

# Gosfield North Communications honoured for 100 years of service

BY ANDY COMBER

A hundred years of service by Gosfield North Communications Co-operative Limited (GNCC) was recognized at their annual meeting in Cottam March 27.

"Alexander Graham Bell made history when he uttered a few words to his assistant over the world's first telephone," wrote Canada's Governor General Michaëlle Jean, in a congratulatory letter to GNCC. "Now, the Town of Kingsville is celebrating 100 years of telephone service in its community."

"I congratulate the staff of Gosfield North on this momentous occasion," she wrote.

Further congratulations were presented from municipal, provincial and federal representatives.

"Your ongoing support of local initiatives has helped our community enjoy telecommunication excellence, delivered with a personal touch" stated Essex MP Jeff Watson. "I wish you another 100 years of success."

"You can be proud of



A CENTURY OF SERVICE – Gosfield North Communications Co-operative marked their 100th anniversary with a donation of \$1000 to Justin Stevenson, a local Grade 8 student who is serving as a page in the Ontario legislature. From left: Wayne Gunning, vice-chair, Ed Gibbs, director, Linda Stevenson, director, Justin Stevenson, Larry Patterson, chair, and Marion Phaneuf, director.

your accomplishments and continuous growth over the years," wrote Essex MPP Bruce Crozier. "Best wishes for continued success in the future."

In attendance, Kingsville Mayor Nelson Santos brought personal greetings and congratulations to mark the 100th anniversary.

"They are always giving back to the community," said Santos, "It shows the

entrepreneurial spirit we have, not just in Kingsville, but in southwestern Ontario. Small business can

thrive here."

The community, including Community Living Essex County, also extend-

ed greetings.

"We have been extremely fortunate to have such a caring and dedicated friend and supporter," wrote Community Living's Executive Director Nancy Wallace-Gero. "The contributions you continue to provide our community are an example of your true community spirit."

At the meeting, Gosfield North Communications further demonstrated their partnership with the community by presenting \$1,000 to Justin Stevenson, a local Grade 8 student who is preparing to serve in the legislative page program this spring at Queen's Park. The funds will help support Justin during his stay in Toronto.

A number of old telephones, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia were on display at the

meeting, showing the significant change in communications over the last 100 years.

"One of the major challenges is keeping up with technology," said GNCC General Manager Paul Meanwell, speaking of the independent telephone company that provides high-speed data, Internet, cellular and local telephone service for its 1700 members.

Meanwell noted the changes in communications, from the time Gosfield North residents would be connected by a local telephone operator to today's high tech fibre optic networks that connect the world.

"Today, we can provide high speed Internet to virtually all our members," he said.

## Origins of family planning focus of historical society meeting

BY BILL GAY

The annual meeting of the Essex County Historical Society was held last Thursday, March 29, at the Essex Railway Station.

The guest speaker was Karis Hurst, a history major from the University of Windsor, who spoke on the topic of family planning in Windsor.

Hurst said family planning in Windsor had its origins at the Parents Information Bureau, which began operations during the Depression in Kitchener. Affluent women always had access to contraception information, but most poor families did not, she said.

With thousands on relief

for years during the Depression era, interest in birth control became not only a social but also an economic choice. Families simply couldn't afford more children. Fatality in childbirth was the third most common cause of death in women. It was only in 1969 that the distribution of contraceptives became legal. This was in concert with the Trudeau government's policy of getting the state out of the bedrooms of the nation.

The society's next event will be the Botsford lecture. The date has yet to be announced.

ECHS also elected its slate of officers for the new year – Past President - Pat Brode; President - Anita



Karis Hurst is flanked by Dr Larry Kulisek of the University of Windsor History department and Anita Colley, president of the Essex County Historical Society, at their annual general meeting held at the Essex Railway Station.

Colley; Vice-President - Dr. Trevor Price; Treasurer - Bill Gay; Director and Newsletter Publisher - Don Tupling; Director - Ken Turner.

**Chad van der Muren, B.Sc., R.M.T.**  
**REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST**

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