

## MILLENNIUM

# Many citizens have contributed to the growth of West Lincoln

The following people are some of the prominent citizens that have had an impact on West Lincoln in the past. Space prevents featuring all those who have served the community and if anyone has been missed that you feel is important, please accept our apologies.

A special thanks to Gove and Donna Merritt and the West Lincoln Historical Society for all their time and patience putting compiling this information. Your help is greatly appreciated.



1. **Ora Ellis** was chosen as the first citizen of the year by the West Lincoln Chamber of Commerce in 1981. He was a local farmer who was active in the Town of West Lincoln in many ways.

He was a base ball player, hockey player, school board trustee, insurance agent, town councilor, a reeve, a hydro commissioner, alderman, mayor and conservationist.

He was involved in the building of South Lincoln High School in the early 60s and was also involved with making the old high school into a public school. He was also a promoter of the industrial park and the

arena.

Ora Ellis was chosen as the first citizen of the year for his many contributions to the town and be remembered as the Town's first citizen of the year.

To be fair to all citizens of the year here is an updated list of those who shared the citizen of the year honour with Ora Ellis.

In 1981, Ora Ellis, in 1982 Joe E. Belcott, in 1983 Mary Hiscott, in 1984 Shirley Sisler, in 1985 Harry MacDonald, in 1986 Roy Swick and Everett Hiscott, Jack Dewar in 1987, in 1988 George Lane, in 1989 Ivan Carruthers and Velma Loney in 1990.

Jim Green in 1991, Jason and Doris Allen in 1992, Gerald Fruere in 1993, Marilyn Grocey in 1994 and the final citizen of the year was Jerry Keunen. The chamber has not chosen a citizen of the year in the last few years. If you know someone worthy of this honour please call your local chamber director or the chamber's office manager, Carrie Aiello at 386-6383.



2. **Nickle Davis** started his life in Madoc Ontario

and moved to Smithville in 1903. He was one of four children in his family and following his education at Smithville Public and Smithville High School he attended Hamilton Collegiate.

He turned to the law profession after a stint working on the railroad. Following a tour of the West Coast he entered Osgood Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1925. Following graduation, he set up a law practice in Smithville with his brother in-law and named it Putman and Davis.

He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1917 and was training as a pilot when the war ended.

Nickle Davis passed away in 1991.



3. **Arthur Wellington Snyder** was the son of George and Sarah Snyder and was born in St. Ann's on Dec. 27, 1897 and farmed in the town he was born in his entire life.

In May of 1923 he married Theresa Harcourt and lost his wife and their young son in a tragic train accident shortly after their son was born.

On Jan. 27, 1945 he married Irma Moote. Arthur Wellington Snyder died in 1986.



4. **Lilian Shepherd** was born in 1898 in England. She studied with Parke-Davis in Houndslow to get her pharmaceutical papers. She worked as a Red Cross Nurse during World War I and drove an ambulance to the front lines in France to pick up wounded soldiers. It was during that time when she gained her nick name Billy.

In 1919 she came to Canada as a war bride to Jack Shepherd. Where they lived in a house southeast of the bridge beside the Twenty-Mile Creek.

During the early 1920s she operated a movie theater above her husband's machine shop. In 1936 the Shepherd's built the restaurant "Shep's Inn" now known as the "Old Farm Inn" on West Street.

War broke out in 1939 and Jack Shepherd and his two sons, Alex and Howard, traveled overseas and Lilian was left to operate the restaurant on her own. In 1946 the eldest son, Alex took over and a few months later it was sold.

The Shepherds had four

children, Alex, Howard, Barbara and Jean.

Lilian Shepherd passed away in 1988.



5. **Sam Magder** and his wife moved to Smithville in 1922 and opened their store, Magder's, on the corner of Station Street and Highway 20.

From that location they moved into the A.G. Boutler building which is now the location of the Smithville IGA. Needing larger quarters for the business Sam moved the business to the other side of Highway 20 in the Murgatroyd building.

When C.A. Hodgkins built his complex of stores in 1952 Magder's was moved once again.

While the store is no longer running in Smithville's downtown many of the town's residents will have memories of Sam wrapping their packages in brown paper and twine.

Sam was in his early nineties when he died in 1987.



6. Two of West Lincoln's most prominent citizens are **Donna and Gove Merritt**.

Donna was born in Caistorville with the maiden name Phillips. Gove said he was born over Nickle Davis' office, now Angelo's House of Hair.

Gove said his father bought the funeral home business in 1944 from his cousin Ernie and that it has been passed down from generation to generation ever since.

Presently his son Tom runs the business and he and Donna help out on a part-time basis.

Donna said her husband was named after his mother's last name.

Both are very involved with the United Church of Smithville and the West Lincoln Historical Society.

Gove said presently he is the president of the society and Donna is a past president.

"We still take part in the church as much as we can," said Donna, adding that she greets people at the church and Gove does the collection.

## MILLENNIUM

# Many residents of Grimsby have become prominent for contributions

### Margaret Gibson for Weekend Edition

Two hundred and ten years ago, in unbroken forest, the Loyalist settlers laid the foundations, on the Forty, for an organized community.

The vision and energy of each succeeding generation has brought development in every facet of life, to the town name Grimsby. And many individual names have become prominent for their contributions to that development.

The name of Livingston has been commemorated, in the avenue on which the town buildings have been placed. For many years, in the second century of the Town's life, James Livingston was Editor-Owner of the Grimsby

Independent, an active participant in the Boards of Education, and in the structure of the High and Elementary schools and a Mayor with clout at Queen's Park. His son, known as 'Bones' Livingston succeeded him as Editor and joint owner of The Grimsby Independent with Wilfred Lawson.

The name of Ruby Janet (Pettit) Powell, is more widely known beyond the bounds of Grimsby, for her work in outlining, in 10 volumes "The Annals of the Forty", the early history of the area and the genealogy of the generations of the Loyalist families.

The much needed Archives of the town are being developed presently

by Writer Dorothy Turcotte with the Grimsby Historical Society's assistance.

A community becomes viable only if its humanitarian needs are met, and in this field there are many outstanding names: the Rev. Mr. Ballard Rector of St. Andrew's Church was known by everyone and served wherever needed, in many aspects of town life. Dr. James MacMillan and Alexander Globe, Owner of Grimsby Metal Craft were responsible for West Lincoln Memorial Hospital's building and development. A Hospital was first opened in the Golf Club House, donated by Leonard Eames of Hamilton, on Park Road.

When this building burned in 1948, the Founders raised

money locally to build the present Hospital on land given by Mac Nelles on Main Street East.

Many citizens had reasons to be grateful to Mayor Henry Bull in the hungry Thirties for the gift of a home. The Town had a large inventory of houses taken over for unpaid taxes and Mr. Bull made these available to industrious people who had no hope of owning a home, for the payment of back taxes and the promise of payment of future taxes and upkeep.

Grimsby has been well served by many Educators in the last hundred years. For 37 years the Rev. Dr. Drope was Principal of a well known Lake Lodge School for Boys on Lake Street as

well, he was a very active Mason in Lodge no. 7.

Principal Donald O. Awde saw the growth of Grimsby High School from an enrollment of 500 in 1941, to 1400 in 1970. Don Awde was more than an administrator; he knew his students personally and expected his school to help develop each individual to his capacity as a citizen and as a person.

For many years, Supervisor of Music in Grimsby Schools and area, Gordon Eaton, brought fame to the Town with his choirs and broadcasts on the CBC and choir visits to the CNE bandstand.

An innovation, in 1928, in Canada, was the appointment of a woman to the School Board. Ada Jackson Bromley was an effective member of the Board and Chair of the Management Committee for 37 years.

Her interests extended to all town activities and to children with learning diffi-

culties.

Grimsby owes its reputation as a town of fine homes to many builders, but several names are outstanding in this field of endeavor. Early in the century, Daniel Marsh and his five sons built handsome frame houses from the products of their lumberyard. In a later period, Gordon, Harvey, and Richard Shaffer became locally famous for the integrity of their house construction. Following their tradition, the firm of Ross Hall, Noel Ogilvie and Peter Phelps made a reputation of their own, for the designs of their fine homes and the development on new areas in the Town.

The first hundred years saw settlers coming largely from the British Isles, but the second hundred years has been marked by several waves of nationals from other countries who have made great contributions to a changing way of life.