FUNDRAISER: Tickets go on sale today with the final draw set for June 25

A media preview to launch the Dream Lottery, which supports the Children's Health Foundation, St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation and London Health Sciences Foundation, was held yesterday. Shown in the kitchen of the dream home at 3075 Wickerson Rd. are Dream Lottery Way, communications and marketing director of Children's Health Foundation; Michelle Campbell, president and CEO of St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation; and Ben Rosa, president and CEO of London Health Sciences Foundation.

SUE KEOW, LONDON FREE PRESS

Dream Lottery boosts hospitals

BY DANIELA SIBEINAC
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The dream just keeps on getting bigger.

The 19th annual Dream Lottery in support of London hospitals begins today, giving one lucky guest-prize winner and one lucky decision to make.

Among the prizes the top winner will get to choose from: • A fully furnished home in London with an Audi and $250,000 cash.

• A fully furnished home in Grand Bend with a Mercedes and $100,000 cash.

• A cash payment of $1,111 each month for 25 years.

Then, the biggest cash prize in the lottery's history.

There are also thousands of other prizes.

Dan Ross, president and chief executive of London Health Sciences Foundation, said supporting the lottery is a great way to support local hospitals.

"All of the money stays right here in our community," he said. "It's a very exciting program for us."

Tickets are $50 each, there are 100,000 tickets for sale — nine for $500. They can be bought at participating Shoppers Drug Mart locations and at participating hospital foundations.

The final draw is June 25.

Daniela Sibeinac is a Free Press reporter.

Super Students

Celebrating achievement by area elementary, high school and post-secondary students. To suggest a hero, go to lfpress.com/superstudents

Name: Cody Neville
Age: 17
School: Kenneth Destrel High
Profile: Figuring which high school he'd attend was easy for Cody Neville. The hard part? Trying to prevent Kenneth Destrel High school from closing. Neville was only in Grade 8, still, when he began a campaign when he began to take part in the Save Our School campaign, a community effort in Kenneth Destrel to save the only rural high school left in Oxford County. The Thames Valley District school board had identified the school as one of dozens needing to be closed in a restructuring cost-cutting move. Last year, Neville, now in Grade 10, spent summertime of the importance of keeping the school open by leading a letter-writing campaign aimed at school board trustees. He wrote one of two, but one is good enough. He also led a rally that shut down the community centre's 30 members and other equipment was driven through the village to protest the moves. Only recently, when the enrolment projections that include Kenneth Destrel were changed, did he and others relax. The school is safe for now, but Neville is already thinking about the next battle. "Even though we've won, we can't let it die," he said. "I don't want the school to close because of my students."

— *Compiled by Free Press reporter Daniela Sibeinac*

MORE: To nominate a Super Student or read profiles of others, go to lfpress.com/superstudents

ONLINE EXTRA

MUMPS CLINIC: On campus today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fanshawe students urged to get vaccine

BY JOHN MINER
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Health officials hope Fanshawe students will take the hint and get longer numbers than their province counterparts for a mumps vaccine clinic on campus today.

Part of a province-wide campaign to vaccinate post-secondary students against the viral disease, the clinic runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

When two clinics were held at Western in January, 1,021 students were vaccinated, only a small fraction of the student population. The Middlesex-London Health Unit had hoped to vaccinate 40-50% of Western students.

"We were a little disappointed," said Stacey Gordon, acting manager of vaccine preventable diseases at the health unit.

Most people infected with the mumps fully recover from the symptoms that include fever, headaches and fatigue, but some have complications that can include meningitis and deafness.

One in three men with mumps will develop an infection of the testicles that can cause sterility. Pregnant women who get mumps in the first trimester are at increased risk of miscarriage.

Fanshawe said health officials are targeting 18 and over for the vaccine because this group only received one dose, not the two now recommended, when they were first vaccinated.

There have been several mumps outbreaks in the last few years at universities and colleges in Canada, including a large outbreak in 2007 in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick that sickened 168 people.

John Miner is a Free Press health reporter.

JUST DON'T EXPECT ME TO LOOK!

Nicole Stewart, 4, of London, holds a Chilean rose hair tarantula during a visit to Little Tikes Bug-A-Rama yesterday at Westmount Shopping Centre. The zoo, which is from Ottawa, offers a variety of reptiles to see and touch including snakes, lizards, turtles and an alligator. Shows are scheduled throughout the day where visitors can learn about the creatures. Fun-qualified Fundders, visitors can drop by daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sunday with an admission of $6.

SUE KEOW, LONDON FREE PRESS

COURTHOUSE: Owner pushes for Elgin County building to house all St. Thomas courts

Fate of historic facility remains up in the air

BY CHAD HANSTON
chad.hanston@sunmedia.ca

Does the historic Elgin County courthouse have a new lease on life?

Its owner has a new lease with the province, but he's as confused as anyone about whether that may save the 150-year-old building on Wellington Street.

"When someone tells me they are going to die?" said London businessman Donald Parks.

The Ontario Realty Corp. (ORC) has just renewed its lease with Parks for five more years as the government agency continues its hunt for a site for a consolidated courthouse operation in St. Thomas.

Parks said while he's pleased with the five-year deal, he's not convinced it shows the ORC foresees his plan to update and expand the architectural gem.

Parks said he gave ORC officials a tour of the building in January and showed them his renovation work and his plans to transform it into a modern, functioning courthouse for all kinds of courts case scattered about St. Thomas.

"They were blown away. We had a very good meeting.

But the ORC continues its four-year search for a site to consolidate all its courts. St. Thomas city hall has backed Parks's vision for an updated and expanded courthouse at the Wellington Street site.

He has strong Toronto Group Architects, which has chosen how older courthouses can be adapted and updated.

Parks said he continues to express his case and he isn't the least bit upset or concerned the Elgin Law Association opposes his plan.

In letters to the ORC and to St. Thomas city council, association president Lisa Gunn said her group wants a new facility at another site.

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In letters to the ORC and to St. Thomas city council, association president Lisa Gunn said her group wants a new facility at another site.

Any opposition to court matters needs, Gunn wrote, "makes neither practical nor economical sense."

Parks said it is apparent few members of the bar have any

Built in 1853, the Elgin County courthouse in St. Thomas is in limbo as the owner pushes for it to be home of a consolidated courthouse.

Fire photo

property when hardly a handful of them attended a public meeting at city hall last year at which his plans were outlined.

So he's not surprised at Gunn and her letters that were sent last month.

He noted about 85 per cent of his project would be area.

Parks has drawn support from the court house neighborhood. He has received letters from residents in the building purpose-built factory is in prosperity. He purchased the building in 1986.

Chad Hanston is a Free Press reporter.

NEW YEAR'S

Iranians celebrate Norooz

BY DANIELA SIBEINAC
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London's Iranian community will be closing Sunday when their ancestors have done since ancient times.

They'll celebrate Norooz — the start of a new year.

The dinner-dance, dubbed a celebration of "diversity, happiness, peace and love," brings together all of Iran's ethnic groups here in London, said event organizer Anita Jami.

The tradition of celebrating the New Year in March goes back to ancient times to coincide with the beginning of spring.

"It's about a new life coming to the souls," Jami said.

The Iranian community's population in London is about 2,500. Organizers hope at least 300 attend Sunday's celebration.

Daniela Sibeinac is a Free Press reporter.

If you go

What: Norooz, a dinner dance celebration of the Iranian New Year

When: Sunday, 5:30-11:30 p.m.

Where: Great Canadian Gaming Corp. Centre, 985 Gainsborough Rd.

Tickets: Adults, $35 — children under 12, $20. Tickets must be ordered in advance. Call 519-474-1558 to order.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO: Andrew Hrymak plans to also continue teaching

New dean keen to pursue biomedical engineering

BY FRANCES WILLICK
Special to Sun Media

Andrew Hrymak was barbecuing around the world when he got the call offering him a new job.

Fortunately being in a new country and the food and the culture changes, it was all a big overwhelming," said Hrymak, the University of Western Ontario's newest dean of engineering. "That's the wonderful about the opportunity and about joining Western."

Hrymak was presenting two papers about plastics at a conference in India when he heard he'd been hired.

He takes over the faculty of engineering July 1.

Hrymak is currently a professor and chair of the department of chemical engineering at McMaster University.

He holds a bachelor of engineering from McMaster and a PhD from Cornering Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

He has served as director of the Walter G. Booth School of Engineering Practice and of the McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute.

Chair of the selection committee, Fred Longstaffe, said Hrymak was chosen because of his ability to connect with students, his strong record in research and his experience in the private sector.

"He understands the fundamental values of universities and how to link that with the larger needs of society," Longstaffe said. "We thought Andy would be superb."

Hrymak said leading the faculty through the current recession will be a challenge.

"Especially in engineering, we work with industry a lot," he said. "When industry is in financial times, it becomes difficult to obtain funding in the short term, but it's important to build long-term funding."

Hrymak said developing innovative ideas is part of his strategy for the faculty's growth and success.

One of his interests is bringing entrepreneurial skills to engineers together in the fields of biomedical engineering and biofuels.

While Hrymak will spend some of his time on administrative duties, he hopes to continue teaching as well.

"I find it very rewarding. Students have good ideas and good questions," he said. "I like helping them develop their skills and their knowledge inside and outside of the classroom."

Andrew Hrymak has been named dean of engineering at Western. He was chosen for his strong record in research, his ability to connect with students and his experience in the private sector.

Special to Sun Media

WILDLIFE

Tundra swans return to Southwestern Ontario as migration starts

BY AINE MOORAD
Special to Sun Media

The tundra swans are back in town.

"I've seen almost 50," said Gerry Watson, co-ordinator of the Return of the Swan Festival at Lambton Heritage Museum.

Flying in flocks, the swans can usually be seen in March when the warmer weather begins, said Watson, who have observing the birds for more than 30 years.

The eye-catching birds are those white, have a black head and a wing span of two metres.

Watson said once the migration starts, they can be seen in fields ranging from a few hundred birds in several thousand.

A regional staging area for birds in Kent appeared on the museum lenses as Deadbird Bay, Watson said.

As the Safal floods in the spring, the swans will begin to ponder the swans feed.

Emery said the calling sound the swans make when they approach a staging area makes the experience even more memorable.

Of the 138,000 swans that migrate from Chesapeake Bay to the Arctic nesting ground, 10 per cent pass by the Ontario Wildlife Management area, an interconnecting 80 acre-flooded land-watching location.

"Sometimes they are down

Tundra swans can be seen in Southwestern Ontario

Fire photo

in Lake Erie ... sometimes you can just see them out in the fields behind a farmer's house," he said.

Mark Emery of the Natural Resources Ministry is the co-ordinator for the Elgin Strawanbup Council said the migration of the swans is a worth experiencing.

"It's quite an amazing joy to see the numbers ... the size of the birds ... the solid white against the black."

Emery said the calling sound the swans make when they approach a staging area makes the experience even more memorable.

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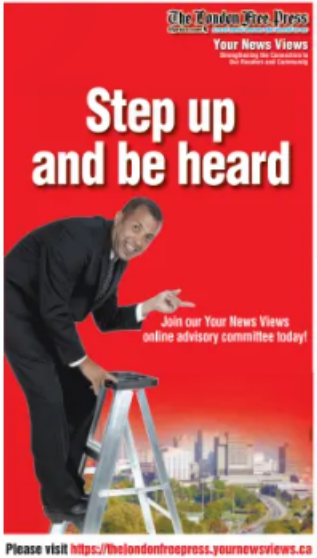

policebriefs

OWNER SURPRISES BREAK-IN SUSPECT
A suspect in a Dorchester Crescent break-in got a surprise face-to-face with the homeowner. North OPP said they were called to a home just after 4 a.m. Friday for a report of a break-in at 10 Alma St. in Dorchester. The homeowner was confronted when he heard a noise and found a man had started going downstairs to open it when a man kicked in the door and came face-to-face with the homeowner. He was frightened off and ran to a white pickup truck and sped off. Police are also investigating a break-in on Perth County OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

YOUTHS SOUGHT IN KMEFORMT BOBBERY
London police are looking for two 12- or 13-year-old boys who tried to rob two girls in Kettlewell Park on the bus girls, 13 and 12, were in the area of Southdale Road and Adelaide Street in south London about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday when two boys approached, one brandishing a knife and demanding money. The girls told police they didn't have any money and the boys left. The two girls weren't injured. One of the boys is described as white, 5-foot-5, slim build, with short brown curly hair. He was wearing a red T-shirt and dark pants and holding a knife. The other boy is described as white, slim, with short hair wearing camo shirt and pants. Anyone with information is asked to call London police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

TEEN IN HOSPITAL AFTER ASSAULT
A Middlesex County teen is in hospital with serious injuries after a hit-and-run crash early yesterday morning. OPP were called to the scene on Kenwood Road at Elgin Mill Road, about five kilometres southwest of Komoka, where they found the injured teen on the side of the road. The teen was taken to Strathroy Middlesex General Hospital in London with serious injuries. Constable Cedric Bruyere with information is asked to call Wolfe on Duty OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

MAN CATCHES THIEVES IN THE ACT
A London man caught two thieves yesterday in front of his home and held them for police. Police say a 21-year-old man was outside his home on Cheapside Street when he saw strangers trying to steal property. The suspects fled. A 19-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy, both of London, are charged with breaking and entering. The 21-year-old is also charged with assaulting a police officer with a police and resisting arrest. Police are looking for three more suspects. Anyone with information is asked to call London police at 519-661-5670 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

ONE ARRESTED, ONE SOUGHT IN BREAK-IN
Two brothers have charges after a break-in Tuesday night. London police say. At about 10:30 p.m., there was an argument in front of a home on Dundas Street between a 22-year-old man and the residents of the home. A 19-year-old man broke into the home with another man. The second man forced his way into the house at knife-point and with the two residents inside. The two residents fled through a window. They were not seriously injured. Police have arrested one man and are looking for the other, John Taylor, 34, of London, is charged with two counts each of forcible confinement and assault. Police are seeking David Taylor, 22, of London.