

*Chapter VIII*

**SERVING THE  
COMMUNITY**

## CHAPTER VIII

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

#### *Service Clubs and Community Organizations*

##### Alpha Delta Kappa

**A**lpha Delta Kappa is an international honorary sorority for women educators. Its purposes are: (1) to give recognition to outstanding women educators who are actively engaged in teaching, administration or some specialized field of the teaching profession; (2) to build a fraternal fellowship which will add to their effectiveness in the promotion of excellence in education; (3) to promote high standards in education and to assist in strengthening the status and advancement of the teaching profession; (4) to promote educational and charitable projects and activities, to sponsor scholarships, to further and maintain worthy standards in the field of education and to cooperate with worthy community programs relating to education and charities; (5) to contribute to world understanding, goodwill and peace through an international fellowship of women educators united in the ideals of education.

The IOTA chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa was organized in Amherstburg in April, 1968. Over the past 28 years, IOTA members have contributed to many organizations and schools in Essex County. The practice of donating a book to the school of the retiring IOTA president was initiated and a trophy and a bursary are given each year by two members of IOTA to General Amherst

students in the name of the sorority. An annual donation of large print reading material and many days of volunteer work are also ongoing projects.

As members look back with joy on the fellowship and accomplishments, they are also saddened by the loss of Gloria Sibue and Nellie Golden, whose names are now in the Omega chapter. They also look forward to the future, ever mindful of the purposes of Alpha Delta Kappa.

##### Charter Members, IOTA Chapter Alpha Delta Kappa

Elizabeth K. Bezaire	Jean Litster
Virginia Bondy	Margaret O. Lozon
Veronica L. Coyle	Margaret A. McReady
Alva Golden	Nora M. McLaren
Nellie E. Golden	Pauline V. Morin
Gloria Sibue	Margaret Squire

##### Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Food Bank

The AAM Food Bank began in November, 1986 with the support of all the churches and service groups in the area. It is now open three days a week - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - and since 1986 has been assisted by volunteers from the various support groups.

The food bank first operated from the parish centre of St. John the Baptist Church, later

moving to the Fort Malden Mall. It then relocated to a room at Amherst Taxi and found a permanent home in 1991 in the Masonic Temple on Murray Street.

The purpose of the food bank is to help people through difficult times. No one has ever been refused help but once-a-month visits are preferred. The area schools and local organizations play a prominent role in the collection of canned goods, non-perishable supplies and funds with which additional perishable items are purchased as needed.

The generosity of everyone involved, in particular the Masonic Lodge, has been essential to the success of this program.

##### Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Social Planning Council

The Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Social Planning Council has been in existence for over two decades. In the summer of 1973 a grassroots movement of concerned citizens brought local access to social services to the Tri-Community. That year the Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden Community Services Committee, as the volunteer council was first known, opened the AAM Community Services Centre in the former medical centre, 198 Sandwich Street South. The Social Planning Council has overseen the operation of the centre since its inception.

The council's original members included Dr. John Greenaway, Rev. John Burkhart, David Goldman, Jean (Zin) Fee, Ed Hurst, J. Jeffrey, Anna Roberts, Murray J. Smith (Administrator of the Social and Family Services Department of the County of Essex) and Darwin Wismer. Dr. John Greenaway was the first chairman; the position is currently held by Joan (Woof) Jones.

Frances Stone was hired as receptionist-secretary in the summer of 1973. Fran's title altered as her duties increased; she became coordinator of the centre and finally executive director, helping the centre through its formative years and several service expansions.

In May, 1976 the Social Planning Council was incorporated as a non-share corporation in the Province of Ontario. It became a member agency of the United Way of Windsor-Essex County in 1981.

In November, 1977 the centre relocated to 272 Sandwich Street South, a building known by some as the former Sutton Funeral Home and by others as the Teeter building. As its list of available services grew, its area of occupancy became more extensive. At present, the centre accommodates the following agencies and programs: Catholic Family Services, Essex County Crisis Intervention Services, Hiatus House, Seagram's Employee Assistance Program, Sexual Assault Crisis Centre, some of the programs of Essex County Social and Family Services, Housing Information Services, Legal Assistance of Windsor, Ontario Ministry of Community & Social Services Income Maintenance, Young Offender Services and the Provincial Probation and Parole Service.

In 1983 the Social Planning Council inaugurated the AAM Meals on Wheels Program, first using the kitchen of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 157, for meal preparation. The coordinator of the new Meals On Wheels program was Orla Ducharme and the cook was Shirley Allen. When the program outgrew the Legion kitchen, graciously provided for over five years, it relocated to its own premises on Murray Street. Volunteer drivers and deliverers have always been the backbone of Meals On Wheels, reliably taking the hot, nourishing full-course dinners to Tri-Community recipients for the noon hour five days a week. A limited Meals On Wheels service to the Harrow-Colchester

South area commenced in January, 1995. Current Meals on Wheels staff are coordinator Donna Cauchi, cook-supervisor Irene Salmon and cook's helper Kathy Ferguson.

In 1988 the AAM Care-A-Van service for seniors and the disabled was instituted. Initially the Social Planning Council agreed to operate the new transportation service on behalf of the Town of Amherstburg. Local service clubs had provided the funds to purchase the white and blue vehicle equipped with a wheelchair lift. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation was responsible for ongoing funding of the program. Donna Cauchi was the Care-A-Van coordinator and Harold Major was the first van driver. Eventually the Social Planning Council took over management of the program. Both the Care-A-Van and Meals On Wheels are now 70% funded by the Ontario Ministry of Health's Long Term Care Division. Donna continues to coordinate the service and the current driver is Linda Vergunst.

Fran Stone retired in the summer of 1989 and Helen Hayward became executive director of the centre. Helen has ably met the issues of the 1990s - fiscal restraint, automation and the Information Highway and the consideration of individual and group human rights. She has cultivated essential liaisons with government bodies and social service agencies in Windsor and Essex County by serving on strategic committees and by being present when and where decision makers meet.

The centre is an accredited member of the Association of Community Information Centres in Ontario (ACICO). It provides data for clients from its *Online Ontario* database, as well as free print material on a variety of subjects. It also runs a weekly column of questions and answers in the *Amherstburg Echo*, courtesy of *Echo* general manager/editor Jack Kindred, and as space permits in the *Harrow News*, thanks to publisher Gary MacKenzie. Shirley Burkhardt is the information officer.

The 1995-96 executive of the Social Planning Council was composed of chairperson Joan Jones; vice-chair Mary (Hall) Paling; treasurer John Ropac; secretary Marjorie Higgins; directors Pam Badiuk, Lydia and Robert Bailey, Maynard Hurst, Norma Nohavicka and Olga Semeniuk; and members Elizabeth Buis, Beryl and Hazen Price, Liza Price and Ruth Thrasher.

### Amherstburg, Malden and Anderdon Sportsmen Association

The first official sporting group in Amherstburg was a branch of the Essex County Sportsmen Association (ECSA) founded in 1930,<sup>1</sup> an umbrella organization with branches in Amherstburg, Belle River, Comber, Cottam, Essex, Harrow, Kingsville, Leamington, Puce, Tecumseh, Windsor and Woodslee. The McGregor branch was added April 29, 1947. Each branch sent four representatives to ECSA meetings, which were often held at the Aberdeen Hotel in Essex. Membership was open to all sportsmen who paid one dollar per annum. The Rules and Regulations of ECSA at the time were: 1) to restock, protect and shelter all game in Essex County; 2) to make necessary recommendations to the Department of Game and Fisheries for improvement of big game conditions in Northern Ontario; 3) to have open seasons when deemed necessary by this association; 4) to promote fellowship among sportsmen; 5) to assist in the enforcement of game laws; and 6) to destroy all enemies of game, such as crows, hawks and field cats.

The ECSA and its branches continued under this informal format until the mid-1940s. A petition to incorporate was made November 5, 1945 and the Letters Patent for the ECSA were granted March 7, 1946 through the permission of the Provincial Secretary at the time, George

Harrison Dundar. The original Letters Patent were issued to Alvin Neuman, a Gosfield North farmer; William Volney Boutellier, town clerk of Tecumseh; Edward Walter Grondin, an Amherstburg barber; and Ernest Chauvin, a Maidstone Township insurance agent.

The *Amherstburg Echo* of October 3, 1930 describes the first meeting of the Amherstburg branch of the ECSA. Officers were president B.L. Shillington, secretary-treasurer Charles Bennett and directors Frank Miernickie and Charles Sawyer. The Amherstburg branch continued to operate as part of the ECSA until the late 1940s. The minutes of an ECSA meeting held November 11, 1947 at the Aberdeen Hotel refer to the Amherstburg branch's intention to withdraw from the ECSA. Whether the branch did separate or continued to operate within the ECSA is not clear.

On June 29, 1964 the Amherstburg branch officially became the Amherstburg, Malden and Anderdon Sportsmen Association and received its own Letters Patent as a non-profit corporation. Its first directors were Eugene Ouellette, Walter Mayville, Donald Brooks, Wilson Ransome, John Mayville, Lorne Waters, Bob Meloche, Dick Kelly, Joe LaButte, Bill Laesser and Art Meloche. The association acquired a parcel of land on which it hoped to build a clubhouse. However, this property (the southeast quarter of Lot 23, Concession 2, north side of Pike Road - approximately 9.9 acres of vacant land) was later sold to Albert and Marie Cote in June of 1974. During this period the association held its monthly meetings at various establishments in the area, including Duffy's Tavern, the Anderdon Tavern and the Lakeshore Tavern.

In 1977 the Amherstburg Archery Club was instituted as part of the AMA Sportsmen Association. In March, 1982 the association purchased from Earl Hutchins the parcel of land on which the current facility sits (part of Lot 21, Lowes Side Road). Construction on the clubhouse began in late 1985. There have been additions and modifications to the original building, the latest being the closing in of the back porch in 1994. The first meeting in the new clubhouse took place in February, 1986.

On November 25, 1986 the Ladies' Auxiliary, known as the Sportettes, was formed. They have been a major contributor to the club in its present form.

In June, 1986 the AMA Sportsmen Association became a major contributor, along with the *Amherstburg Echo*, to the annual walleye tournament in our area. The association also assists the Ministry of Natural Resources in the monitoring of fish and game in Essex County and participates in a pheasant release program and other wildlife projects. There are also many in-club activities for members.

The AMA Sportsmen Association continues with a strong membership ranging from 110 to 135 sportsmen and meets on the first Tuesday of each month at its clubhouse facilities at 468 Lowes Side Road. Its mandate includes many of the items in the original ECSA Rules and Regulations, which play an important role in guiding its present course.

### Anderdon - Malden Women's Institute

Adelaide Hoodless was a 'woman with a vision' whose name is on the honour roll of women's organizations in Canada and around the world. After the death of her son due to impure milk, Mrs. Hoodless spoke at a Farmer's Institute meeting of the need for a Women's Institute, which was born on February 19, 1897. Its object is "to promote that knowledge of Household Science which shall

### For Home and Country

What is more sacred than our home? What is more beautiful than our country?  
 To make the thoughts we think, the words we speak and the acts we do,  
 An influence for good in our homes and among our fellow citizens.  
 Long may our Institute stand, to bless the home and native land,  
 Aye, stand undaunted in its might for Home and Country, God and right.

### Women's Institute motto.

lead to improvement in household architecture with special attention to home sanitation, to a better understanding of economic and the hygienic value of foods and fuel, and a more scientific care of children with a view of raising the general standard of the health of our people."

The Anderdon Women's Institute began its monthly meetings on October 28, 1928 at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Pettypiece and was in existence for sixty-four years. Mrs. Frank Thrasher was its first president. The charter membership of seven women grew to twenty-four within a year. The Institute took part in many community activities, such as Anderdon Festivals, and was famous for chicken and turkey dinners and card parties.

The Malden Women's Institute was organized on May 23, 1918 in the home of Mrs. Hartson Bratt with enough members to form an executive. Mrs. Nathan Brush was its first president.

Each Institute has compiled a Tweedsmuir history of its township, formed 4-H clubs and made items from Essex County tartan. Resolutions have frequently been put forth for such things as stop signs at railway crossings, restoring local news on CBET television and 'Best Before' dates on all food products. On April 4, 1990 the two branches amalgamated to form the Anderdon-Malden Women's Institute with Mrs. Marvin Grant as its first president. Mrs. Audrey Wood holds that position today.

### Beta Sigma Phi

Beta Sigma Phi is an international organization founded in Kansas in the 1930s. The seven original members devised a program which stressed life, learning and friendship with a strong commitment to service for others.

The Amherstburg chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was formed in 1948 to provide a club in which young women could develop socially, culturally and intellectually. The first executive was made up of president Jeanne Thrasher, vice-president Geraldine Elliott, recording secretary Liisa Ranta, corresponding secretary Lois Ann Kemp and treasurer Mary Braun.

Internationally Beta Sigma Phi has donated more than half a million dollars to charities and medical research. The Amherstburg chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has held many events over the years, including Art by the River, bazaars and their annual Mid-Winter Whirl. They have also provided scholarships to area high school students continuing to post-secondary education. The 1995-96 executive consisted of president Carolyn Thrasher, vice-president Pat Beneteau, treasurer Marie Sallows and corresponding secretary Lilian Schisler.



Beta Sigma Phi sorority charter night, fall of 1948.

**Front Row** (left to right): Bobette Paisley, Joan Reaume, Mary Braun, Betty Renaud, Mary Catherine Renaud, Catherine Beaudoin.

**Second Row:** Geraldine Iler Elliott, Margaret Parsons, Mildred Hoag, Alexandra Warren, Delight Martin, Lois Kemp, Beverly Thrasher.

**Back Row:** Marilyn Kendall, Antoinette Rosati, Jeanne Thrasher, Carolyn Amlin, Aileen Briscoe, Madeline Cantelon, Lillian Cantelon, Dorothy Martin, Liisa Ranta, Sheila Dark, Mary Webster, Sheila Mitchell, Ardis Brandie.

### Block Parent Program

The Block Parent Program began in 1968 as an idea in the minds of a few London, Ontario residents concerned with the safety and protection of the children of that city from crimes being perpetrated against them - abduction, molestation, even murder.

After hearing about this program at a Policy Advisory meeting in Essex, Jan Radigan felt it was a worthy program and wanted to see it come to the Tri-Community. In October of 1981, with the help of many volunteers and a few very important key people, the program was finally set in motion with 149 Block Parents.

In just one year the program grew to 275 safe haven homes. This would not have been possible without monetary support from the Rotary Club, Kinsmen Club, Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus, as well as Allied Chemical, SKD and Amherst Quarries.

The first committee consisted of Jan Radigan, chairperson; Sue White, co-chair and education coordinator; Kathy Iacovone, secretary; Bev Bondy, treasurer; Barry Evans, public relations; John Crangle,



Jan Radigan, first chairperson of Amherstburg Block Parents, 1981.

sign coordinator; Debbie Barrette, telephone convenor; and police officers Gene Mechefski and Gord Pare, who were responsible for helping to educate children in the schools.

In 1983 the Tri-Community purchased and installed signs at town entrance points to deter child abusers with a warning: "This is a Block Parent Community." Many times over the years the 'Blue Pigs', a musical group made up of certified crime prevention officers from Detroit, have performed their music which promotes the understanding and practice of crime prevention as well as a 'Say No to Drugs' theme.

Block Parents have taken part in a blood clinic in conjunction with the Kinsmen and almost since the beginning have joined in a 'fingerprinting blitz' where area youngsters are fingerprinted in the event they should ever disappear. Many generous volunteers have come and gone since 1981 but the program is still alive under the watchful eye of chairperson Sue Weston.

### Boy Scouts

The origin of the Boy Scout movement can best be described in the words of its founder, General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, as found in the fifth annual report of the Boy Scouts Association:

*The idea of training boys in Scouting dates back to 1884 when I applied it to recruits in my regiment and, in revised form, from 1897 to young soldiers in the 5th Dragoon Guards. I had then found the good of developing the man's character before putting upon him the routine of training of drill at that time considered necessary for a soldier.*

*When I came home in 1902 I found my book 'Aids to Scouting' being used in schools (and by boys' organizations, etc.) for teaching boys. As this had been written for soldiers, it was unsuitable for boys and in 1908 I rewrote it... The movement grew up of itself and assumed such proportions that in 1910 I gave up the Army and took charge of it...<sup>2</sup>*

That same year the Boy Scouts were organized in Amherstburg. A meeting was held in October, 1910 at the parsonage of Wesley Methodist Church, with the following being chosen as the group's first officers: president Rev. A.E.M. Thomson; vice-presidents Dr. R.H. Abbott, Rev. Thomas Nattress, Gabriel Fuma and J.E. Parke; secretary E.H. Pearce; treasurer George Jamieson; and scout masters E.F. Carre, B.P. Overholt, W. Sinnett, L.A. Thomson, George Jamieson and P. Clark.<sup>3</sup>

It was decided to hold the first public meeting the following week at the bandstand in the west town park. Every boy in town between the ages of eleven and eighteen was invited to participate, as well as any other interested citizens. Two weeks later two patrols under Scout Master Overholt turned out for drill at the park. The 'Ravens', under the guidance of Patrol Leader Austin Deneau and Corporal Leo Grondin, were: Chester Drouillard, Edward Bailey, Teddy Wanless, Percy Thrasher, Edward Pearce and Wilfred Forhan. The 'Hyenas', led by Patrol Leader Earl Abbott and Corporal Grant Duff, were: Charles Aikman, Bert Abbott, Howard Pettypiece, Stuart Hackett and Ray Martin.<sup>4</sup>

In 1914 the First World War intervened and scouting in Amherstburg was temporarily shelved. However, when Brunner Mond Canada Ltd. entered the local scene a new Scout organization was established in 1920. This one also was short-lived.

An effort was made in 1927 to revive the Boy Scout movement in Amherstburg but there is no evidence that anything developed. Finally, in 1936 under the auspices of the Boys' Work Committee of the Amherstburg Rotary Club a Scout group committee, consisting of Mayor J.E. McGee, Devere Thrasher, Harvey Hamilton and Rotarians Gordon L. Duffin, Louis J. Fox and F. Ted Pickering, was formed with Rev. Enos Hart as leader.<sup>5</sup>

In 1996 Scouts Canada 2nd Amherstburg remains a viable organization with 115 members. Harvey Mickle is chairperson; Norm Potter, treasurer; Linda Scaife, co-chair; Mike Weaver, sponsor rep.; and Kristine Bezaire, secretary.<sup>6</sup> Their mandate and purpose is "to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities through the application of our principles and practices."<sup>7</sup>

### Cancer Society

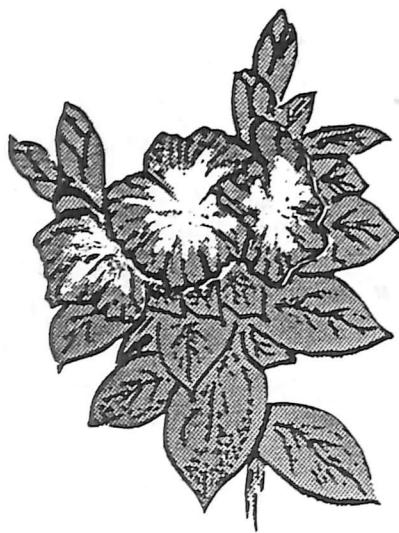
The Amherstburg branch of the Cancer Society was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kenyon, whose initial efforts concentrated on the transportation of and the provision of dressings to patients. A committee was later formed for campaign work, education and services to patients.

By 1960, activities had outgrown the Kenyon residence next to the PUC building and an office was opened on the second floor of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce building. The group became a branch of Windsor's Massey Unit, whose president was Hector Lucier of McGregor. When Mrs. Kenyon became ill, Mary Hall was appointed chairperson of the branch. Volunteers met once a week to make dressings for local patients and for the Cancer Clinic in Windsor.

A reorganization in 1973 created the Wessex Unit from branches in Amherstburg, Harrow, McGregor and LaSalle, with Reg Cozens as the first president and Roberta Fox as secretary. The unit was so successful in meeting its campaign goal (150%) in 1973 that it won province-wide recognition. The success was assisted by the Lions Club Kick-Off Dinner - chaired by Ron Cooper and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kilgallin - and the Rotary Club, which sponsored the charter night and made new office space available in the Park House Museum. More recognition came with the formation of the first 'student section' in honour of a high school teacher who died of cancer, the Gloria Sibue Section of General Amherst High School. Honour soon came to the students when they organized during the national campaign a 'Send a Mouse to College' program.

When the Park House Museum required more space, the office was moved to the Federal Building on Richmond Street and Lydia Ruston and Nancy Shaw successively became the next secretaries. Committees worked diligently and won many awards but by 1994 the competition for charitable donations became so intense that the units had to be consolidated back into the Windsor unit, from which the Cancer Society continues its work. The time and generous efforts of all volunteers are greatly appreciated.

## Fort Malden Horticultural Society



In a letter to the editor of the *Amherstburg Echo* on April 27, 1906 Dr. Oscar Teeter proposed that a horticultural society be formed in Amherstburg as "there are throughout the town innumerable plots of ground...which could be vastly improved by making them into nice lawns or flower gardens..." A meeting was scheduled for May 1, 1906, at which Dr. Teeter outlined the purposes of such an organization: improving the appearance of the town, purchasing bulbs and seeds at wholesale rates and increasing the "enjoyment of life" of Amherstburg's citizens. Funds would be raised through a \$1 per family membership fee as well as grants from the government and town council. Mayor Stokes, Joseph Johnson, Charles Cuddy, D.H. Terry, Rev. Thomas Nattress, Chief Laporte, William Borrowman and J.D. Burk, all prominent citizens, were among those present at the meeting.<sup>8</sup> By the middle of May, 1906 the Horticultural Society had 60 members. Dr. Teeter was its first president; Rev. Nattress was secretary-treasurer.<sup>9</sup>

By the 1930s, the Amherstburg Horticultural Society had a membership of over three hundred.<sup>10</sup> The first flower show was held in August, 1931 and was a huge success. The following year, one thousand trees were planted on vacant lots on Alma Street and flowerbeds were planted at the Fort Malden Gas Station, Town Hall, Amherstburg Public School and the library.

Like many other organizations, the Horticultural Society went into a state of remission during the years of World War II but was revived in the early 1950s as the Fort Malden Horticultural Society. Shrubs and crabapple trees were planted along the boulevard of Laird Avenue and other species were planted around the perimeter of Austin 'Toddy' Jones Park on North Street. Jean Sullivan introduced a 'Junior Gardens' program during the 1950s, which continues today.

Other Horticultural Society projects include the construction of a huge stone planter on Dalhousie Street at the foot of Richmond, which was removed in the 1980s to make room for a parking lot for the King's Navy Yard Park. The society also helped Richmond Terrace Nursing Home to obtain a 'Gro-Lux' light for the patients' indoor garden.

Currently, the Fort Malden Horticultural Society plants and tends the flowerbeds around the Amherstburg Recreation and Cultural Centre on Victoria Street and Seagram's Park north of town. Begun in 1983, this park has become a horticultural showplace with rhododendrons, azaleas and other flowering plants and trees. Through the guidance and enthusiasm of longtime member Bob Sutherland, rhododendrons and azaleas were also introduced into the King's Navy Yard Park in 1984.<sup>11</sup>

The Horticultural Society continues to hold the Rose Show which has been an annual event for twenty-five years or more. Their main fund raising event is the Garden Tour Weekend in May, which attracts hundreds of visitors to Amherstburg.

## Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada

"I promise to do my best, to be true to myself, my God/Faith and Canada. I will help others and accept the Guiding Law."

-the Girl Guide promise



Girl Guides  
of Canada  
Guides  
du Canada

The Amherstburg District Girl Guides of Canada was formed on October 3, 1927 under the guidance of president Mrs. J.H. Harding and secretary Mrs. W.S. Wigle. The *Amherstburg Echo* on October 7th of that year described the aim of the organization as,

*develop[ing] good citizenship among girls by forming their character, training them in habits of usefulness, obedience and self-reliance; by games and activities which really appeal to the girl; teaching them services useful to the public and handicrafts useful to themselves; promoting their physical development; making them capable of keeping good homes and of bringing up good children. Its desire is to cooperate with educational and other bodies working to this end.*

The 1st Amherstburg Guides (ages 9-12) was recorded November 22, 1948 and has 10 members at present. The 2nd Amherstburg Guides was first recorded June 1, 1962 and there are currently 21 girls involved.

The 1st Amherstburg Brownies (ages 7-8) was first recorded on February 10, 1950; the 2nd Amherstburg Brownies on May 3, 1955; and the 3rd Amherstburg Brownies was established April 4, 1972. The 2nd pack at present has no members, but the 1st and 3rd packs have 15 and 22 members, respectively.



Girl Guides 'Boo Bear' campaign, March 1995.

The 1st Amherstburg Pathfinders (ages 12-15) was established September 3, 1979 and at present has 6 members.

The 1st Amherstburg Sparks (ages 5-6) was established September 8, 1991 and currently has 15 members. In November 1993 the 2nd Amherstburg Sparks was formed, with 14 girls involved in 1996.

There are currently 18 volunteer leaders among the Amherstburg Girl Guides of Canada groups.

The Girl Guides of Canada has changed along with the changing times. By the 1990s, its mission statement had been modified to reflect the modern world. The Policy, Organization and Rules Book of 1993 states,

*The aim of the Girl Guides of Canada - Guides du Canada is to help girls and young women become responsible citizens, able to give leadership and service to the community, whether local, national or global. Guiding builds resourcefulness, a sense of responsibility, a concern for others, leadership skills, and friendships. Adult leadership is given voluntarily by women who, because of their love and concern for children and their commitment to the ideals of guiding, provide examples for girls to follow. They implement and enrich the program through enjoyable learning activities such as games, songs, crafts, outings, service projects, camping /etc.].*

The 1995-96 executive of the Amherstburg District Girl Guides of Canada included commissioner JoAnne Tracey, deputy commissioner Sue Prieur, secretary Michelle Wilson and treasurer Nicole Pellow.

### Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club was organized in October, 1973 by Virginia Broughton. Originally held at the Christ Church Parish House, it was a place where senior citizens could come to converse, play cards, make crafts and have a cup of tea. On December 19, 1973 the club held its first Christmas dinner, the food for which was donated by local businesses.

The club's original executive committee was composed of president Virginia Broughton, vice-president Eileen Wilson, Austin Jones, Fred Risk, Ida Bebbington, Jack Jones Sr., Zandra Warren, Anne Newman, Bernadette Ong, Irma Lenson, Rose Kelly and Mildred Burns.

The club later moved to the Scout Hall. At first, members would bring their own lunches. As membership grew, the club offered sandwiches, crackers and cookies. Eventually hot meals were served. Golden Age Club members who lived between Edgewater and Amherst Pointe had the use of the Lions bus, driven by Russel Hurst.

When the present Amherstburg Recreation and Cultural Centre was completed in 1978, the Golden Age Club relocated to this facility, where it is still active today under the current executive committee: president Lois England, first vice-president Bernice Lewis, second vice-president Waneta Nye and past president Leo Labombard.

### Goodfellows

As early as 1912, Christmas baskets for needy families were being prepared by local organizations.<sup>12</sup> That year, the Amherstburg Literary Club, led by Mrs. A. Hackett, Mrs. Teeter, Mrs. F.M. Falls and Mrs. Marsh asked for donations towards their charity work.

A Goodfellows organization was active in Amherstburg by 1926. The committee, including Miss Lovegrove and Si Bertrand, collected donations of food, clothing and toys "for children of Amherstburg who might otherwise be deprived of these Christmas joys."<sup>13</sup> It was later reported that the committee's work was "eminently successful [that] year," with dozens of citizens and businesses making donations towards the nearly sixty baskets distributed.<sup>14</sup>

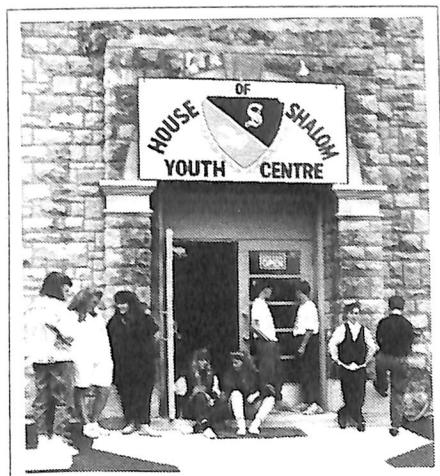
At some point, the club must have ceased to function, for on November 23, 1951 a meeting of Amherstburg service clubs was called to organize a Goodfellows Club.<sup>15</sup> A second meeting held November 30th resulted in the election of the following officers: Henry Lavers, president; Elizabeth Abernathy, vice-president; George Nicholson, secretary; and Mary Anne Bornais, treasurer.<sup>16</sup> In early December, Carol Nicholson, Percy Waldron, A.B. Lukes, Wilf Bulmer and D. Rielly were elected to the Board of Directors.<sup>17</sup> The group held its first newspaper sale, still its main fund raising event, on December 15, 1951. Proceeds allowed them to pack 52 baskets that year.

After working under the Windsor Goodfellows charter for thirty years, the Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden chapter was incorporated on March 17, 1981 under president Keith Clark, secretary Jerry Beneteau and treasurer Maurice Glen. The newspapers, originally produced by the *Windsor Star*, have been printed by the *Amherstburg Echo* for the past eleven years.

After forty-five consecutive years in Amherstburg, the Goodfellows' mandate remains the same: to help the underprivileged by providing food baskets and shoes for children. The AAM Goodfellows continue to peddle their newspapers each December to raise funds for this worthy cause. President Richard Murray, secretary Parker Odette and treasurer Maurice Glen make up the current executive.

### House of Shalom Youth Centre

The House of Shalom Youth Centre began in 1971 as the dream of Father John Ware, a Basilian associate pastor at St. John the Baptist Church. After meeting with many adults and teenagers in the Tri-Community area, Fr. John opened the non-denominational youth centre in the former convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names. Members decided to call the group the House of Shalom, meaning peace and friendship. In 1973 Fr. John was notified that the convent was to be demolished so with the permission of the Diocese of London, the House of Shalom moved into the former St. Anthony School which had been closed for a number of years. The building needed many repairs but with the assistance of service clubs and community support it was transformed into a teen centre with a homey, warm atmosphere.



House of Shalom Youth Centre.

As the remodelling was progressing Fr. John and his volunteers developed a program to help teenagers deal with the pressures of drugs, alcohol, sexuality, education and family. Groups for Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 and senior students meet with adult volunteers who constantly try to enhance the self-worth of each member.

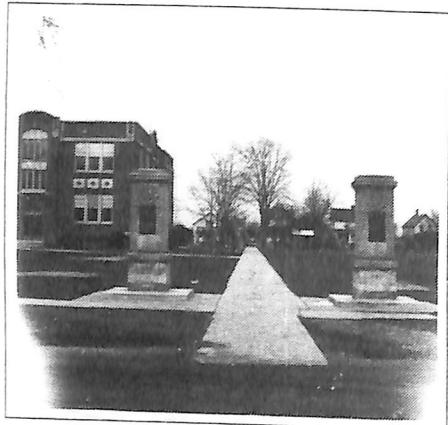
The House of Shalom is supported financially by donations, fund raising events and federal and provincial grants. In 1981 it was recognized by the United Way and admitted as a member agency. The support of volunteers and members ensures that the dream of Fr. John will continue to be a reality.

### Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire



The Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire (IOODE) was formed in 1900 to "[bring] together the women of [the British] Empire into living touch with each other."<sup>18</sup> The organization undertook patriotic projects such as the distribution of flags to schools, maintenance of military monuments and cemeteries and the preservation of historic sites.

A group of thirty interested Amherstburg women met at Christ Church on June 11, 1909 and the Fort Malden Chapter of the IOODE was formed. The motto 'Ever Loyal' was adopted. Charter officers were Miss Cunningham, Regent; Mrs. Hough, 1st vice-Regent; Mrs. J.F. Parke, 2nd vice-Regent; Mrs. F.M. Falls, secretary; Mrs. J. David Burk, treasurer; and Miss Bea Leggatt, standard bearer. The executive committee consisted of Mrs. F.P. Scratch, Mrs. H. Bailey, Mrs. J.I. Cousins, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Teeter, Mrs. F.J. Trotter, Mrs. C.A. Cuddy, Mrs. F. Park, Miss Falls and Miss Lovegrove.<sup>19</sup>



Memorial pillars, Laird Avenue, circa 1924.

Marsh Collection Society, P843

In 1924 the Fort Malden Chapter IOODE arranged for the erection of four "War Memorial Columns," two at either end of the sidewalk leading from Laird Avenue to Sandwich Street immediately south of the high school. The memorials were unveiled on Armistice Day, 1924 and bore the names of six Amherstburg men who lost their lives overseas during World War I.<sup>20</sup>

At some point the Amherstburg IOODE became defunct. The *Amherstburg Echo* of January 21, 1960 announced "The First Meeting of Fort Malden Chapter IOODE Last Thursday [January 14, 1960]." The re-formed organization had 20 charter members and one honorary member. The Regent was Mrs. William Busby. Their first project was the organization of the Amherstburg house-to-house canvass for the March of Dimes.

The Fort Malden Chapter IOODE disbanded after 1973.

### Kinsmen

An all-Canadian club, the Kinsmen was organized in Hamilton, Ontario on February 20, 1920 by Harold A. 'Hal' Rogers, a plumbing supply salesman. Founder Hal was president of the club from 1920 to 1923. As Kinsmen moved to other parts of Canada, new clubs were started.

The Amherstburg Kinsmen Club, sponsored by the Essex Kinsmen Club, held their first meeting on May 17, 1956 at the Anderdon Tavern. With the Lions Club and Rotary Club presidents in attendance, charter president Lionel Galipeau chaired the meeting with forty-three members present.<sup>21</sup>

The history of the Amherstburg club includes many projects, countless man hours and many good times. The following poem, written by Kin Peter Jaber in 1981, describes the Kinsmen's major projects during their first twenty-five years in Amherstburg.



#### 25 Years in Kin

Long years ago in nineteen fifty-six,  
Our club was formed to take some risks,  
And in our hearts was charitable work  
Of fellow Kin who did not shirk.  
Forty-three members joined that night  
To do Kin work without a fright.  
Our first big project was Kinsmen Park:  
We raised the funds without a lark.  
Baseball diamonds were next in line  
Where little tots could play and shine.  
We dressed them up in sweaters and caps  
To their hearts' content they danced the taps.  
A scout hall was needed we canvassed for  
To raise more funds from door to door.  
We sold some blocks that I recall  
We then proceeded to build the hall.  
Boy Scouts, Brownies, seniors too  
Enjoyed their meetings as Kinsmen do.  
Then came the Arena, our community's need.  
Kin now had a chance to do a great deed.  
They raised large funds with skate-a-thons  
To help pay the cost without selling bonds.  
A kitchen was needed and meeting hall:

Kin did all the work complete before fall.  
Bursaries came next for Amherst High  
For students to win whose marks were high.  
The House of Shalom, a house of youth.  
Kin panelled the hall and ceiling to boot.  
The teens have meetings and partake of games  
And seldom do call each other bad names.  
Another great project the Ambulance Squad  
In need of an ambulance to do a good job,  
Kin helped on the canvass to raise the funds  
To our great surprise, a job was well done.  
Equipment was bought and ambulance for  
The AMA squad, a medical corps.  
Our national project, to help find a cure  
For Cystic Fibrosis so lives can endure.  
For children afflicted who suffer the most  
Our club will help from coast to coast.  
The Blood Blitz held for the Canadian Red Cross  
The people turned out to make up their loss.  
For twenty-five years we treasure the most  
For all our endeavours our club did not boast.  
Advice to new members who wish to join Kin:  
The fellowship gained will give you more grins.

The Kinsmen Club nationwide chose the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as its main fund raising recipient in 1964.

In September, 1958 George Rogers became the first Life Member of the Amherstburg club. The following year, the club began to raise funds for a Scout Hall by selling 'cement blocks', raising

\$6000. Following town approval, construction began on the hall at the corner of Simcoe and Victoria Streets in April, 1960. Peter Jaber was the contractor. In 1972, Peter was the first of four consecutive Life Members. Following him were Allan Dennison (1973), Keith Clark (1974) and Earl McWhinney (1975).

When Peter Jaber passed away in January of 1982, the Kinsmen sought recognition for the man who had given 26 years of guidance and leadership. He had helped to implement the Warren Park playground and had chaired projects to bring Peewee baseball into town, a Zamboni to the arena and the first ball diamond to Centennial Park. At the Kinsmen's request, Mayor Garnet Fox issued a by-law officially renaming the Peter Jaber Scout Hall.

In 1990 devoted citizens Hal Shaw and Alec Wade, with 50 years of perfect attendance between them, were given life memberships at a surprise dinner at Classics on the Water. Kin dignitaries and Mayor Carl Gibb attended. The following year, the same honours were bestowed upon Neal Beemer, Larry Shaw, Herb White and Kinette Doris White.

With approximately 20,000 members nationwide, the Kinsmen raised \$1 million in 1994 for Cystic Fibrosis, bringing the total amount raised since 1964 to over \$21 million.

In 1996 Kinsmen celebrated 40 years in Amherstburg. They manage the sidewalk sign used by everyone from the firefighters to the House of Shalom, heralding events and fund raisers. They also manage the Peter Jaber Scout Hall.

The Kinsmen have a history of helping the young and elderly, caring for the sick and needy, and sponsoring sports, bursaries and entertainment. This is how they "serve the community's greatest needs."

### Kinettes



The first Kinette Club in Amherstburg was formed in 1957 as an auxiliary club to assist the Kinsmen in carrying out their many activities. The Kinettes of Amherstburg were sponsored by the Essex Kinettes and boasted fourteen members, these being the wives of Kinsmen.<sup>22</sup>

The first executive defined the club's by-laws and arranged meetings and elections of officers for the coming years. The Amherstburg Kinettes became a chartered club on June 13, 1957 and celebrated with a dinner at the Tea Garden Restaurant.<sup>23</sup> Meetings were held every third Wednesday of the month, with the Tea Garden being the favourite meeting place. Many special events were planned during these evening gatherings.

In addition to helping the Kinsmen in their efforts, the Kinettes also independently arranged many events to sponsor or assist in worthwhile community causes. Their first major project was the Queen of Hearts Ball held on February 14, 1958 at the Anderdon Tavern. All proceeds of the ball went to community causes. Tickets cost \$2.50 per couple and music was provided by the Esquires. More than 250

### Charter Executive, Amherstburg Kinettes

President	Ann Scarlett
Vice-president	Dee Wigle
Recording secretary	Cis Bertrand
Correspondence secretary	Ena Hudson
Treasurer	Helen Nicholson
Bulletin editor	Mamie Nicholson
Assistant editor	Helen Wigle
Registrar	Dorothy Galipeau
Sergeant of Arms	Shirley Deneau
Historian	Dorothy Kennedy

people attended the event, at which Miss Kay Dube of Malden was crowned Queen of Hearts. The ball raised over \$150, a considerable sum at that time!

The Kinettes held their Queen of Hearts Ball annually, incorporating a Hard Times Dance in the fall of 1959. The proceeds from these events went towards community endeavours and donations were made on behalf of the Kinettes towards the Scout Hall, a major project of the Kinsmen.

On June 12, 1982 the Amherstburg Kinettes celebrated their 25th anniversary at the Anderdon Tavern.

Amherstburg Kinettes have undertaken many projects, including peanut drives, card parties, shrub plantings, babysitting courses, selling chocolate bars and licorice, dancing lessons, distribution of gifts for seniors at the Richmond Nursing Home, sponsoring young girls' baseball teams and donating to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. They enter floats in festivals and parades with the Kinsmen and volunteer their time and efforts at the arena, holding skating events for children. They also canvass for the Cancer Society, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Heart Foundation, as well as sponsoring an annual bursary for General Amherst High School students.

Throughout the years the Kinettes have watched their membership fluctuate but their goals have remained strong. Although they no longer organize the annual dinner/dances, they are still active in the community.

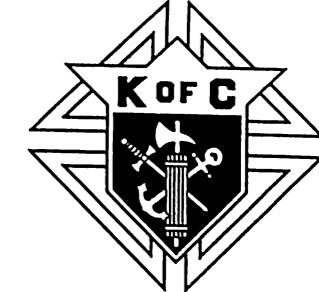
At present, the Amherstburg Kinettes have four members: president Mary Ann Hasson, secretary Aggie McDonald, treasurer and Life Member Doris White and vice-president Debbie Russell. They are still involved in high school bursaries, donations to area food banks and fire departments (for protective wear) and the selling of Nevada tickets. One of their main goals is to increase their membership in the Tri-Community area by encouraging new Kin wives to join them.

### Knights of Columbus Council 2110 - Father Bernard O'Donnell Council

The Knights of Columbus was formed by a young priest named Michael Joseph McGivney who was the assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut during 1881 and 1882. Father McGivney realized the need for a lay organization that would stimulate the interest and strengthen the faith of the immigrant Catholic population of New Haven and which would instill a sense of responsibility and protection for the financial integrity of the family.

In May, 1919 the pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Amherstburg announced that the District Deputy of the Windsor Knights of Columbus wished to meet with the men of the parish. By autumn the local Knights were meeting regularly, making preparations for eventual inauguration. The Amherstburg Council No. 2110 Knights of Columbus was instituted May 9, 1920 at the Amherstburg Town Hall.<sup>24</sup> Charter officers were chaplain Michael J. Ryan, C.S.B., Philip A. Barron, Arthur J. Burns, Edward J. Crimmins, Oscar Mailloux, Joseph A. Bedard, Alex U. Gunn, Orion P. Barron, James J. Meehan, Thomas A. Boyle, J. Alfred Girardin, Patrick Donnelly, Philias T. Reaume, Simon Bertrand and Macomb Mullen.

The first meetings of Council 2110 were held in the Parish Hall, corner of King and Gore Streets. The first project was to buy chairs and ceremonial furniture. Bro. Harry Ouellette donated



an organ and carpenters Bros. Thomas Renaud, Walter and Roy Bertrand, Fred Girardin and Alex Gignac installed a new hardwood floor. Eventually keno parties and dances funded an indoor recreation centre for area separate schools. Further alterations to heating, sanitary and kitchen facilities made this hall an asset to the whole parish.

During the first few years, degrees were held three or four times annually in order to accommodate new members. A Knights of Columbus club was formed in McGregor in 1926, with meetings held in the home of Bro. John Knapp. This council received charter no. 2844 on November 9, 1941. Harrow Council 5350 was chartered October 22, 1962 and River Canard Council 5642 on January 24, 1965. The majority of the charter members of these councils had transferred from Council 2110 Amherstburg.

Early in the 1930s it was decided that club rooms were required so that members could congregate outside of regular meetings. Rooms were rented in the Burk Block (corner of Gore and Seymour Streets) but these quarters soon became overcrowded. The Florey property on Richmond Street next to the Brunner Mond Club was rented in 1940, providing more adequate space. A library, reading and writing room was set up for the use of servicemen in the armed forces. Light lunches were also served, with summer carnivals held to help defray expenses. Under the leadership of Grand Knight Alban A. McCarron and his executive, a substantial fund was accumulated which in 1946 enabled the K of C to purchase and construct the present hall at 190 Richmond Street. On June 1, 1963 the assets of the Knights of Columbus property were turned over to the St. John's Building Corporation of Amherstburg, a registered provincial corporation, to operate solely for the membership of Council 2110.<sup>25</sup>

In 1971 as a gesture of esteem and affection the name of the council was changed to the Father Bernard O'Donnell Council 2110 in honour of their dedicated chaplain. Born in New Brunswick in 1899, Fr. O'Donnell was ordained December 19, 1926. Twenty-one of his 40 years in parish work were spent in Amherstburg at St. John the Baptist Church. Fr. O'Donnell died March 27, 1977.

Each year the Knights organization has grown and today there are more than 400 members in the Amherstburg council. One of its more recent and noteworthy projects was financing the restoration of the paintings that represent the Stations of the Cross, now hanging on the walls of St. John the Baptist Church. In 1991 a new monument to the memory of Father Louis Boué, the first pastor of the present St. John the Baptist Church, was erected over his final resting place in the church cemetery thanks to the assistance of Council 2110. The council's Quincentennial project (1992) was a donation to the parish of a handsome display case built partly from the original St. John the Baptist communion railing.

On June 3, 1995 the Fr. Bernard O'Donnell Council 2110 of Amherstburg Knights of Columbus celebrated its 75th anniversary with a mass at St. John the Baptist Church followed by a banquet at the K of C hall on Richmond Street. The council currently has eleven 50-year members: Antoine Beaudoin, Leo Beaudoin, Pickard Bondy, Francis Bornais, Ledson Darragh, Leo Delmore, Frank Ferguson, Orval McGuire, Thomas McGuire, Percy Renaud and J.B. (Bud) Scarlett. Council 2110 has been fortunate to have Fr. Michael Lehman as chaplain since November 4, 1986.

#### Patriotic Degree

Another degree open to members in the Knights of Columbus is that of the Fourth, or

Patriotic, Degree. Any Third Degree member in good standing is eligible for membership in the Fourth Degree one year after the anniversary of his First Degree. The primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to foster the spirit of patriotism by promoting responsible citizenship and a love of and loyalty to the Knights' respective countries through active membership in local Fourth Degree groups, called 'assemblies'.

In the summer of 1994 the need and desirability of a Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus assembly in this part of Essex County was recognized. Up to this time, Fourth Degree assemblies in the county were based in Windsor, Tecumseh, Belle River and Tilbury. The new assembly, named the Father Louis Boué Assembly No. 2355, was instituted July 30, 1994 and was made up mainly of members from the Amherstburg, Harrow, Kingsville, McGregor and River Canard councils. Twenty-seven of the 82 charter members are from Amherstburg Council 2110.

#### Charter Executive, Fr. Louis Boué Assembly, No. 2355

<i>Faithful Friar</i>	S.K. Fr. Mike Lehman
<i>Faithful Navigator</i>	S.K. Ron Hamelin
<i>Faithful Admiral</i>	S.K. Marc Coucke
<i>Faithful Captain</i>	S.K. Stan Balakowski
<i>Faithful Pilot</i>	S.K. Martin Beneteau
<i>Faithful Purser</i>	S.K. George Nicholson
<i>Faithful Scribe</i>	S.K. Norm Talbot
<i>Faithful Comptroller</i>	S.K. Robin Beaune
<i>Faithful Sentinel</i>	S.K. Larry Bezaire
<i>Faithful Sentinel</i>	S.K. Lawrence Beneteau
<i>Faithful Trustee</i>	S.K. Roger Vercruyse
<i>Faithful Trustee</i>	S.K. James Sutton
<i>Faithful Trustee</i>	S.K. Ulric Renaud
<i>Faithful Commander</i>	S.K. Alec Wade
<i>Faithful Co-Commander</i>	S.K. Robin Beaune



#### Columbian Ladies' Auxiliary to Fr. Bernard O'Donnell Council 2110

In 1974 Grand Knight Frank Ward saw a great need for a women's auxiliary to the Amherstburg Council Knights of Columbus. At a meeting on November 25, 1974 the first Ladies' Auxiliary was organized and named the Columbian Ladies' Auxiliary to Father Bernard O'Donnell Council 2110. They received their charter on January 28, 1975. Charter members were Mary Barbe (second vice-president), Diana Bertrand, Marie Bondy, Grace Delmore, Donna Dufour, Eleanor Jones (treasurer), Marion Laframboise, Joan Paquette, Diane Pouget, Beatrice Pouget, Theresa Pouget (corresponding secretary), Mae Ward (president), Linda Ward (recording secretary) and Sue Wigle (first vice-president). Eight of the fourteen charter members are still active in the Columbian Ladies' Auxiliary today.

The purpose of the organization is to assist its members spiritually and materially; its aims are to raise funds for charitable purposes, visit the sick and bereaved, and assist and participate with the Knights of Columbus in their social functions when requested. The Columbian Ladies' Auxiliary in Amherstburg has held many fund raising projects over the years including fashion shows, dances, bingos, bake sales and card parties. They have also made a number of improvements to the K of C hall.

On January 28, 1995, boasting an active roster of sixty members, the Columbian Ladies' Auxiliary celebrated its 20th anniversary with a banquet at the K of C hall. Charter president Mae Ward was guest of honour. The current (1995-96) executive consists of president Darlene Bernachi; spiritual advisor Sr. Elodia Gagnier; past president Dolly Deslippe; 1st vice-president Carolyn Delmore; 2nd vice-president Lynn Talbot; treasurer Debbie Deslippe; recording secretary Julia Beneteau; corresponding secretary Cathy Bondy; and membership convenor Lisa Beneteau.



#### Columbian Squires

The Columbian Squires program for young men is designed to promote leadership training and the spiritual and moral guidance needed in order to succeed in life. The goals of the program are: 1) to develop young men as Catholic leaders who understand religion, have a strong commitment to the church and are willing and capable of fashioning their lives after the youth Christ; 2) to work as a team with the ability to lead others; and 3) to be an athletic team, a youth group, a social club, a cultural and civic improvement association, a management training program and a spiritual awareness course all rolled into one. Squires are organized into groups called 'circles' which are sponsored by a Knights of Columbus council or assembly. Each circle has a minimum of ten young men.

In Amherstburg the Father McAlpine<sup>26</sup> Circle 577 was chartered in 1947. The investiture ceremony was held that fall under the guidance of K of C Council 2110 chaplain and namesake Father Bernard O'Donnell and chief councillor Father Ted Gatfield. During the 'fifties and 'sixties one of their annual activities was a one-day takeover of the Town of Amherstburg, with Squires holding all key positions (mayor, chief of police, public works chairman, etc.) for that day, holding their own council meeting and being chauffeured around town to the various projects and functions being undertaken by the town. Other activities included sports tournaments, dances and charity drives. However, enrollment declined and Circle 577 ceased to function in the early 1970s.

In September, 1980 the Father McAlpine Circle 577 was re-activated under the direction of Chief Counsellor Lawrence Sunderland, Grand Knight John Murray and Councillors Peter (Tim) Bondy, Mark Rivait and Larry Hawksworth. The circle was blessed with its first official 'Father Prior' in 1990 when Father Mike Lehman offered to be its spiritual director. Unfortunately the circle folded again in 1994.

#### Lions Club

The Lions Club was conceived in 1914. The first convention, held in 1917 in Dallas, Texas, boasted 150 chartered clubs. In 1946 the District Secretary of the Lions Club, Bruce Malcolm, saw the need for a club in the Amherstburg area. On December 16th of that year some forty men held their

first meeting at the Amherst Hotel. The first slate of officers was elected that evening president Ron Cooper, first vice-president Bill McKenna, second vice-president G. E. Dennison, third vice-president Al Jackson, secretary Frank Arnett, treasurer Murray Tindale, lion tamer John Wigle, tail twister Lucien Beneteau and directors Russ Wigle, Ken Anderson, Dr. E.C. Ladouceur and Louis Hamilton. It was decided that regular meetings would be held on Monday nights.

On February 10, 1947 thirty-two Amherstburg Lions received the charter at the Anderdon Tavern at a dinner attended by more than 200 Lions, ladies and guests from area districts.

The Lions over the years have raised money and awareness for many charitable events, their large donations and fund raising events reflecting their commitment to the Tri-community. Since 1946, the club has achieved great status in the Amherstburg area; its donations, charity events and caring nature have paved the road for many good deeds over the years.

Their first major project in 1947 was a drive to raise funds for Canadian Aid to China. The same year they also raised funds for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and held their first Ladies' Night, a dance held at the Brunner Mond Club. The Amherstburg Lions also defeated the Windsor club in a charity baseball game.

The first anniversary banquet was held February 9, 1948 at the Anderdon Tavern. The Lions Club and Rotary Club began to hold joint meetings to discuss charitable events and plans. A carnival was arranged by the Lions with resounding success. Held at the Knights of Columbus grounds, this soon became an annual event.

Some of the more significant contributions made to the Amherstburg area include the purchase of a boat in 1950 for the Fire and Rescue Squad, tents for the Boy Scouts, an ambulance for the AAM Volunteer Ambulance Squad and the Lions pool at the northeast corner of Simcoe (Pike) and Victoria Streets. The land for the pool was donated by the town and the Aqua-Soft Company from London won the bid to construct it. The town issued debentures for 20% of the total cost of \$39,000. Aqua-Soft subcontracted a major portion of the construction to Ranta Engineering of Amherstburg. Mayor E. T. Laframboise turned the first sod on June 25, 1959. The 42-by-75-foot pool with a deck and dressing rooms was opened August 28, 1959. The Horticultural Society took care of the landscaping. On June 23, 1960, final ownership was turned over to the town, who had agreed to maintain the pool.

February of 1967 marked the Amherstburg Lions Club's 20th anniversary, which was celebrated with a dinner held at the Knights of Columbus hall. Charter Monarchs Citations were presented to charter president Ron Cooper and charter members Bill Bailey, Frank Arnett, Ken Anderson, James Pouget, Harry Duby, Al Jackson and Dr. E. C. Ladouceur.

In 1969 Jack Kelly, Bruce Kechnie, Harold Bernachi and Allen Goodchild received their charters. During that year the Lions decided to donate \$100 per member to the Tri-Community arena fund - a total of \$5300.

Under president Zarko Vucinic the club purchased a new seniors' van in 1972. The Lions celebrated their 25th anniversary with a dinner at the Knights of Columbus hall, which 200 Lions and guests attended.

Bricks sold by the Lions in 1984 helped to support the construction of Ronald MacDonald



**We Serve**  
—1917 75 Years 1992—

House in London, Ontario. The Lions sold 250 bricks door to door to raise \$1250.

Stella Maris School was the next large project undertaken by the Lions, who made a \$1000 donation towards a playground/park on the school grounds. In 1990, \$1000 was donated towards the purchase of a new ambulance for the AAM Squad.

From 1991 to 1993, the Lions' donations to the community and charities averaged \$13,500 annually, increasing in 1995 to over \$15,000. Their ongoing projects include the Forum for Young Canadians, Christmas donations to the Goodfellows, Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation, minor sports in the Tri-Community, Air Canada's 'Dream Come True' project and Lions' causes such as sight, the hearing impaired, the Diabetes Foundation, leader dog programs and other Lions Foundation events.

Amherstburg's Bicentennial events coincide with the Lions' 50th anniversary. The twenty-seven current members hope to serve the community for another fifty years. It has been proposed that Lion Mike Greenaway, president for the 1995-96 season, stay on for the 1996-97 season to see the Lions through this important celebration.

Amherstburg is proud that charter president Ron Cooper and past president Harry Duby are still members of the club.

#### Masonic Lodge - Thistle Lodge No. 34, A.F. & A.M.

Masonry was first promoted in Amherstburg by officers of the garrison at Fort Malden. They had been members of Zion Lodge, Detroit but finding it difficult to attend there, they petitioned their lodge for assistance in obtaining a warrant for a lodge in Amherstburg.

Eventually a warrant was granted for Adoniram Lodge No. 18. It was probably a field or military lodge and although its records have been lost, mention of it is found in the well-kept and very complete minute books of Zion Lodge and in some old Amherstburg records.

The warrant was probably sent from Niagara in 1801, for the mention of a member of Adoniram Lodge appears in the minutes of Zion Lodge on May 3, 1802.

Zion Lodge minutes on February 7, 1803 refer to the Royal Arch Degree Lodge at Amherstburg. There is no record extant of a Royal Arch chapter at Amherstburg in 1803 but it is not unlikely that the chapter was attached to the Lodge and that it was empowered, as in one or two other cases in Ontario, to confer the Royal Arch Degree.

Amongst the men who were members and old residents of Amherstburg and its vicinity were Capt. Fox, Lyman Hubbell, Col. Askin and others. The lodge met in the Searle Hotel at the southeast corner of Richmond and Bathurst Streets in Amherstburg in an upper room at the front of the house. The Searle House was a three-storey frame building, seventy-five feet long. It had a heavy stone foundation, and supposedly was used as a mess hall for the soldiers during the Rebellion of 1837. On lodge nights no one was allowed within a respectful distance of the Tyled door, outside of which the Tyler sat with an old sword, strongly resembling a reaping hook, which had done service in the Revolutionary War.

After the War of 1812 there is no record of Masonry in Amherstburg until 1849 when Thistle Lodge No. 14 (afterwards No. 19, now No. 34) was instituted at a Masonic convention held in Amherstburg on February 24th, 1849, the following members of the Craft being present: John B.

Laughton, James Gott, James Borrowman, John Mantock, William Griffith, Richard Atkinson and John W. Campbell. The following resolutions were passed: 1) that a petition be presented to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada West for a warrant to form a new Lodge at Amherstburg, C. W.; 2) that John B. Laughton be the first Worshipful Master; John W. Campbell, first Senior Warden; James Gott, Junior Warden of said lodge; and 3) that the name of this Lodge be 'Thistle', and that Bro. Campbell be Secretary pro tem.

Meetings at which applications were received were held regularly. The Grand Lodge granted the warrant and on August 21st, 1849, the new lodge was consecrated. After a ceremony at Christ Church, the members returned to their lodge room and then "repaired to Mr. George Bullock's British North American Hotel, where they partook of an excellent dinner prepared in that gentleman's best style."<sup>27</sup> The newly-chosen officers of Thistle Lodge were John B. Laughton, Worshipful Master, John W. Campbell, Senior Warden; James Gott, Junior Warden; I.B. Boyle, secretary; James Borrowman, treasurer; George Duncan, Senior Deacon; John Mantock, Junior Deacon; and William Griffith, Tyler pro tem.

The oldest Masonic Lodge west of London, Ontario, Thistle Lodge No. 34 has met regularly since its inception in 1849. Although not a service club, the lodge and its members have made many contributions and donations to the community. In recent years it has given athletic and education equipment to local schools, sponsored lectures on and made donations to the bone marrow donor program and worked with the Masonic blood donor program of Ontario, for several years being ranked second or third in the province for the number of donors. In 1999 the lodge will celebrate 150 years in the community.

#### Order of the Eastern Star

The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which both men and women belong. It dates its origin from about 1850, when Dr. Rob Morris and his wife discussed with other members of the Masonic Lodge and their wives the possibility of an organization in which men and women could work together in harmony for the good of the community.

The Eastern Star is related to the Masonic fraternity by the closest family ties. Membership requires Masonic affiliation and a minimum age of 18 years. Master Masons, their wives, daughters, adopted daughters, mothers, widows, sisters, half-sisters, granddaughters, stepmothers, stepdaughters and stepsisters who express a belief in a supreme being are eligible for membership. Each community group is called a 'chapter' and has a unique name and number which signifies the order in which the chapter was formed in the country or area.

Amherst Chapter No. 45 was instituted in Amherstburg on May 16, 1918 with approximately 50 members. The first slate of officers included Worthy Matron Mrs. W.R. Coseo and Worthy Patron Mr. E.A. Patton.<sup>28</sup> Although still strong at the time of its ninth anniversary in 1927,<sup>29</sup> the club was defunct by 1935<sup>30</sup> and interest was not renewed for nearly twenty years.

On January 30, 1952 Fort Malden Chapter No. 268 Amherstburg was instituted with thirty-eight charter members. The first Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron were Gladys and George Somerton and the first meeting was held in the Amherstburg Public School auditorium. For the first year the chapter met in the IOOF hall on Richmond Street. In February, 1953 the meeting place was moved to the Christ Church Parish House on Gore Street. The final move to the Masonic Temple on Murray Street was made in March of 1965. Fort Malden Chapter No. 268 OES still meets there

on the second Thursday of each month at 8 pm. The current membership stands at seventy-one men and women who raise money through various means and donate hundreds of dollars to charities each year.

### Oddfellows

The Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) was founded in 1819 in the United States of America. Its five duties are: (1) to visit the sick; (2) to relieve the distressed; (3) to bury the dead; (4) to educate the orphan; and (5) to aid the widow. Through the concept of fraternity, Oddfellowship "seeks to improve and elevate the character of man."<sup>31</sup>

Rose Lodge No. 28 IOOF was instituted in Amherstburg on January 23, 1854. After an inactive period of several years, the lodge was resuscitated on May 6, 1875 at which time Sam McGee was installed as Noble Grand. Rose Lodge bought property on Richmond Street in 1884 and constructed a two-storey frame building, the lower floor of which was occupied by grocer G T Florey and the upper floor used for the IOOF hall.<sup>32</sup>

On November 8, 1887 this building and all the records of the lodge were destroyed by fire.<sup>33</sup> A new hall was built and dedicated February 5, 1889.<sup>34</sup> Rose Lodge No. 28 IOOF celebrated its centennial on January 16, 1954.

In 1979, faced with declining membership, Rose Lodge No. 28 disbanded<sup>35</sup> and since that time the remaining Amherstburg Oddfellows have attended lodge meetings in Harrow.

### Rebekah Lodge

The first Rebekah Lodge in Amherstburg, Pansy Lodge No. 26, had a strong membership prior to the turn of the 20th century but declining membership resulted in the surrender of the charter in 1903.<sup>36</sup> On April 8, 1921 Talmai Rebekah Lodge No. 218 was instituted in Amherstburg with a

charter membership of sixty. The lodge met each Tuesday evening in the IOOF hall on Richmond Street and was predicted to "have a bright and successful future."<sup>37</sup> "Most of Talmai Rebekah's activity was directed towards relieving the distressed, sick and needy within the...organization but [with the advent of the Second World War] broadened its work and..[sent bundles] to England to relieve the distress of the bombed out civilians."<sup>38</sup> Other projects included donations to the Queen's Canadian Fund, Ambulance Fund for Halifax, Chinese Relief Fund, fund for educating the orphans of Oddfellows and the IOOF home for orphans and seniors in Barrie, Ontario. After more than 50 years

#### Charter Officers, Talmai Rebekah Lodge No. 218

Noble Grand	Miss Mary Wilson
Vice-Grand	Mrs. T.C. Langlois
Chaplain	Mrs. Mina Smith
Recording secretary	Miss Norma Horsley
Treasurer	Mrs. May McGee
Financial secretary	Mrs. Jean Blaney
Right Supporter of Noble Grand	Eccles J. Gott
Left Supporter of Noble Grand	Miss Emily Southwick
Right Supporter of Vice-Grand	Mrs. S. Sutton
Left Supporter of Vice-Grand	Mrs. Nellie Ryan
Warden	Mrs. Nellie Bates
Inside Guard	Mrs. Charlotte McGee
Outside Guard	Miss Irene Bailey
Pianist	Miss Myrical Park
Conductor	Mrs. J.R. Taylor

of service, interest in Talmai again declined and the organization became defunct by the early 1980s.

### Optimist Club

The area service club which prides itself on being 'friends of youth' is the recently-formed Amherstburg Optimist Club. Tri-Community participants worked with the Sandwich West Optimist Club from June, 1972 until the Amherstburg Optimist Club was formed in 1991.<sup>39</sup> The current executive consists of president Mike Lavigne, secretary John Bryska and vice-president Eugene Bryska.

The Optimist Club sponsors student bursaries, minor baseball and hockey teams, an oratorical contest and raises funds to support needy families at Christmas. Some of the club's events include a bike rodeo to promote bicycle safety and a 'Respect for Law' promotion. In addition, the Amherstburg Optimist Club supports a 'Just Say No to Drugs' program. The group's annual events aim to promote positive thinking in the youth of the Tri-Community.

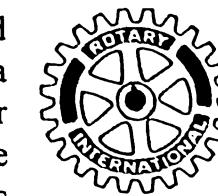


### Rotary Club

In the days of the Great Depression, Amherstburg like many other towns had numerous problems that could not be handled by the existing establishment. The idea of having a service group like a Rotary Club in Amherstburg originated with Arthur W. Marsh who had heard of Rotary International (formed in Chicago in 1905) while in Vancouver at the yearly convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association, of which he was then president. At his urging a small number of local businessmen took the initiative for an organizational drive which culminated in the formation of a provisional club on October 30, 1933.

On January 23, 1934, under the sponsorship of the Windsor Rotary Club, twenty Rotarians received charter membership in Rotary International as the Rotary Club of Amherstburg. This meeting was described at length in the *Amherstburg Echo*,<sup>40</sup> which reported that 350 Rotarians from all over District 23 met in the General Amherst High School gymnasium with J.B. Mills, Governor of District 23 (now District 6400), presiding. The Catholic Women's League served dinner to the members of the twenty-four clubs represented.

The new club started immediately with service work in the community. Helping underprivileged and handicapped children was one of



#### Charter Members - Rotary Club

George Jones (president)	A.H. Stevenson
Wilfred Patterson (vice-president)	Dr. Edwin Pearce
Ben Shillington (secretary)	Gordon L. Duffin
J. Carl Brandie (treasurer)	Roy L. Wigle
Louis J. Fox (sergeant at arms)	Theodore H. 'Pete' Fox
Thomas W. Moffat (director)	Dr. Edwin C. Harris
Frederick Nill (director)	Arthur McNally
Nicholas Marra (director)	Dr. W. Fred Park
John A. Marsh	Frederick T. Pickering
Walter K. Sidey	Cuthbert B. Falls

the principle reasons the club was formed. The need was everywhere. There were 443 people on relief in Amherstburg in January and February of 1934.<sup>41</sup> To raise much-needed funds, a lecture by Reverend Harry Nobles entitled "Westminster Abbey" was sponsored. Proceeds from ticket sales were the first monies ever raised by Rotary in Amherstburg and were placed in the Crippled Children's Fund.

Interest in the needs of children evolved into Amherstburg Rotary becoming a member of the Easter Seal Society, an honour it retains to this day. Tonsil clinics were one of the first efforts to help local children. The youngsters were transported to Windsor Hospitals by club members and then operated upon by club members Doctors E.C. Harris and E.D. Hutchinson, all free of charge. In the first year one hundred tonsillectomies were performed. Rotary was responsible for bringing the first Public Health Nurse, Miss Elizabeth Abernathy, to Amherstburg. A small office was provided for her in Max Rubenstein's building on Murray Street.

Even before Miss Abernathy's time a Rotary committee with Thomas Moffat as chairman requested that a physician be sent by the Provincial Department of Health to survey the health of students in the Amherstburg area. Dr. MacKenzie Smith came here and performed complete physicals on students in Amherstburg and later in Malden and Anderdon. She reported any problems directly to the children's parents.<sup>42</sup>

Interest in child welfare has continued through the years, highlighted by such efforts as the Eric Middleton campaign, a joint project with General Amherst High School to pay for this small boy's liver transplant. Other worthwhile projects have been 'Dream Come True' (in conjunction with Air Canada, a handicapped or disadvantaged child is taken to Disneyland for the day) and contributions to Special Olympics. Efforts of our members have over the years meant a great deal to the Easter Seal Society and the Children's Rehabilitation Centre as well as our own club.

On an international level Rotary can generate enormous power from 1,200,000 Rotarians worldwide. The Rotary Polio Plus campaign has raised \$230 million U.S. and expects to eradicate polio in a few years' time. Already there are 145 countries in the world free of that dreaded disease.

Not all Rotary Club efforts have been along medical lines. We have over the years taken a good deal of interest in agriculture. In 1934 Amherstburg Rotary was a sponsoring organization in the introduction of good quality seed corn to the area (Malden, Anderdon and Colchester South). The so-called 'Corn Clubs' gave young boys enough free yellow dent seed corn to grow a half-acre plot. These were judged during the growing season and at harvest time with substantial prizes awarded.<sup>43</sup> A similar program was carried out with the introduction of good bacon-type hogs to this area. Young Yorkshire pigs were purchased and given to farm boys to try to improve the overall quality of the pork produced in this area.

The last of these projects dealt with soybeans. One-half bushel lots of 'Harrow Soybeans' were distributed to young farmers to introduce the best soybean developed up to that time. Other more productive beans have since taken over but 'Harrow Soy' was a marvel back then. The idea was that a half-bushel would produce enough seed to sow quite an acreage the following year.

Over the years our Rural-Urban meeting was the highlight of the early spring. The speakers were always great! We had provincial Ministers of Agriculture, agricultural agents, United Co-Operatives of Ontario chairmen, H.J. Heinz managers and, of course, our own federal Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan. The meetings went over well and the whole idea of promoting good understanding between town and farm seemed to work well.



50th anniversary, Amherstburg Rotary Club, October 14, 1984.

Still another aspect of Rotary involvement in the community came to light in the early 1970s because of the imminent demolition of Amherstburg's historic Park House, the oldest structure within 250 miles. Tradition has it that the house was built in Detroit by a Loyalist who moved it to Amherstburg after Jay's Treaty ceded Detroit to the Americans in 1796.

Club members decided in early January of 1972 with a motion by A.H. Stevenson, seconded by Tom Moffat, to purchase, move and restore the old house. A committee was set up with Hazen Price as chairman, along with Walter K. Sidey and Peter Mudry as members, to oversee the work. The Park House was purchased from Zarko Vucinic and moved with the town's permission to its new home on the old Waterworks Park (now the King's Navy Yard Park) at the foot of Rankin Avenue.

The Amherstburg Rotary Club is now more than sixty years old. The last charter member, Thomas W. Moffat, passed away in 1996. In the beginning, only businessmen were allowed to join. However, in an effort to keep up with the times, women are now eligible for membership and there are currently three in the club - Jane Wiley, Sarah Jarvis and Sylvia Reynolds, who is the current club president.

The Amherstburg Rotary Club has served the town and locality well and has been a very important aspect in the lives of all its members.

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, located at 273 Dalhousie Street, was established in 1953 by

members of St. John the Baptist parish as a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community. This Conference for Benevolent Work was set up to help needy people in the community by distributing food, clothing and furniture. Its founders were Father James Martin, Oscar Bondy, Ledson Darragh, Russell Delmore, Joe Faucher, Ed Finn, Ross Hunt, Bill Ouellette and Ernie Paquette. For the first two years, the society operated out of headquarters in Windsor.

An Amherstburg store was opened in May, 1955 at 128 Richmond Street. The first employee was Ann Bornais. This location changed several times over the years, moving to Ramsay Street, 55 Richmond Street and 61 Murray Street successively. Today the store is located at 273 Dalhousie Street where staff and volunteers accept donations of items. One can usually find Patricia Prieur behind the counter or busy in the back sorting the many donations. The present members of the Conference are president Gene Menard, Robena and Robert Anderson, Tony Beaudoin, Michael Byrne, Leo and Doris Deslippe, Pete Heaney, Gerald St. Pierre and Sam and Barb Williams.

### *In Service to Our Country*

#### A Tribute to Our Veterans

For the first several decades of Amherstburg's existence the military played a key role in the community, from the establishment of Fort Malden in 1796 to the settlement of the Pensioners in the 1850s. Given such a historical background it was not unexpected that the response to the call to arms during World Wars I and II and the Korean conflict was overwhelmingly positive. All branches of the Service benefitted from the unselfish loyalty of Amherstburg's sons and daughters.

Most of these young people were in their teens or early twenties, yet they did not hesitate to put their lives on the line in defense of the country they loved. Some of them were grievously wounded while others were captured by the enemy and spent years in POW camps under the most adverse conditions. Others paid the supreme sacrifice to ensure that we would have the freedom to live in a democratic society with the opportunity to make free choices in our way of life.

Many of the benefits that we enjoy today are often taken for granted. We must never forget that they were made possible by the selfless sacrifice of these brave men and women. On a warm summer evening when you look out across the water enjoying the panoramic beauty of a sunset, think of them. When you are watching your children or grandchildren at play, think of them. On a soft spring morning after a gentle rain, think of them. Think of them today. It was only yesterday they thought of us.

Each Armistice Day we have the opportunity to publicly express our gratitude to all veterans and renew our commitment to make this a better world for all.

Their sacrifice was not in vain.

#### *They died for us...*

##### World War I

Ernest D. Brown  
Orville Leland Fox  
Russell J. Fox  
Robert I. Fryer  
Stanley Forest Meloche  
Albert Edward Thomas

##### Korean Conflict

Robert Frederick Girard

##### World War II

Charles Adams  
E. William Allen  
Edsel Edward Amlin  
Ovide M. Bastien  
Donald Salem Bratt  
D.L. George Brown  
Gordon Ross Brush  
John C. Eggleton  
Wilfred A. Forhan  
Marvin J. Gibb  
James Duncan Girard  
Lawrence Hainer  
W. Ray Hart  
Kencil Heaton  
Francis Joseph Higgins  
Garnet W. Hilton  
George Hayward Jones  
William Wilfred Lavers  
Raymond Martin  
E.W. McLellan  
Ross McLellan  
William J. Pettypiece  
Ivan N. Renaud  
A. Mac Reynolds  
Douglas G. Reynolds  
Hugh Reynolds  
M. Crimmins Shaw  
Desmond Leonard Sullivan  
John Russell Thomas  
John William Thrasher  
Roswell E. Tofflemire  
Charles Welch Welsh  
James J. White  
Roy L. Wigle Jr.  
Arthur Williams  
Harold Wilson

Leo Renaud

##### Call the Children Home

"Annie, go and call the children  
What is keeping them so late?  
I have listened, listened, listened.  
Here for hours beside the gate:  
But I cannot hear them coming -  
Not a footfall, not a shout.  
Can it be that they are hiding  
In the garden hereabout?  
Oh, I cannot rest me, Annie.  
While the little ones are out.

"Was it noon, or was it morning.  
They went laughing down the lane?  
Oh, how long the hours, how lonely.  
Till the children come again!  
They'll be tired and cold and hungry.  
Are you keeping something hot?  
Oh, I cannot rest me, Annie.  
Till I've tucked them in their cot.  
I heard them say their prayers, and blessed them...  
Is there - something - I forgot?"

"Mother dear, don't you remember?  
It was twenty years ago  
That they heard the bugles calling -  
Johnnie, Alice, little Joe -  
I heard the pipers play, and followed.  
Far across the ocean foam.  
There they fell asleep, our darlings.  
And they are not coming home -  
Deep asleep where poppies blossom...  
And they are not coming home."

-Lillian Leveridge, *Carrying Place, Ontario*

## Royal Canadian Legion Branch 157<sup>44</sup>

How did the Royal Canadian Legion start in Amherstburg?

"Well, I suppose it all began," said the Oldest Legionnaire,<sup>45</sup> "when we started to get back home from the war. Of course, I mean the Great War, 1914 to 1918.

"Although the war undoubtedly aged us in outlook, we were still a pretty young bunch of veterans, with plenty of energy and ambition, and there very quickly developed a feeling that the government was being a bit neglectful of us. I don't know whether Borden's Conservatives were any better or any worse than MacKenzie King's Liberals might have been, but I recall that pensions, jobs and the opportunity to further our education were issues causing some dissatisfaction among veterans.

"It was inevitable that this feeling would give rise to some organized effort to have grievances heard and considered. To the best of my recollection, the first ex-serviceman's organization to be formed in Amherstburg was the Great War Veteran's Association and they met in 1919 above a store on Dalhousie Street. Later on they met in the Grant building at the corner of Gore and Seymour Charles Ackerman was the first president."

It should be noted that the government of the day was probably more than willing to grant charters to veteran's organizations, as they now represented a substantial portion of the voting public and could have a significant effect at the ballot box. As a result, a number of veterans' organizations were granted charters, among them the Canadian Corps Association, the Army & Navy Veteran's Association, the Amputation Society and various others. A few of these original organizations still survive but most of them, including the Great War Veterans' Association, are no longer in existence.

"When the Canadian Legion was first formed in 1927-28 by combining several small Great War Veterans' Association groups," continued the Oldest Legionnaire, "it was a branch of the British Empire Service League and was called the Canadian Legion BESL. This was later changed to Canadian Legion Branch 157 and subsequently, by permission from the Queen, the word 'Royal' was added, to make it the Royal Canadian Legion. And I have to say that through the efforts of the Legion and other service organizations, pensions and other benefits were gradually increased to a point where they were more just and equitable."

After receiving its charter, Fort Malden Branch 157 of the Canadian Legion actually had no permanent home for many years. A number of sites, including the Waterworks Building in what is now the King's Navy Yard, were occupied after the branch's formation on April 3, 1930 and it was not until 1941-42 that a drive for funds was held to erect a Memorial Hall to the memory of those who did not return."

After a few years it was felt that the branch required larger quarters and following a number of unsuccessful attempts to acquire a desirable property, the branch purchased the H.M. Stancliffe residence on Dalhousie Street.<sup>46</sup> The Bob-Lo Tavern next door to Branch 157 was later purchased, the Legion carrying two mortgages on the property. It was planned that if and when sufficient funds were raised, the hall would be made available for use by Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and civic bodies who might require a place to meet. On the strength of this, a number of Legionnaires managed to collect the sum of \$9500. There was also a stipulation to the effect that the members in command of the Legion branch at the time would agree to stand good for any shortfall of the mortgage payments and a number of members loaned money to the branch at a rate of interest about half of the



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 157.

going bank rate. Some members even forgave the loan altogether.

Over the next few years the branch became solvent for the second time in its history; the \$5000 loans were paid off and the first mortgage was liquidated. A number of money-making activities were introduced by the officers which over the years enabled the branch to finance its activities successfully.

In the 1980s it was decided by a membership vote that a monthly bulletin should be introduced to keep the membership informed of past and future activities of the branch. Leonard Chandler was appointed editor-in-chief, assisted by Verne Curtis and Joe Thrasher and over a period of time they were able to sell enough advertising to offset the cost of producing and distributing the bulletin. The bulletin, in fact, was such a success that citations and plaques were presented almost every year from the Provincial Command. These are on display in the Legion hall, along with numerous plaques for sports and the *Scrap Book* by Dolly Bradt.

Each year on November 11th the members parade to the Cenotaph to pay their respects to the fallen. The Cenotaph was first dedicated in the grounds of General Amherst High School, next to the walkway on the left side of the school facing Sandwich Street. It was later moved to the south-east corner of Centennial Park, complete with flagpole and a raised mound on which the Cenotaph sat. It is rumoured that an old field gun from World War I which was beyond repair is buried under this mound. After completion of the King's Navy Yard Park, the Cenotaph was moved to its present location there.

Following World War II, a firing party was raised under John Nye as sergeant-at-arms to assist at parades and to attend functions at other branches. With the death of John Nye in the late 1960s, the firing party was turned over to Richard Girard who carried on until the Cadet Corps was formed from sons and daughters of veterans.

The gun presently in front of the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on Dalhousie Street is a replacement for the original taken from the Canadian corvette *Kamloops* which was scrapped by Captain J. Earl McQueen. It is now aboard the corvette *Sackville*, on display in Halifax with an appropriate plaque indicating that it was donated by Branch 157 Fort Malden, Amherstburg, Ontario.

The game of darts, imported from England and a great success in Legion halls, has a yearly plaque denoting the singles winners, doubles and team members. Great competition between Legions, clubs and various bars has been the forte of many members travelling around during the winter months. Golf has also been an annual competition with county Legions taking part. Numerous trophies and plaques have been won over the years.

The kitchen at Branch 157 is very modern, complete with commercial gas grill and stove, deep fryer (for fish & chips), commercial meat slicer, portable warming table and sufficient china for a large crowd. Legionnaires cater to the senior members on Friday afternoons starting at 3:30 pm, with music of yesteryear for dancing or listening. Dinner is served about 4:30 to 5:30 pm, with 'serve yourself' being popular. Saturday evenings the younger crowd takes over with music by an appropriate band.

The murals decorating the front of the Legion were painted by three high school seniors in 1984 during a major restoration of the Legion building. The murals were retouched in 1995 to assure their survival for years to come. In front of our building are three flag poles flying the Union Jack, the Canadian Maple Leaf and the Red Ensign. On special occasions our own branch colours are also shown.

The Legion has made a lot of friends for many of the members. It has been a training place for the art of public speaking for many presidents and members and has provided an insight as to how and why a business should be run as a profitable organization.

The Legion has been a great contributor to many benevolent societies, including our own Poppy Fund.

#### Ladies' Auxiliary, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 157

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Branch 157 obtained its charter in 1951 under president Comrade Mary Fells. By 1955 it had a total of 62 members. The Ladies' Auxiliary assists Branch 157 by hosting card parties, raffles, bake sales and other fund raising events, helping to support veterans in Parkwood Hospital, providing bursaries and donating to many other organizations.

#### Past Presidents, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 157

Charles Ackerman	Hugh Fleming	Roy Northrup
Robert Allen	Gord Fountain	Harold Overholt
C. Andrews	Russell Hart	Jack Purdie
P. Bondy	Dr. E.D. Hutchinson	Derek Reeves
Robert Bradt	Paul Jaber	R. Roberts
J. George Brown	George Jelfs	Walter Sawchuk
Peter Campbell	Emlyn Jones	Malcolm Shaw
Steve Chikaz	Oscar Larivière	Devere Thrasher
Roy Deslippe	Ken Maure	George Vance
Alex Duff	Joe Maxwell	Dr. E.M. Warren
Rudy Dufour	Earl McQueen	Floyd Zimmerman

#### Women's Contributions during the First and Second World Wars

While women did not engage in combat during World Wars I and II, they actively served their country both overseas and on the homefront. Many joined the Canadian Army Medical Service which sent nursing sisters overseas as well as providing medical services for injured soldiers who returned to Canada for treatment. The only local woman to serve at the front during the First World War was Jennie Johnson. Born February 21, 1871, the daughter of Joseph and Eliza Jane (Chambers) Johnson,<sup>47</sup> Jennie grew up in Amherstburg and by 1905 was a registered nurse working in Detroit.<sup>48</sup> In 1917, at the age of 46, she was accepted for overseas service in British hospitals. The *Amherstburg Echo* noted that,

*her worth and patriotic devotion were fittingly recognized by the Daughters of the Empire, who presented her with a chapter pin and an honorary life membership; the Girls of the Allies, who gave her a box of linen handkerchiefs, and the W.M.S. of Wesley church, whose gift was a beautifully engraved bar pin. Many gathered at the car to bid her good-bye.<sup>49</sup>*

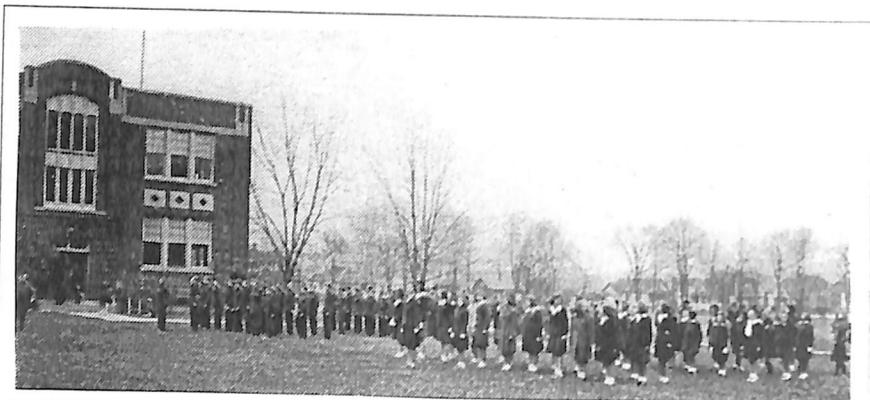
In 1919 Jennie Johnson received a gold medal along with fifty Amherstburg servicemen for having "seen active service in France or at the front."<sup>50</sup>

During the Second World War Amherstburg women were actively contributing to the cause. Some took over the factory jobs vacated by servicemen, helping to manufacture goods used by the Armed Forces. Others joined the Amherstburg branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society which contributed much to war work, including the distribution of knitting instructions for soldiers' garments and the organization of blood donor clinics. The Prisoner of War Committee collected donations from the community and sent cigarettes, blankets, shoes and other items to local boys in POW camps. A number of local women served in the Women's Enlisted Navy (WREN), Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC) and Women's Division of the Royal Canadian Air Force (WD).

When the war ended, some soldiers returned as newlyweds, having met and married their wives while overseas. These "war brides" from Europe and Great Britain quickly settled into life in a new country and contributed much to their adopted community.<sup>51</sup>

#### Royal Canadian Army Cadets

The local cadet corps was organized in 1917, making it one of the oldest corps in the area. The first official inspection of the Amherstburg High, Public and Separate School Cadet Corps took place in late May of that year. The platoon turned out 63 strong in four sections under command of the following regular officers: Instructor, Principal B.P. Overholt; Platoon Commander Stuart Hackett; Lieutenants Francis Pageau, Edwin Pearce and Orion Barron; Sergeant-Major Norbert Casey; and Sergeants John Marsh, Garnet Sutton, David Cuddy and Ross Quinlan. Sergeant Ivor Menzies and five privates were absent with leave for farm labour.<sup>52</sup> The Corps won the Campbell Trophy for efficiency in 1928. That trophy was replaced by the Strathcona Shield which was won locally six times in ten years.<sup>53</sup>



Amherstburg Cadets' Remembrance Day Parade, November 1944.

During the Second World War more than 217 former Amherstburg district cadets served in the Armed Forces, thirteen of whom made the supreme sacrifice. Thirty-seven former cadets reached officer status.<sup>54</sup>

Cadets usually start at twelve years of age. Training includes physical drill, military training and rifle practice. Their objectives are to develop and encourage good citizenship, promote physical fitness and stimulate the interest of youth in the elements of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The Amherstburg Cadet Corps was disbanded in 1968-69. In late 1975 a few local young people joined the 2861 R.C.E.M.E. Cadet corps in Windsor. By 1976 the numbers had increased and it was agreed that Amherstburg cadets would form a platoon and conduct parallel training at General Amherst High School, still remaining a part of the 2861 Corps. Lieutenant-Colonel E.M. Plante, Sstj. C.D. had long experience with this corps and agreed to take charge of training both cadets and future officers of the Amherstburg 202 Corps. In September, 1977 the new corps was approved and the 202 Fort Malden Royal Canadian (Army) Cadet Corps came into existence.<sup>55</sup> Sponsorship came from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 157, affiliation was made with 1 R.C.R. and Lt.-Col. Plante became the first commanding officer.

In 1983 Captain G.H. Ferguson took over command of the corps and in 1986 relinquished command to Captain R.C. Girard, C.D. In 1991 Captain C.R. Piper, C.D. assumed command of the 202 Army Cadet Corps.

Captain Piper still held the position of commanding officer for 1994-95 with O.Cdt. P.J. Redfearn as training officer, Capt. Girard as administrative officer and sponsor liaison, Civilian Instructor S.R. Piper as stores officer and Mrs. L. Voegeli as civilian instructor.

#### Endnotes to Chapter VIII

1. The *Amherstburg Echo*, October 3, 1930.

2. Printed in the *Amherstburg Echo*, April 17, 1936.

3. The *Amherstburg Echo*, October 14, 1910.
4. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 25, 1910.
5. The *Amherstburg Echo*, April 3, 1936.
6. Information from Harvey Mickle, 1996.
7. Ibid
8. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 4, 1906.
9. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 18, 1906.
10. The *Amherstburg Echo*, October 28, 1932.
11. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 17, 1995.
12. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 12, 1912.
13. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 17, 1926.
14. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 31, 1926.
15. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 22, 1951.
16. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 29, 1951.
17. The *Amherstburg Echo*, December 6, 1951.
18. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 18, 1909.
19. Ibid.
20. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 7, 1984. 'Upsetting the Hour Glass - 1924'. The six men were Albert Thomas, Russell Fox, Orville Fox, Ernest Brown, Robert Fryer and Stanley Meloche.
21. The charter members of the Amherstburg Kinsmen Club were Murray Bates, Robert Hallock, Tom Hudson, Peter Jaber, Stan Bertrand, Norman Faucher, William Jones, Ed Kopacz, Vern Davies, Lee Dennison, Ronald Duby, Nick Masney, Stewart McLean, George Nicholson, John Palmer, Frank Pietrangelo, George Rogers, Don Sinasac, Robert Walker, David Wigle, Guy Williams, Morrison Cadell, Glen Belyea, William Halstead, Norm Imeson, Len Bethume, Frank Bezaire, Lionel Galipeau, Murray Kennedy, Walt Lacey, Orland DeLuca, Al Dennison, John Mallet, Robert McKinley, Erwin Meloche, Stan Nicholson, Don Paquette, Roy Riel, James Scarlet, Les Thrasher, Joe E. Warren, William Wigle, Eddie Karrer and Lloyd Bondy.
22. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 13, 1957.
23. Ibid.
24. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 14, 1920. This article contains a detailed description of the institution of the Amherstburg Council No. 2110, Knights of Columbus.

25. A history of the first fifty years of Amherstburg Council 2110 was written by charter member Edward Parker and printed in the *Amherstburg Echo* on October 14, 1970.
26. Rev. J. Gerald McAlpine, C.S.B. (1907-1957) came to Amherstburg in 1955 and was for a short time 'Father Prior' of the Columbian Squires. His stay here was brief and Fr. McAlpine became ill and returned to Toronto where he died September 30, 1957.
27. The *Amherstburg Courier*, August 25, 1849.
28. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 24, 1918.
29. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 27, 1927.
30. The *Amherstburg Echo*, July 19, 1935.
31. Constitution and By-Laws of Rose Lodge No. 28, IOOF, preface (Marsh Collection Society, file "R-17"). Hereafter referred to as Constitution and By-Laws of Rose Lodge.
32. Constitution and By-Laws of Rose Lodge.
33. The *Amherstburg Echo*, November 11, 1887.
34. The *Amherstburg Echo*, February 1, 1889.
35. Tweedsmuir Histories (Park House Museum).
36. The *Amherstburg Echo*, April 15, 1921.
37. Ibid.
38. The *Amherstburg Echo*, April 22, 1943.
39. Information provided by Mike Lavigne. March 1995.
40. The *Amherstburg Echo*, January 26, 1934.
41. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 31, 1934.
42. The *Amherstburg Echo*, May 18, 1934.
43. The *Amherstburg Echo*, April 13, 1934.
44. One of the authors of the "Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 157" section, S. Jack Howard, passed away July 23, 1997 at the age of 82.
45. References to the "Oldest Legionnaire" are used as a literary device and do not refer to a specific individual.
46. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 19, 1986. 'Upsetting the Hour Glass - 1946.'
47. 1901 Census for Amherstburg.
48. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 3, 1905, obituary of Eliza Jane (Chambers) Johnson.
49. The *Amherstburg Echo*, March 23, 1917.
50. The *Amherstburg Echo*, July 4, 1919.
51. The stories of eight Amherstburg couples who met and married overseas during the Second World War were told in the *Amherstburg Echo* of November 8, 1995.
52. The *Amherstburg Echo*, June 1, 1917.
53. General Amherst High School yearbook, 1961-62.
54. Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps, Fort Malden annual inspection brochure.
55. Ibid.

## Chapter VIII - Serving the Community

- p. 343 - In the World War II honour roll, Charles Welch should be spelled "Welsh." Leo A.J. Renaud's name should be added to the World War II honour roll.