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*LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR LUNCH AT
Purdy's Dockside*

Where : Purdy's, On the River, Point Edward.

When : Friday, June 16th

Time : 11:30 am

Cost : \$20.00 per person – tax not included.

Purdy's fabulous pickerel dinner. Complete with fries, coleslaw & tarter sauce. Pop drink's are an extra - \$2.00

RSVP : Please contact Alma (519-336-9108) or Mel at (519-344-2931).

Please let them know if you need a ride.

This is the third in a series devoted to

- THOSE WHO SERVED - *and their stories.*

The following is an account of Ron Lawrence's military service.

Ron was one of the first faculty members hired in the beginning of Lambton College in 1966. He taught in, and was co-ordinator of the Accounting & Finance Department for many years

When World War II broke out in 1939 it never crossed my mind that, before it was over, I would have served three and a half years in the British Army. However, in 1942 I became of military age and had to go for the required medical. They established that I was warm and breathing so I was graded A1 and was called up in that year, beginning a term of service which was anything but spectacular. In fact I usually tell people I went nowhere and did nothing.

Recruited into the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, I completed infantry training at Winchester and then spent several months at York driving an army truck all over the York moors. Having been sent home on embarkation leave before departing for India, I discovered on my return that the boffins in the War Office had made the startling discovery that this war would be much more technical than the last one and that I was to be transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals and sent to Catterick to be trained as a radio mechanic and electrician.



Several months later I emerged as tradesman (with extra pay) and, this time, rode a motorcycle all around Yorkshire and got embarkation leave before going to North Africa. By the time I got back from the leave, this had been cancelled and I was transferred to a Royal Engineers Unit in Kent where I was required to repair the Engineers' radios, maintain a large battery charging shop and ride a motorcycle every morning between Maidstone and Ashford. I never really found out why.

It was therefore a bit of a surprise when I was told I was to be transferred to Scottish Command Signals in Edinburgh and this time they gave me a nice new American bike (an Indian) which I rode all over south-eastern Scotland. Between repairing radio transmitters and receivers I was required to teach the principles of electricity and radio to some wireless operators. Since they were all girls I rather enjoyed that job.

I think that's what got me hired at Lambton College because Mr Franke asked me when and where was my first experience of teaching, and I told him. He remarked approvingly that he had been doing the same thing in the German Navy. (He added "I was on the other side, you see!")

Finally, the European war came to an end and I was transferred to a unit in South Wales which was to form the occupation army in Germany. Sent away now on my third embarkation leave, I developed a bad case of influenza and wound up in a military hospital. Now, instead of building up the forces, they were busy trying to unload us and one day I was told I was to be discharged on medical grounds. So, a few days later, at Hereford, a grateful country presented me with a suit of civilian clothes, two shirts, a pair of shoes, fifteen pounds sterling and a train ticket to London.

In the end, it all added up to nothing and the only time I was in real danger was when I came home on leave and had to put up with the blitz on London, the doodlebugs (V1's) and the V2 rockets. I was safer when I got back to my army unit. Can you beat all that for excitement?

Ron Lawrence

HISTORY

Lambton College of Applied Arts and Technology first opened its doors in November 1966 at the old Bluewater School site in Sarnia. The first class of a one-year program was graduated in June, 1967. Only 3% of the students failed and 33% achieved honour standing. In the Fall of 1967, the College began its second academic year of operation. Some 250 full time day students and 650 extension school students enrolled. The first two-year program students will be graduated in the Spring of 1968 and the first diplomas in the three-year programs will be awarded in the Spring of 1969. By then the new campus on the 95 acre site located at the junction of Modeland Road and London Road in Sarnia should be well on its way to completion for occupancy in the Fall of 1970.

The enrolment is expected to more than double in the Fall of 1968. To accommodate the tremendous expansion expected in 1968, the Board of Governors, acting in conjunction with the College administration has acquired the use of the buildings and facilities of St. Patrick's High School which is located in the heart of the City of Sarnia. This acquisition will provide additional classrooms, laboratories, gym and ancillary facilities so that the College can fulfill the dynamic and accelerating needs of Lambton County for post secondary education.

All the courses offered are the direct result of a close interaction between potential employers and professional and cultural organizations in Lambton County. This is an ever continuing function of the College so that it may truly fulfill its role of serving the Community. In this fast changing world, the constant contact of the classroom with the production atmosphere of industry is fostered and encouraged. It is planned to establish a cooperative program with industry, in which classroom learning alternates with actual working experience in industry.

The Faculty has been chosen with great care. Emphasis is on teacher personality rather than teacher certification. Most of the Faculty have had distinguished and successful careers in industry, and thus are aware of the needs of our complex society.

The students are mature people who come here to succeed. They hail from several counties and provinces ranging in age from 17 to 63 years. They all take an active part in the life of the College.

A vigorous and motivated institution for continuing education has been created. It is only the beginning of an unprecedented development in our Province.

Our April Luncheon at Wagg's



..... and a good time had by all !

In Memory of Margaret Turner



Margaret A. Turner, BA, BLS – Librarian

When I started to work at the college we were always looking for information for the students. Margaret was a very friendly and helpful person to deal with in the library department. She was really dedicated to her position as the College Librarian. She became a very good friend – I had many pleasant chats with her by her house when I went out for a walk.

Alma Brown

Margaret was the first Librarian hired at the College. As the college grew she set up libraries at Bluewater campus, Russell St campus, St. Clair Regional School of Nursing and the Modeland Road campus as well as at various smaller centers. Margaret had a Music Degree and set up Modeland campus with a collection of Lps and audio cassettes.

At one time Margaret managed a staff of 11 library technicians, clerks and part-time staff. She retired in 1996 and travelled for several years.

I still have the shortbread cookie press we received from her at Christmas in the 80's. I hope she took her reading, piano and computer glasses with her. Another original college staff member resting in peace.

Kathi Vandenheuvel

POW WOW @ LAMBTON COLLEGE

Last month on April 6th, Pat & I attended the annual Pow Wow hosted by the Indigenous Student Council & Indigenous Student Centre at the Lambton College Athletics & Fitness Centre. It was the 5th time that we had been to see the local Pow Wow.

Indigenous dancers were in full regalia for traditional male & female contests accompanied by drumming & singing. Also, native arts & crafts were there for all to see and purchase. Even the audience was invited to participate as well. With the *Free Admission* the college had a full house in attendance.

If you haven't been out to witness an annual Pow Wow you are missing a very special event. We highly recommend that you go next year.

Your Executive -

Alma Brown, Cathy Bull, Terry Cameron, Mary Leckie,

Josh Lipszyc, Pat O'Connor, Gerry Page, Mel Sparks,

Kathi Vandenheuvel, Ursula Westelaken, Ray Wreford