood-turning studio to the public for the Norfolk Studio Tour, Ron has participated in the annual tour since its beginning eleven years ago. Ron has also been the driving force organizing and managing the annual Art & Woodcraft Show in Vittoria for nearly two decades. His unique woodturnings are truly on-of-a-kind.

Vittoria's One-of-a-kind Art & Woodcraft Show.

Ron recruited ▼ Joan Norman to apprentice as Organizer/Manager this year. Joan will take over the reins of the show in 2012, although Ron is likely to continue to participate as one of the vendors. Joan has already begun making plans for the 2012 show, the 28th annual.

About ten years after Don Harris' first Art Show and Sale, a small group of local entrepreneurs organized the first "Christmas in Vittoria" – a tour of local businesses and craftspeople – also on the third weekend of November.

In 2011, participants included well-known wildlife and landscape artist ▼ Vic Gibbons at his studio, the new Bear L Winery, local growers Kernal Peanuts and The Cider Keg, antiques and such at Grams Pantry, artisans and crafters at Plantation House and Potter's Creek Quilting and gifts for your pets at Royal Oak Feeds. There was also a tasty lunch available at the Vittoria Town Hall.

These two November activities in and around Vittoria continue to complement each other, as many of those who patronize the Art & Woodcraft show also patronize the "Christmas in Vittoria" locations, and vice-versa. Hopefully both events will grow and prosper as the economy rebounds from the present recession.

***Eat right, stay fit, die anyway.***

## Old village, new designation

- adapted from an article by Barbara Simpson in the Simcoe Reformer

The Godfather of Vittoria had been waiting for this day for a long time.

Standing on the shoulder of Charlotteville Road 4, ▼ Roger Cruickshank helped pull a blue tarp off new roadside signage marking his lifelong hometown. The quaint community of Vittoria, filled with Victorian homes and passionate residents, is now an official Historic Village of Norfolk County.

This designation has been a long time coming, said local residents gathered at the ceremony. Tourists already flock to check out the Victorian homes. Genealogical buffs can often trace their roots back to the 216-year-old village.

A pair of signs unveiled by the Norfolk Heritage Committee will now physically mark the village. The Historic Village signs rest at the western and eastern edges of the hamlet along Charlotteville Road 4.

"We think it's overdue," Roger said after the ceremony.

The 77-year-old has lived his whole life in Vittoria. His wife Twila has lived here 57 years, joining him in the village upon their marriage.

"She's just a newbie," Roger joked.

The Cruickshanks have become synonymous with the village. They have been heavily involved with The Vittoria & District Foundation and helped create a website for the hamlet. Roger even uses the term "godfather" in his email address.

Residents in the village are "very active," Roger added. The Foundation has financially contributed to the community centre and town hall over the years. Its heritage committee has also conducted heritage walking tours.

Vittoria has a "very strong historical foundation here," agreed Tanya Zajac, the county's heritage and culture coordinator.

In 1815, Tisdale's Mill was renamed Vittoria to commemorate a recent British victory in Vittoria, Spain, during the Napoleonic wars. The village's name, often mistaken for Victoria, has gone on to create confusion, added Ross Bateman, chair of the Norfolk Heritage Committee.

"I suspect most Canadians would think you had a speech impediment should you try to explain you were headed to Vittoria, when of course you must have meant Victoria," Ross joked during the ceremony.

Vittoria became the capital of the District of London for eight years. A new administrative centre with a courthouse and jail was built with a stone foundation and brick brought across Lake Erie.

Eventually, London was designated as the new capital. In its wake, Vittoria's Anglican Christ Church was built at the site of the former courthouse.

Vittoria is clearly deserving of a Historic Village

# Vittoria Designated, and 'Till-Death-do-us-part'



▼Twila and ▼Roger Cruickshank, co-Editors of "200 Years of Memories" pose with Ross Bateman, chair of the Norfolk Heritage Committee and Norfolk County Mayor ▼Dennis Travale under the freshly-unveiled Historic Village designation sign.

designation, Ross said after the ceremony. It visibly demonstrates its history through its well-maintained historic buildings and homes.

The village is the fourth to earn the special designation in Norfolk County. Round Plains, Clear Creek and Normandale have all earned Historic Village signage.

"The first two came as a plea from the residents because there were no signs at all," Ross said.

Vittoria too has been missing signage.

"This is the first official county signage for this village," he added.

Next year, the Norfolk Heritage Committee will mark Dover Mills with heritage signage.

## Together in Life and Death

- adapted from an article by Adela Talbot in the London Free Press

It was a tragic ending to a love story that began more than half a century ago.

Some say it was a classic 'till-death-do-us-part' tale.

A London couple in their 80s, struck a week previously by a car backing out of a driveway, have both died of their injuries – on the same day, July 5, after almost 50 years together.

Though neighbours of Ron Frank, 86, and ▼Bonnie Frank, 80, said they're devastated and shaken, some still said there was a silver lining to the couple's deaths Tuesday, because neither could have lived without the other.

"It was almost a blessing in disguise," said one neighbour. "It's really sad, but to think, for him to come back to an empty house, or for her to come back – no one wanted to see that."

Despite the loss, one friend and neighbour said the couple's condo community on Northumberland Rd. is

comforted because the couple, struck by a car while out for a walk, was together in death, as they were in life.

"They walked every day, hand in hand, to the mall and back, at about the same time," said Helen Allen who lives nearby.

"They were nice people, well-liked. He was an engineer, a first-class gentleman, and she was the feisty one."

The couple enjoyed life and travelled frequently, but the neighbourhood knew them because of their daily strolls, she added.

Another friend, who did not want to be named, said she believed the couple carried a bag containing their ID with them on walks, just in case anything should happen.

They may have been cautious, but they were like teenagers, full of life, she said.

"The neighbourhood is taking it hard. It's made all of us here – we're all seniors – nervous about driving."

The Franks didn't have any children and spent their senior years enjoying each other's company, said their nephew, David Delgado.

"They were fantastic. He was quiet, intellectual. She was a firecracker, but they complemented each other and liked doing things together," he said.

"They ate up life and will be missed."

With the couple's death, London's traffic death toll this year has risen to 7. That includes an 82-year-old man who recently died of his injuries after he was struck by a vehicle downtown.

"These were tragic circumstances. Drivers need to be careful when pulling in and out of driveways, and driving around neighbourhoods," said Sgt. Tom O'Brien of the London police.

In neighbourhoods where there are a lot of children and seniors, extra caution is needed.

"An 85-year-old individual will not have the same reflexes as a 35-year-old to recognize something dangerous and be able to react as quickly," O'Brien said.

"Everyone needs to be more careful about others on the road. I've been saying this for years," he said.

[Ed. note – Bonnie (Hutchinson) Frank grew up on the 6th Concession of Charlotteville (St. John's Road) about two miles north of Vittoria. She was a Founding Member of The Vittoria & District Foundation]

▼Tom Haskett was stopped by the police around 2 am after the Lions Club Turkey Raffle, and asked where he was going. He replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and its effects on the human body, as well as the health consequences of staying out late." "Really?" the officer asked skeptically. "Who's giving a lecture at this time of night?" Tom replied, "That would be my wife."

I used to think I was indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

# A Gift from the Heart of Vittoria

## A gift from the heart

-adapted from an article submitted by Jason Harnett

**\$10,000 DONATION TO 'ANGELS OF CARE'**

### CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

The true spirit of the holiday season shone brightly through on the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation's Angels of Care Christmas Tree Campaign with a generous gift of \$10,000 from the Vittoria & District Foundation.

The donation will go towards the purchase of a mobile critical care ultrasound which will be used in the Emergency Department and Intensive Care Unit at the hospital. "This is something we really wanted to do as a Foundation," said ▼Linda Vancso, Vittoria & District Foundation representative. "When the hospital announced that the Christmas campaign was to raise funds for this vital piece of point of care equipment, the Vittoria & District Foundation quickly opened its' pocket book. This equipment is appreciated by our community, greatly needed by the physicians and readily available for patient care right at the bedside," said Linda.

Over the past decade, the Vittoria & District Foundation have been proud supporters of the hospital, contributing over \$100,000 to various campaigns including a \$50,000 donation to the Family Fund Expansion Campaign. With this generous donation, The Vittoria & District Foundation will move from the Benefactor Wall, to the Hospital Foundation's Founder Wall.

"We are very fortunate to have such a great group of community minded individuals supporting our hospital," said Kelly Isfan, NGH President and CEO.

With 300 members strong, The Vittoria & District Foundation's mandate is to help provide and maintain facilities and programs that enhance the quality of life of residents living in Norfolk County.

Through their Booster Committee, funds are raised annually during a Spaghetti Dinner and Auction. "Last year we raised over \$30,000," said Linda," who extends



From the left, ▼Ernie Racz (V&DF Past Chair), Dr. Rosati, Kelly Isfan (NGH CEO), ▼Linda Vancso (V&DF Recording Secretary), ▼Tom Haskett (V&DF Boosters Chair), and ▼Gary Cooper (V&DF Chair).

an invitation to the community to enjoy this year's dinner coming up March 17, at the Vittoria & District Community Centre.

"We hope to share a complete summary of the Hospital Foundation's Holiday Christmas campaign later this month with our generous community" said Jason Harnett, NGH Communications Development Officer.

Thank you very much to the Vittoria & District Foundation! If your club or service group would like to learn how you can support the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation, please call 519-426-0130 Ext. 2456 or visit our website at [www.ngh.on.ca](http://www.ngh.on.ca) .

## A Gift from the Heart (of Our Community)

- contributed by ▼Linda Vancso

The Vittoria & District Foundation (V&DF) and its' hard working, dedicated group of volunteers, has compiled an impressive resume of accomplishments. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the many contributors to our annual fundraising auctions (and the enthusiastic bidders), the V&DF have been able to contribute over \$400,000. to many beneficiaries whose common goal is to improve our Norfolk County community parks, recreation, buildings, education and health care.

The advantages of this new Critical Care Ultrasound for use at NGH include:

- It improves accuracy of diagnosis of the critically ill patient
- It is fast and simple for the physician to use
- It increases patient safety
- It can be used during "off hours" when other diagnostic imaging is not readily available
- It can be used right at the patient's bedside and is portable so that it can be used in both the Emergency and Intensive Care Units.

Dr. Peter Nagrani, Internist at NGH notes that the Critical Care Ultrasound would "allow physicians to quickly visualize areas of the body that they have not been able to in the past. This choice is safer, faster and means fewer complications for our patients."

This is a vital tool for physicians in these critical care areas and will help them make faster and more accurate diagnosis when every second counts.

We take this opportunity to thank all of our V&DF volunteers, members, contributors and supporters for their ongoing support that makes these funds available to better our community.

We hope to see you at our Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Auction March 17, 2012 at the Vittoria and District Community Centre. **To get your name on the waiting list for tickets, call ▼Ginger at 519-426-0849.**

▼Don Sitter asked ▼Larry Stanley what was the best advice he ever had. Larry thought for awhile then replied, "Well, the best advice I ever had was to marry the girl I did." Don asked, "Well, who gave you that advice?" Larry sighed and replied, "she did."

# Another Hall-of-Famer, & "The Magnificent Seven"

## Stevens honoured by AHL

-adapted from an article by Jacob Robinson in the Simcoe Reformer

John Stevens isn't one to forget where he comes from.

The Turkey Point resident spent plenty of time honing his craft in the American Hockey League (AHL) as both a player and a coach before making it to "the show." Even though he's become a full-time fixture behind the bench of the Los Angeles Kings, Stevens fondly remembers his time riding the bus and winning Calder Cups.

Those memories will be front and centre at the end of the month when the 44-year-old is enshrined in the AHL Hall of Fame.

The league recently announced Stevens would be part of the 2012 induction class. He'll join an AHL Hall of Fame that features the likes of Johnny Bower and Eddie Shore as honoured members.

"Obviously when I got the call it was pretty exciting news for me and my family. I've got a lot of respect for the American Hockey League and found it a privilege to play and coach there as long as I did," said Stevens, who made stops in Hershey, Springfield and Philadelphia before eventually becoming a coach with the Phantoms. "I was fortunate enough to play there for a long time and to be held in this honour, I'm certainly grateful.

"It's a great league, it's a first class league."

Stevens participated in more than 1,400 AHL games as a player and coach and his 834 games played rank him ninth all time among defencemen. The 2009 inductee into the Norfolk County Sports Hall of Recognition is one of just 16 men to win a Calder Cup title as both a player and a coach.

"I was fortunate, I played in Hershey, Springfield and Philadelphia and I was able to win a championship with all three," Stevens explained. "That's pretty special to me. You always want to try and win at the level you're at and I was able to do that. Really the time in Philadelphia with Bob Clarke and Paul Holmgren was extremely good to me both as a player and (it) allowed me to get into coaching. I'm forever indebted to those guys and the championships are all special, but the two in Philadelphia really stand out."

Stevens played a handful of NHL games with both the Hartford Whalers and Philadelphia Flyers as well. After an eye injury forced him to hang up his skates in 1998, the native of Campbellton, N.B. quickly became an assistant and eventually head coach with the Flyers and is currently an assistant in Los Angeles. Stevens said his time in "The A" helped him achieve his goal of first playing and then coaching at the highest level.

"Young players are surprised when they get there just how good the league is. It's a high level of play, it's a great training ground for players to hone their skills and get the development they need to be ready to take

the step to the next level and it's no different for coaches," said Stevens, mentioning several NHL stars he coached as Phantoms include Mike Richards, Jeff Carter and Patrick Sharp.

"There's injuries that take place (in the NHL) throughout the year -- there's guys that come up from the American league all the time and fill in big holes and help NHL teams get valuable points to get where they need to be at the end of the year. It's a very, very important piece of the puzzle in getting through a long and arduous season."

Stevens, along with fellow 2012 Hall of Fame inductees Joe Crozier, Jack Gordon, and Zellig Toppazzini, will be officially enshrined during the AHL All-Star Classic on Jan. 30 -- which comes at the perfect time. The NHL will also be enjoying their all-star break.

"It actually works out really well," Stevens said. "It's actually in Atlantic City this year which is really close to where I've called home for the last 15 years, so it couldn't be more fitting for me."

## The Magnificent Seven

The active participants in the "Magnificent Seven" are the Vittoria Women's Institute (since 1938), The Vittoria Lions Club (since 1953), The Vittoria Firefighters Association (since 1956), the Thompson Memorial Park Committee (since 1973), the Vittoria Lamport Club Seniors (since 1976), The Vittoria Lioness Club (since 1979), and The Vittoria & District Foundation (since 1997). Each of these wonderful organizations has compiled an impressive history of community leadership, involvement and charitable giving.

The **Vittoria Women's Institute** was organized in 1938. The W.I. has a long history of community involvement and charitable giving. Support was given to our soldiers overseas during the Second World War in the form of homemade socks, blankets, sugar, jams and individual boxes to our local boys serving our country. The Vittoria Women's Institute's goals remain the same today as they were in the beginning, and the organization is very successful in meeting its objective of "personal growth" and "community action" as well as fulfilling its motto, "For Home and Country".

Since its beginnings in 1953, the **Vittoria Lions Club** has provided a backbone for our community. The club has spawned and sponsored many other organizations and spearheaded projects for the benefit of the disadvantaged and children of our community, and has been instrumental in maintaining Vittoria as a unique place in Norfolk. Though few in numbers, the members of the Vittoria Lions Club continue to contribute generously to an incredible number of charitable projects. I have seen the list of their contributions, and I am impressed. Their benevolence is considerably more far-reaching than most non-Lions realize.

# *“The Magnificent Seven”, & Letters to the Editor*

In 1956 the **Vittoria and District Volunteer Firefighters** were organized to provide fire protection to Vittoria, Port Ryerse, Fisher’s Glen, Normandale, Turkey Point, Walsh and the surrounding rural areas. They have performed their duties admirably and skillfully. The Firefighters Association and Auxiliary have also taken an interest in many other community projects over the years, and have provided a solid, active and committed presence in the community.

The **Thompson Memorial Park Committee** was organized in 1973, when the need for a better ball park was identified. The Committee made a commitment to provide and improve recreational facilities for people of all ages in the Vittoria district. They were able to build a good rapport and co-operative relationships with municipal councils and staff. This allowed the TMPC to broaden its mandate to include involvement with the Vittoria & District Community Centre as well as other recreational facilities and programs within the community.

The **Vittoria Lamport Club**, an organization for seniors, was first organized as the New Horizons Club in 1976. One of their immediate goals was to try to head off an anticipated proposal to demolish the Vittoria Town Hall. They were successful in saving the historic building, and took the leadership role in restoring, renovating and equipping it. In recent years, the Club has continued to maintain and upgrade the Town Hall, but has also participated in partnerships to refresh the VDCC as well as helping with many other community projects.

The **Vittoria Lioness Club** was born in 1979, when a group of Vittoria Lions’ wives decided to form a social club to help the Lions with some of their functions. They were originally called the Vittoria Lady Lions, and later the Vittoria Lionettes. In 1978 the club joined Lions International. and changed their name to the “Vittoria Lioness”. They too have a long history of charitable giving and community service and involvement.

The **Vittoria & District Foundation** evolved in 1997 from the legendary Vittoria Bicentennial, celebrated the previous year. As one of its supporters, you will know that it is a registered charity, and its objectives are to enhance the quality of life for residents in the district by assisting in the provision, maintenance and improvements of facilities and programs in and around Vittoria. The V&DF has made significant contributions to recreational, health, environmental, educational, heritage, youth and seniors projects in the community.

These seven groups have formed informal partnerships to help each other, and to provide and sustain facilities which enhance the quality of life for all residents of Vittoria and the surrounding District. We all owe the “Magnificent Seven” and their past and present members our appreciation and respect for all they have done.

For many years, Vittoria has been a wonderful place

to live. Our community has a long and illustrious history, of which we, its residents, have been justifiably proud. We have been blessed over the years to have benefitted from the outstanding vision, leadership and volunteer efforts of a host of amazing and diversely-talented individuals, plus our many community-building service organizations. In recent years, the “Magnificent Seven” service organizations have not only continued to meet their own individual club mandates, but have also worked together, co-operating cheerfully and enthusiastically to provide the many outstanding facilities and program opportunities which do make life better for residents of Vittoria and the surrounding district.

Together, “The Magnificent Seven” and that multitude of committed individual volunteers have contributed freely, generously and cheerfully of their time, energy and widely-varied skills to make our Vittoria community the envy of many larger, wealthier centres ... a community we could all take pride in. We sincerely hope they all continue the wonderful works they do.

## *Letters to the Editor*

We welcome letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor must be signed.

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of my mother, Lois to tell you how much she enjoys reading the Vittoria Booster on my computer. The In Memoriam and Birthday Sections and Anniversaries bring up many memories for her. Her birthday is December 1, 1929. I meant to send it in time for the Winter 2011 Booster but didn't make it in time. We have lived in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island since 1965 when we were transferred to the airbase here. My father Charles “Chuck Cronmiller from Port Rowan passed away in 2006. He was born in 1926. My mother's twin brother is Charlie Gustin who had been living in Ancaster.

I hope this reaches you in time to be published in the Summer 2012 Vittoria Booster.

Thank you and Good Health to you.

Brenda (Cronmiller) Hunter  
- brendahunter@shaw.ca

Dear Editor,

If possible would you include Joyce Harris' name to the Booster Milestone Birthday list. She turns 80 on December 1, 2011. Thanks, I know she enjoys reading the Booster and would be thrilled to see her name mentioned. Actually we all enjoy reading the Booster. Well done.

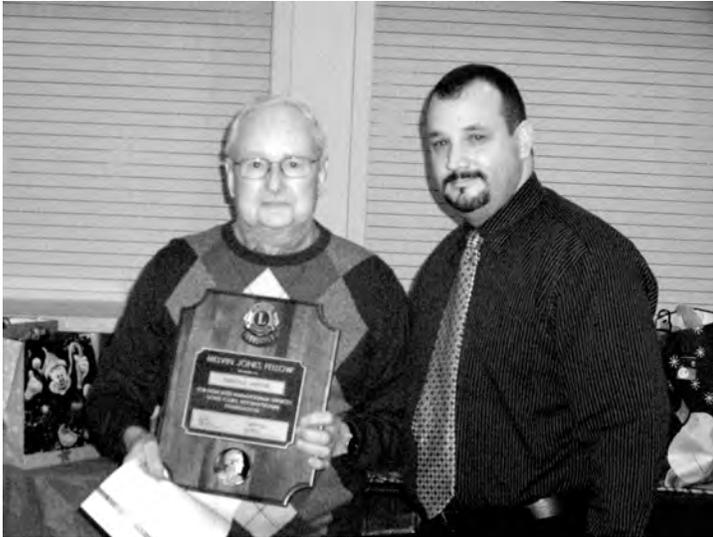
Brenda (Brown) Dawdy  
- bkdawdy@gmail.com

***The bidding was proceeding furiously and strong when Auctioneer Lyle Smith suddenly announced, “A gentleman in this room has lost a wallet containing ten thousand dollars. If returned, he will pay a reward of two thousand dollars.” There was a moment's silence, and then from the back of the room ▼ Jim Melville shouted, “Twenty-five hundred.”***

# Melvin Jones Fellowship, and a little Potpourri

Dear Editor,  
As Secretary of the Vittoria Lions club I would like to request this be placed in your paper. If more info is required please call. Thanks.

▼Don Sitter



Vittoria Lions member, Harold Jarvis, was presented with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award at the Vittoria Club's 2011 Christmas gathering recently. Harold was presented with a pin and a plaque by Lion President Jim Cochrane. This award is a humanitarian award and is the highest award a Lion can receive. Harold is now a Simcoe resident and past president of the Vittoria Lions Club. He is in his 50th year as a Lion with perfect attendance. Congratulations, Harold!



Vittoria Women's Institute members attending the unveiling of the new Vittoria Historic Village sign were, from the left, Marian Bezzo, Pat Barker, Jackie Chadwick and Gertrude Smith. (see story on pages 23 and 24)



Workmen riding a "cherry-picker" installed the incredibly expensive cedar-shake roofing to the Vittoria Town Hall.



Mama Turtle leaves an interesting trail in the loose sand as she deposits her eggs on the north side of Assel's Hill, east of the village. (see story on page 21)

***Moved by the church service, ▼Gary Cooper, reputed to be the richest man in Walsh, stood up and addressed the congregation. "I remember the day I earned my first dollar," he said. "That night I went to a church meeting and the speaker told us about his humanitarian work. I had only that single dollar, and I had to make a decision: Give it to his worthy cause or keep it. So I gave him all the money I had. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a millionaire today." As he sat down, ▼Linda Vancso, sitting at the back of the church shouted, "I dare you to do it again."***

***The Vittoria & District Foundation tries to present all folks who have a "Vittoria Connection" who are celebrating a Milestone Birthday (75, 80, 85, 90, etc.) or a Milestone Anniversary (40, 45, 50, etc.) with a framed congratulatory certificate. No doubt there are some in this category who we do not know about. If you know of someone we have missed, please tell us.***

***(We define a "Vittoria Connection" rather loosely as a present resident of the Vittoria district, or a former resident, or a member of The Vittoria & District Foundation, or a member of some other Vittoria district club or organization.)***

***Friends may come and go, but enemies tend to accumulate.***

# Wrapping it up, and a little Potpourri

## Wrapping it up!

We have been known to occasionally make mistakes. As time goes by, we seem to do that more and more often. We apologize for all errors and omissions.

Items in this newsletter are often excerpted or adapted from the local newspapers (Simcoe Reformer, Norfolk Hub, Port Dover Maple Leaf, Times-Reformer, Port Rowan Good News) and other publications, and we thank them and their writers.

Thank you to all contributors of photos, articles and other materials – **Brenda Dawdy, Sarah Doktor, John Donaldson, Brenda Hunter, Abbey McGuire, Donna McMillan, Daniel Pearce, Jacob Robinson, Dave Scott, Monica Scott, Barbara Simpson, Don Sitter, Monte Sonnenberg, Adela Talbot, Linda Vancso, Heather Walters, Marg Werden, Madaline Wilson, Frances Winter**; The London Free Press, The Norfolk Hub, The Port Dover Maple Leaf, The Port Rowan Good News, The Simcoe Reformer, The Times-Reformer, and the worldwide web.

Thank you to **John** and **Charlotte Donaldson** for stuffing and labelling the envelopes containing the newsletters, and for distributing a number of them. Thanks also to **Sheelagh McFarlane** and **Mary Rutherford** for stamping and mailing the Vittoria Booster envelopes.

Anyone who wishes to contribute an article for the next Vittoria Booster, please contact Roger. All contributed items welcome, even Letters to the Editor! Letters to the Editor must be signed.

The Vittoria & District Foundation  
P.O. Box 45 Vittoria, Ontario N0E 1W0  
519-426-0234 or godfather@kwic.com

## Important Message From The V&DF Executive

The Executive members of The Vittoria & District Foundation are all unpaid volunteers, including

Chairman – **Gary Cooper**

Vice-Chair – **Ernie Racz**

Treasurer – **Twila Cruickshank**

Assistant Treasurer – **Brenda Assel**

Secretary – **Roger Cruickshank**

Recording Secretary – **Linda Vancso**

Chair of the Boosters Committee – **Tom Haskett**

Chair of the Heritage Committee – **Don Fort**

Chair of the Membership Committee – **John Donaldson**

Website Co-ordinator – **Melynda Norman Lee**

Plus all Conveners of the Spaghetti Dinner & Auction.

Their workloads vary, but some work hundreds of hours each year to keep the Foundation moving forward.

We have three simple requests that all members can help with, to simplify the work for these volunteers.

1. One way is to fill out and return your own membership application forms, including whether or not an Income Tax receipt is needed. This has to be done for the 'paper trail' required. Thankfully, a great many members already do this. **Receipts for membership will be provided only if requested.**
2. The Auditors have also suggested that we ask all members to renew by cheque, or by credit or debit card, rather than cash, if possible. This too, will provide that easy-to-follow 'paper trail' the Auditors need.
3. When contributing one or more items to the Auction, please complete the enclosed Auction Contribution form giving a realistic estimated value for each item, and tell us whether or not you need a receipt, and whose name and address goes on it. Many contributors did that last year and it was really very helpful.

▼ **Lloyd Winter** was driving on Highway 24 South when he looked out his truck window and saw a three-legged chicken running parallel to his truck. The truck was going fifty miles per hour, but somehow the chicken was keeping up. When Lloyd sped up to sixty, the chicken sped up with him. Absolutely amazed by what he saw, Lloyd started going seventy, but there was the chicken, still beside him, and not even breathing hard. Lloyd was about to speed up yet again when the chicken suddenly took off into a field and disappeared in a cloud of dust. Dazed with astonishment, Lloyd immediately slowed down and pulled over to the side of the road. He found ▼ **Ernie Racz** out standing in his field and said, "You won't believe what happened to me. I was doing seventy on this road and a three-legged chicken passed me like I was standing still!" "Oh, yeah, I know all about it," said Ernie. "That chicken belongs to me. You see, there's three of us—myself, my wife Nancy, and our son Kyle, and whenever Nancy serves chicken for dinner, we all want a drumstick. The only solution we could think of was to start raising three-legged chickens." "That's remarkable", said Lloyd, "How do they taste?" "I don't really know", said Ernie, "We've never been able to catch one."

When he lived in Toronto several years ago, ▼ **Raymond Danley** and a friend were listening to the radio when they heard the weather report: "A snowstorm is on its way. You must park your cars on the odd-numbered side of the street to make room for the plow." So Raymond got up and obediently moved his car. Three days later, the same thing. "Park your cars on the even-numbered side of the street," blared the radio. Again Raymond got up and did what he was told. Three days later: "There will be 30 centimetres of snow today. Park your cars on the ..." and then the power went off. "What should I do?" a confused Raymond asked his friend. "This time," she said, "why don't you just leave the car in the garage?"

When **Doug Trafford** was heavily involved in the antique business, he decided to hold a week-long yard sale. An antiques collector from the city stopped in and immediately noticed a cat on the lawn out front, licking milk from a saucer. The man immediately realized the saucer was very old and very valuable. He approached Doug with an uninterested look and asked to buy the cat. "I'm sorry," Doug said, "but the cat is not for sale." "Please," the collector urged, "I need a cat around my house to catch mice." "I'll give you 20 dollars." "The cat is yours," Doug said, taking the money. "Listen," the collector added, "I wonder if you could throw in that old saucer as well. The cat seems to like it, and I'd hate to have him give it up." "Sorry," Doug answered, "but that saucer brings me luck. Why, just this week I've sold 68 cats!"

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.  
(Winston Churchill)

There are three ways to get things done.  
1) Do it yourself. 2) Ask someone else to do it.  
3) Ask your teenagers not to do it.