

January, 2010

Elgin County Archives Acquires *West Lorne Sun* and *Rodney Mercury* Photographs

The Elgin County Archives has acquired a collection of more than 6,000 photographs originally published in the *West Lorne Sun* and *Rodney Mercury* newspapers, 1951-1989. The donation was made on behalf of the Lashbrook family by the long-time *Sun* and *Mercury* staffer, Harley Lashbrook.

The photographs are the original publication prints used in the *Sun* and *Mercury* from 1951 to 1989. They were used to illustrate articles covering every aspect of local life, from notices of birth, death and marriage to profiles of local businesses, institutions and events. In the coming months, Archives staff will be working to prepare the collection for permanent storage and to digitize the images for publication on its website at

<http://www.elgincounty.ca/ElginCounty/CulturalServices/Archives/default.php>.



Harley Lashbrook (left) discusses the collection with Archivist Stephen Francom.

.....2



“These photographs represent a resource of unparalleled significance documenting the recent history of West Elgin and region” said Elgin County Archivist Stephen Francom. Mr. Lashbrook noted “I am extremely pleased to see this valuable collection find a permanent home at the Elgin County Archives, where it will be carefully preserved and made accessible to researchers and the public.”

Mr. Lashbrook served as Reeve of West Lorne and Elgin County councillor, 1976-1985 and is a prominent local historian, the author, with his wife Nancy, of the publications *West Lorne: 90 Years A Village* (1997), *Aldborough: The Township With A Past* (2001), and, most recently, *West Elgin At War: Letters, Stories and Pictures of Local Men and Women in our Armed Forces in the First World War* (2007). He is currently working on a companion volume, *West Elgin At War: Letters, Stories and Pictures of Local Men and Women in our Armed Forces in the Second World War*.