



Canada's gain - In recognition of 2006 as the Year of the War Bride, local war brides were honoured at the Woodslee Friendship Club's Christmas Dinner, held at St. John's Hall in Woodslee, Dec. 8. Seated left to right, war brides Louise Bastien, Ruby Robertson, Margaret Smith, Betty Wilton and Cecilia Burling. Standing: Paul Chevalier accepting honours on behalf of Dorothy Chevalier, war bride Eileen Lebert, war bride Eileen Stowe, Charles Trepanier accepting for war bride Audrey Trepanier, Susan Holman accepting for war bride Margaret Plant, Essex MPP Bruce Crozier, Margaret Kramer accepting for war bride Marian Haines, and Lakeshore Mayor Tom Bain.

Tribute to local war brides

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Canada is a lot richer, because of you," he said.

The Woodslee Credit Union also presented a certificate to the local war brides and their families.

"We commend your determination and courage," said Paul Mullins, chair of Woodslee Credit Union's board of directors, speaking of the war brides' decision to leave their homeland for a new life in Canada.

Essex resident Ruby Robertson, a war bride who landed at Halifax's famed Pier 21 in 1946 to begin a new life in Canada, thanked the Woodslee Friendship

Club on behalf of the war brides.

"This large crowd was more than we ever expected," said Robertson.

Mayor Tom Bain presented further awards to war brides who resided in the municipality of Lakeshore.

The hall was filled with displays chronicling the life and experiences of the war brides.

"My husband resided in Amherstburg," said Louise Bastien, nee Gilbert, a war bride from Brussels, Belgium, who arrived in Halifax aboard the RMS Queen Mary on July 23, 1946.

"I thought to myself ...

where am I going? There is nothing here. I came from the big city and I am in the middle of nowhere," said Bastien, "It was true love, because I've been here ever since."

"Since I was an only child, my parents followed me to Canada in October of 1947," she said.

Many in attendance were the children and grandchildren of war brides from both World Wars.

Paul Chevalier accepted the honours on behalf of his mother, Dorothy Chevalier, nee Nursey, who was an English wartime nurse. She met her husband Joseph during his recuperation after

being wounded in the Battle of Ypres, during World War I. They were married in England on February 18, 1917. The couple lived and farmed on the Third Concession in Maidstone and were parents to 12 children.

Charles Trepanier accepted the honours for his sister-in-law, Audrey Trepanier, nee Hollowell, an English war bride who married Robert Trepanier on Oct. 11, 1947.

An estimated 48,000 British and European women met and married Canadian servicemen during the Second World War.

Council members appointed to municipal committees

BY FREE PRESS STAFF

Members of Essex town council each joined a variety of municipal committees during their inaugural meeting Dec. 4.

The commitments for the term ending Nov. 30, 2010, include Mayor Ron McDermott as a committee member of the Police Services Board, the Union Water System, ELK Energy Board and the ad hoc committee to review private roads.

Deputy Mayor Richard Meloche will serve as a committee member for Communities in Bloom and McGregor's Co-An Park.

He also signed up as a representative of both the finance and personnel committees and as a council liaison for the Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA).

Ward 3 councillor Ron Rogers, a newcomer to Essex town council, is a member of several committees, including EWSWA, Essex Region Conservation Authority, Colchester Harbour, the committee of adjustment and the ad hoc committee to review private roads.

Rogers said "about 98 percent" of the municipality's private roads are in Colchester South, mostly

along Lake Erie.

The committee will first look into which roads are assumed by the town and which are privately owned.

"Each one is going to be different," Rogers said, adding that he is anticipating some problems regarding a few roads.

"People are putting their own money into these roads," Rogers said. "They are also being taxed for the maintenance of all roads in the municipality. A lot of these residents would like to see the private roads they live on graded twice a year and see plows going through during severe snowstorms. We do have an

obligation to residents if we need to get an ambulance, fire truck or police car through there."

As a former member of Colchester South council, Rogers sat on the Colchester Harbour committee. He considers the harbour to be "a diamond in the rough" that would lend itself well to expansion, adding that he would like to see it dredged to a much deeper water level.

Ward 1 councillor Randy Voakes signed up for four committees: the Police Services Board, the personnel committee, the dog pound committee and the arena steering committee.

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