

Twenty-three welcome additions to the herd

By Jeff Heuchert
STAFF REPORTER

Spring might still be a month away, but at Nancy and Victor West's sheep farm, signs of new life are just about everywhere.

Over the last month, the couple have welcomed about 23 lambs - six of whom arrived the same day - to their Medina farm, and with six more ewes pregnant, more are expected soon.

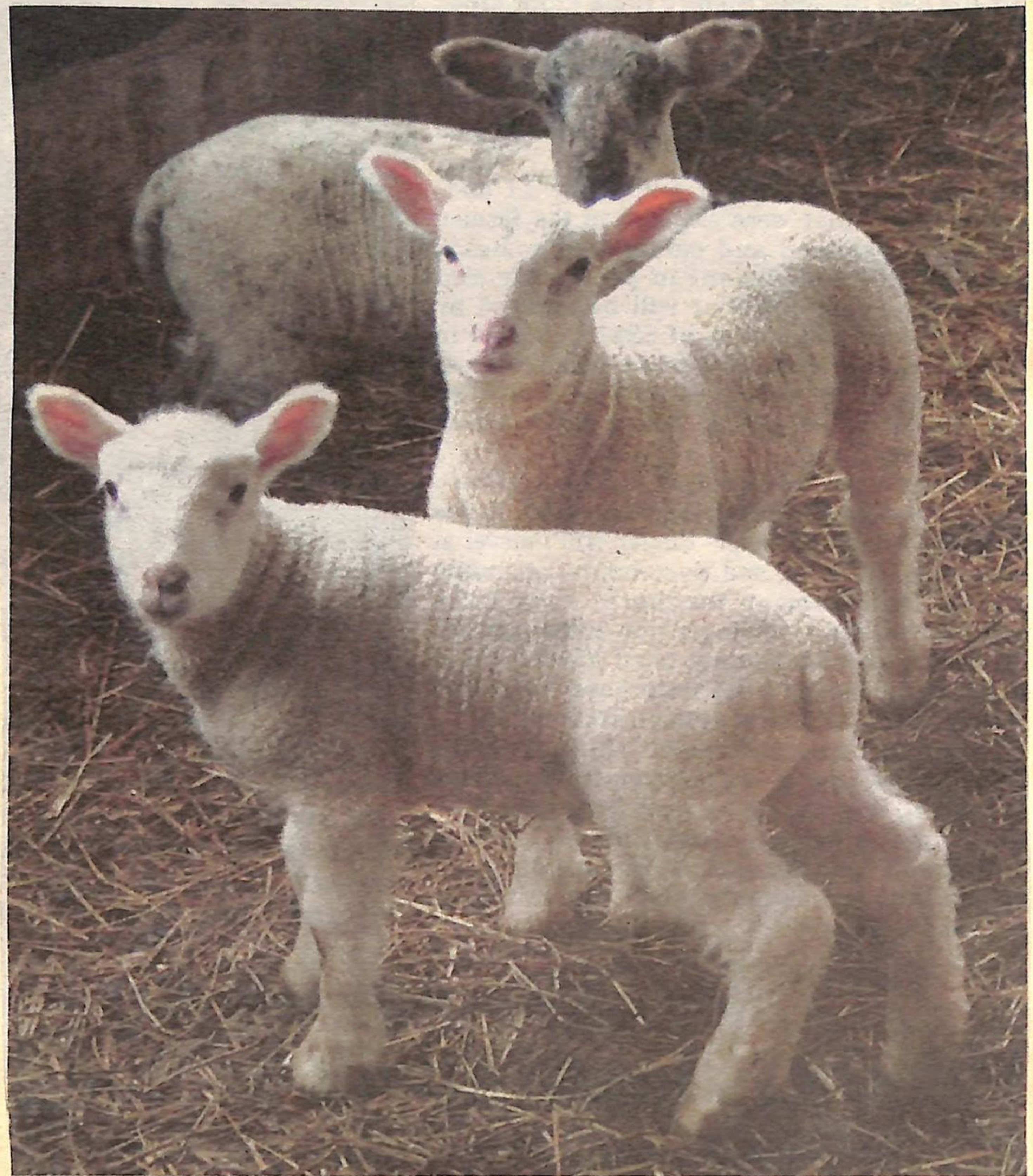
"(The barn is) as full as it's going to get," says Victor with a laugh, noting that each day he feeds the sheep and lambs at least four times, which he fits

into his schedule between his off-the-farm job.

"There's a lot of eating supper at midnight," he adds.

The Wests have been breeding sheep for the past 11 years, but Victor says there's always an element of surprise that keeps the job exciting, noting that many ewes will give birth to twins or more; he's even had one give birth to five lambs.

The Wests have about 50 ewes and two rams on the farm; Victor says he usually plans two birthing cycles each year and expects more lambs to arrive in the summer



Three of the 23 or so lambs born over the last month at the West's sheep farm in Medina. (Heuchert photo)

COME CELEBRATE
Joyce West's
80th Birthday!



Sunday, March 29th

from 2 to 4 p.m. at

BROWNS CORNERS, School

No gifts or a donation for

The St. Marys Salvation Army

Food Bank 2009

Browns WI spring lunch Apr. 18

Ruth Skillings
COLUMNIST

The Browns Women's Institute Euchre Night was held Mar. 12 at the Brown's School with the following winners: Ladies' High, Noreen Switzer; Ladies' Lone Hands, Alice Pounds; Ladies' Low, Irene Felkar; and Ladies' Door Prize, Carol Herbert. Men's High, Terry Barber; Men's Lone Hands, Bruce Cole; Men's Low, George McLellan; Men's Door Prize, Ernie Oliver. The next Euchre night is Mar. 26.

Browns Women's Institute Spring Benefit Luncheon and Euchre will be Saturday, Apr. 18 at noon at the Browns School. For advance tickets call Sheila Greason at 519-349-2768 or Evelyn Douglas at 519-349-2282. The proceeds will be divided between the Cancer Society and GIST, the Gastro Intestinal Stromal Tumour Support Group. This is

a rare condition that is not well known, so those suffering have a hard time finding a knowledgeable doctor. The group hopes for more research and communication so sufferers can get a proper diagnosis more quickly.

Browns Women's Institute met on May 19, and traveled to the Burgins' llama farm in Kirkton where they learned about the feeding habits, the uses and hierarchy of the llamas. The Burgins have 11 llamas, some of which were used as caddies on a golf course. The group had dinner and a business meeting at Damen's Restaurant. Plans for the District Annual were completed. The recommendations and changes to the bylaws were accepted. It was decided to purchase a Browns Corners sign for Road 92. Browns Women's Institute will present a dictionary to an A.J. Baker Grade 8 student showing the most improvement in literacy. The June meeting will feature a car trip to Quilts Galore in Millbank followed by lunch at Anna Mae's.

Winners at the May 21 euchre are as follows: Men's High - Larry Brook; Men's Lone Hands - Terry Barber; Men's Low - Gordon Hocking; Men's Door Prize - John MacDonald; Ladies' High - Bell Oliver; Ladies' Lone

Hands - Noreen Switzer; Ladies' Low - Doris Hocking; Ladies' Door Prize - Donna Cooper. The next euchre will be held June 4 at 8 p.m.

The Tricounty Growing Project's dedication service will be Sunday, June 7, with a potluck lunch at East Nissouri Union at 1:30 p.m. The dedication of the crop will be at the field on Road 96 just west of East Nissouri Union Church (same field as last year) at 2:30 p.m. Bob Pickel offered to provide a float again for the Thorndale Fair on Sept. 19. As usual Bob is needing children and youth to ride on the float. Contact Bob at 519-461-1400.

Officers were also elected: Chair, Sheila Greason; Secretary/Treasurer, Bev Slater; Publicity, Ruth Skillings. Kathryn and David Mayberry continue to provide a booth for the Foodgrains Bank at the Woodstock Farm Show each September and volunteers are always welcome. Richard will arrange for the Tricounty Project to be on the Thorndale and area churches'