

- 1936 - Mrs.W.H.Legg,with Florence Britton as assistant - 'The Supper Club'.
- April 1937 - Mrs.W.Phillips,with Gertrude Evert as assistant - 'Cottons May Be Smart'.
- September 1937 - Mrs.Robert Abell with Gertrude Evert as assistant - 'Vegetables'
- April 1938 - Gertrude Evert,with Ruby Taylor as assistant - 'Bedroom Accessories'.
- October 1938 - Mrs.W.H.Legg with Marie Legg,as assistant - 'Clothes Closets Up to Date'.
- Spring 1939 - Mrs.C.Hoover,with Mrs.Chas Cline as assistant - 'Sleeping Garments'.
- Fall 1939 - Mrs.Charles Cline with Mrs.J.Howse as assistant - 'Being Well Dressed and Groomed '.
- Spring 1940 - Mrs,Charles Cline,with Mrs.J.Howse assistant -'The Club Girl Intertains'.
- Fall 1940 - Mrs.Bruce Brown with Mrs.Ralph Stover as assistant -'The Club Girl Stands on Guard'.
- Spring 1941 - Mrs.Bruce Brown with Mrs.R.Stover,assistant - 'The Milky Way'.
- Fall 1941 - Mrs.Wesley Phillips with Marjorie Stover,assistant - 'Bedroom Accessories'.
- Fall 1942 - Mrs.W.H.Legg - 'The Cereal Shelf'.
- 1946 - Mrs.Wilfred Herbert,with Mrs.Henry Legg,assistant - 'Sleeping Garments'.
- 1947 - Mrs.Roy McGregor withMrs.Walter Matthews,assistant - 'Cottons May be Smart'.

Some of these clubs won high honours in judging at C.N.E.Toronto,Simcoe, London and at Achievement Days.

The girls who obtained County honours,which means that they completed

six projects, are :- Marie Legg, Marjorie Stover, Shirley Ashford, Hazel Learn, Beatrice Jenkins.

Delegates sent to the Junior Girls Conference at Guelph were -

1931 Shirley Bray, 1932 Hazel Garton, 1935 Hazel Simpson,

1937 Gertrude Evert, Marie Legg. 1938 Ruby Taylor, Marjorie Legg,

1939 Marjorie Stover, Evelyn Legg. 1940 Hazel Learn, Margaret Hide.

It is interesting to note that many of the topics, considered vital in the early records, still have an important place in women's activities, today.

It is recorded :- In 1914, Aleta Dance gave an interesting paper on 'Co-operation of the Child's Home and School Life'. In 1916, Rev Snowden spoke on 'The Values of Books, Flowers, and Music in the Home'. In 1917, Mrs. James Drake gave an interesting paper on 'Child Culture and Preparedness'. July 5th, 1917 Mrs. James Moore (Sr), on 'Sociality of Yesterday and Today'. Oct. 3, 1929 - Mrs. Arthur Moore - 'Personal Influence and Responsibility in the Home'. Jan. 3, 1930 - Miss Alta Holmes - 'Is Living a Life, More Than Making a Living?'

Others topics included 'Culture' by Mrs. (Dr.) Cline, Belmont. 'Women's Influence in the Empire' - Mrs. (Dr) Riddell, Richmond. 'Primitive Indians of the Southern Counties of Ontario' - Mrs. Denzil Finch, 'Peace Education and International Relations' - Mrs. E. L. Sweet. 'History of Elgin' - Mrs. John Evert, 'Legislation, as It Affects Country Women' - Mrs. E. Mossey. 'Processing Carnation Milk' - Mr. P. Harrington, Aylmer, 'Beautification of the Home, As A Hobby' - Mrs. Morley Jackson, St. George and many more worth while topics, listed on the programs, throughout the years.

It is also interesting to note the varied topics of speakers, that come to us from the Department, usually at the June picnic meeting, in the early years:-

In 1914 - 'The Cause and Prevention of Disease' - Miss Mbody, Toronto.

1915 - 'The Women of Today' - Miss Preston, Napanee.

1916 - 'Such Stuff as Homes Are Made of' - Miss Ethel Chapman.

1917 - 'Usefulness' - Dr. Mc Ewen, London.

Dr. Anna Backus - on 'The Franchise'; Miss Susie Campbell on 'How We Might Improve Our Schools'.

1918 - 'Women's Opportunities in Wartime' - Mrs. George Crain, Beamsville.

1919 - 'Laws in Relation to Women and Children' - Miss Mc. Tavish.

1920 - 'Women's Institute and Its Possibilities' - Mrs. Low, Toronto.

1921 - 'New Clothing and Old' - Miss Preston, Napanee. Patterns were distributed to the members.

1922 - 'Rural Problems and How to Meet Them' - Miss Mc. Donnough.

1923 - 'Institute Work, Today and Tomorrow' - Kate Aiken.

1924 - 'Branch Responsibilities' - Mrs. T. W. Meek.

1927 - 'The Four Cardinal Virtues' - Dr. Anna Backus, Aylmer and Pt. Rowan.
(Prudence, Justice, Temperance and Fortitude) She also gave another talk on ^{Retarding} 'Old Age', which dealt with health and hygiene.

1928 - 'A House and a Home' - Miss Applebe.

1929 - 'Our Girls and Boys - How ? Where ? Why ?' - Mrs. Joan Hamilton Shearer, M.A., at a joint meeting with Lyons branch.

1930 - 'The Health of the Mind' - Dr. Annie Ross, at a joint meeting with Lyons, in the Disciple church., Mapleton.

1931 - 'Making the Best of What We Have' - Mrs. Stone, at a joint meeting with the north Yarmouth branch.

This 'speaker service' to branches was discontinued in 1926 and for a time, was a feature of the winter picnic for all Institutes of East and West Elgin. The first one was held in Alma College, St. Thomas, each branch assuming its share of the responsibility. In 1932, this popular function outgrew the accommodation, so plans were made to divide and hold one picnic for East Elgin and one for West Elgin.

In 1934, the first East Elgin winter picnic was held in the Aylmer Baptist church. This popular event has been continued through the years in the month of February, either at the Baptist church or at St. Paul's United Church; with the 1950 and 51 picnics held in the Recreation Hall, Aylmer.

Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch entertained the District Annual in 1916, 1925 and in 1937, in the Church of Christ, Mapleton. A number of members have served as district officers :- As president - Mrs. Denzel Finch, Mrs. David White, Mrs. John Bray, Mrs. John Evert, Mrs. W.H. Legg.

As a vice president - Mrs. Charles Cline.

As district secretary - Myrtle Paddon, Mrs. Carlton Dance, Mrs. Wilfred Faulds.

Membership cards were used at first. Then 'yearly programs'. On the 1923-24 program, directly under the motto - 'For Home and Country' was printed 'In love of home, the love of country has its rise'. This proved all too true, when in October 1939, Canada entered the war against Germany and an all out war program was undertaken by the Women's Institute.

Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch again rose to the occasion and never lagged through six long, trying years of war. Sewing, knitting, sending food and comforts to the boys, making jam for Britain and raising funds for war purposes.

Always on the alert for new ways to raise funds, the Crossley-Hunter Group

entered the 'Shoulder to the Wheel' club contest, conducted by the Canadian Countrymen Magazine, which gave \$ 10.00 encouragement award to the group, sending in the best report, each month. The September 1942 report was entered and what a thrill was experienced by the members of the group, upon receiving the encouragement award for the very first entry. This report is just a sample of the work accomplished each month by each of the two groups.

The \$10 Encouragement Award finds its way this month to a splendid new Group—the Crossley and Hunter Group of the Kingsmill and Mapleton Women's Institute—whom we are delighted to welcome into membership with us, even as we add their name to our Honor Roll of Groups. Surely that is a real mark of distinction, to win an Award with the very first entry! And have you noticed that this has happened several times of late? Doesn't that point a moral to all those other busy Groups who have always been intending to get an entry in, but have just never got around to doing so? You never can tell when you might be in the lead, you know!

We like very much the enterprise of this new Group, the diversity of their efforts along so many different lines, their care for the boys Overseas, and also their friendly attention to those left behind on the home front. They do indeed live up to the good W.I. Motto, and we feel that they will have much to contribute to our Shoulder-To-The-Wheel Club work as the months go on. A very sincere welcome to you all!

Encouragement Award

The Crossley and Hunter Group of the Kingsmill and Mapleton Women's Institute would like to enter your "Shoulder - To - The - Wheel" Contest for the month of September.

The Kingsmill Mapleton Institute takes in a large district which is entirely rural and in order to conserve gas and rubber, we find it satisfactory to work in two groups, of which the Crossley and Hunter Group is one.

We have 21 paid members in our group, all of them busy farm women, taking their part in production, which is so necessary in the War Effort.

For the month of September we have the following report: 1 pr. seamen's 18" socks, 3 pr. ladies' gloves, 2 pr. ankle socks, 1 scarf, 1 pr. seamen's short socks, 2 dressing gowns, 1 bed jacket, 1 girl's skirt, 1 wind-breaker, 1 pr. boy's pyjamas, 2 large quilts, quilted, 432 lbs. jam, the fruit of which was donated. We purchased 96 lbs. honey. The jam was made at the members' homes, also the quilting is done at the homes. A vegetable sale netted us \$27.51. We showed our Red Cross knitting and sewing at our local fair in the "Win the War" section, and although the prizes were small we received first prizes on all exhibits and received \$5.15 prize money. A 10c collection is taken at each quilting and when it reaches \$5.00 it is handed to our Red Cross representative to hand on to Aylmer, the Red Cross Society we work with. We have \$2.98 collection this month. We are now receiving donations for the boys overseas Christmas boxes, which will be sent next month.

Our institute motto, "For Home and Country", is kept in mind as we remember the sick and welcome the new arrivals with cards. This month we had the pleasure of sending flowers and a birthday card to a lady in our Community who celebrated her 101st birthday. The money for these cards is raised especially for the purpose.

The Crossley and Hunter Group,
Kingsmill Mapleton Women's
Institute,

Mrs. Roy McGregor, Secretary.

A Branch of the Red Cross was set up in Aylmer and from there, supplies were distributed. Mrs. Lloyd Laidlaw was appointed representative from the Kingsmill-Mapleton Branch and in 1940, was appointed to the Red Cross Executive.

In February, 1941, the work became so heavy, that Mrs. Laidlaw asked for an assistant. Mrs. Ross Evert was appointed to act as Representative for the Crossley-Hunter group, leaving Mrs. Laidlaw to serve the Kingsmill group. In 1945, Mrs. Roy Mc. Gregor took over from Mrs. Evert and continued until the end of the war. Through the untiring efforts of the women of our district and of the Red Cross representatives, a splendid volume of finished work was returned to the Red Cross rooms.

Jam and marmalade was made at the time, in home kitchens, using vacuum topped cans, supplied from the Department. On April 1st, 1946, when the war work was considered finished, Kingsmill-Mapleton had to their credit, in the war effort :-

331 large quilts, 64 crib quilts, 1,314 articles of sewing,
1,237 articles of knitting, 520 pounds of jam, marmalade and jelly and
1,000 pounds of honey.

In recognition of this splendid contribution to the war effort, the Red Cross presented each worker with a sterling silver pin, suitably engraved, to wear as a souvenir.

In 1939, Miss Mary A. Clarke was appointed Superintendent of Ontario Women's Institutes and admirably guided them through the critical war years, always keeping before the members, the high ideals and standards of the organization. In June, 1940, a motion was made to have the daily prayer printed on the programs. This was indeed a strengthening power, during the crucial time.

To witness a display of the work done by the women of the district in 1941, a motion was made that the presentation of the flag be a feature of the meeting. This was approved and the flag was presented to the women of the district. This was followed at the December meeting for the first time by Mrs. Jane Brown, following the signing of the National Anthem.

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DAILY PRAYER

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O God, the Father of us all,

Who hast made of one blood, all the nations of men,

Mercifully receive the prayers that we offer

For our anxious and troubled world.

Send Thy light into our darkness, and guide

the nations

The nations, as one family into the ways

of peace.

Take away all prejudices, hatred and fear.

Give grace to all who serve and suffer, because

Of war.

Strengthen in us, day by day, the will to understand

one another and forgive us, our trespasses,

as we forgive them that trespass

Against us.

To those, who by their counsels, lead the people

Of the earth, grant a right judgment

That so through them and us, Thy will be done

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

In 1941, a motion was made that the 'presentation of the flag' be a feature of each Institute meeting, both in war and peace time. A suitable flag was purchased for this purpose. This was presented at the December meeting for the first time by Mrs. James Drake, following the singing of the National anthem.

In 1929, the group system was worked out. Four groups were formed - Kingsmill, Mapleton, Crossley-Hunter and Glen. Fifty per cent of the earnings from each group to be spent in the community. This proved a great success and met the needs of the community sociability in a splendid manner.

In 1930 the need was felt for an Institute Branch in North Yarmouth and the members from that area, withdrew to form the North Yarmouth Branch, with Mrs. Neil Curtis, its first president. Then the groups were changed to 'Kingsmill' and 'Crossley-Hunter' groups. and have continued in that way, through the years. Folding chairs, dishes and silver were purchased for each group, supplying a long felt need for Institute meetings and other social gatherings in the two communities.

Especially during the war years (1939 - 46) did the groups serve in a creditable way, not only for the splendid volume of Red Cross work but also in remembering the boys who had left the security of home and family, to serve in the armed forces. The Crossley-Hunter group reports show that farewell parties were held in the school house for each boy, leaving for overseas and a farewell gift presented. They sent boxes of food etc. at Christmas and Easter time. The names of the boys from the community serving overseas were:-

Ross Abell, Fred Booker, Keith Drake, Stuart Moore, Donald Finch, Clarence Leslie, Bob Eggleton, and in Canada:- John Sweet, Elmer Legg, Donald Matthews, Harvey Willsey, Franklin Bray.

Boxes were also sent to boys who had at some time been connected with the community. These were :- Leslie Lake, Bob Buchanan, Alfred Johnson, Michael Johnson, D.R. Philp, George Raynor, Cyril Raynor, Don Overbaugh, Leslie Davies, and H.J. Worsley.

At the close of the war, as the boys returned home to our community, a welcome

reception was given in the Crossley-Hunter school and a gift of a leather wallet, containing the sum of \$30.65 presented to each. This was done by a special canvas of the community. The boys receiving this gift were:-

Ross Abell, Fred Booker, Keith Drake, Stuart Moore.

Bob Eggleton had slipped away without a farewell gift, so a wallet and \$ 30.65 was reserved and later sent, when he arrived back, locating in Toronto.

The group wishing to honour Donald Finch, who made the supreme sacrifice and is buried at Harrogate, Yorkshire, England, had a cement flower vase placed on his grave. This was accomplished through a kind and interested English lady - Mrs. Huggins. The inscription on the vase, reads - 'Donald, from the Crossley-Hunter Group of K.M.W.I.'

In December 1951, the Crossley-Hunter group had a canvas made of the community that each family might contribute to a Christmas gift of money for Harold Hide, serving as a missionary in Africa. With this gift, went our best wishes for strength and courage to carry on the work.

The Kingsmill Group also had a farewell Get together for most of the boys, joining the services and gave them a gift before they went away. They sent boxes of food etc. at Christmas and Easter time.. The names of those enlisting from the community, receiving boxes from the group were:- Ansel Martindale, Douglas Durdle, John Potts, Leon Williams, Ray Ball, Russell Britton, Archie Hughson, Ross Neville, Charles Cleaver, Barrie Cleaver, Francis Cline, Earl Littleproud, Glen Sweetman, Archie Sinclair, J.W. Fisher, William Johnston, Archie Fisher, Donald Finch, Donald Foster and Helen Wodham.

The Institute also sent boxes to boys, who were friends or relatives of Kingsmill people or husbands of some of the Kingsmill girls, who were not receiving boxes from any other organization. The names of the boys who received these good will boxes, were:- Ray Minor, Ray Scott, Clifford Scott,

Charles West, R.R. Minor, William Hunter, Leslie Davies and Ray Buck.

Not only did the Kingsmill group send boxes to the boys in the services, they also sent flowers or cards of sympathy to the bereaved. After the boys came home, the people of the neighbourhood felt they would like to show their gratitude and appreciation and decided to make them a gift. A canvas of the community was made and \$ 371.91 was collected to pay for gifts. A reception was held, sponsored by the Kingsmill group at the Kingsmill Hall on February 2nd, 1945. A large number attended to honour the boys. A program and lunch was provided and each of eleven boys were presented with a pair of wool blankets, a gold signet ring and a package of cigarettes. The eleven boys were :- Glen Sweetman, Bill Johnston, Ansel Martindale, Donald Foster, Douglas Durdle, John Potts, Earl Littleproud, Archie Sinclair, Ray Scott, Russell Britton, Ross Neville, Francis Cline. The latter received his gift later, when he returned from overseas.

The neighbourhood thought they had shown their appreciation for the hardships endured by the boys but they felt they had not shown their sorrow or appreciation for the boys, who had made the supreme sacrifice, so after years of thought, it was decided by the Kingsmill group to donate a wheel chair, honouring the memory of five young men who gave their life in World War II.

On February 14th, 1951, in a special ceremony, the Kingsmill group presented a modern wheel chair to Memorial Hospital, St. Thomas at the home of Mrs. Ivan Warren, Springfield R.R. #2. More than fifty women were gathered to witness the service of dedication and presentation, in conjunction with a Valentine tea. Taking part in the ceremony were :- Rev. William Fermer,

Mrs. John Donald, president of the group and Mrs. Kenneth McNeil, who gave the presentation address.

Representing the Hospital Trust, was the president, Nyal Cook, St. Thomas, with the Hospital represented by its director of Nursing, Miss Isobel Stewart.

The five young men, who died on active service and in whose name, the chair was presented were :- Donald Finch, and J. Barry Cleaver, members of the Royal Canadian Air Force; Glen Durdle, Archie T Fisher and Leon Williams, members of the Canadian Army. Affixed to the chair is a bronze plaque, bearing the names of the five men and the name of the group through which it has been donated.

Following is the address, read by Mrs. Kenneth McNeil and later presented to the Hospital Trust: -

" The Kingsmill Group, of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Institute have been much concerned as to how best to honour the men of this district, who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. After much thought it was decided that a piece of equipment, that could be used, first in the present Memorial Hospital, and then transferred to the new Hospital, would not only keep their names in honoured remembrance, but be of service, as it is used in the sacred calling of ministering to the sick. On behalf of the Kingsmill group, we take pleasure in presenting to the Hospital Trust, this wheel chair, in memory of our honoured dead. Their work is done. They gave their all in service. It is our sincere wish that this chair may too, be of service in the great work that is being done by the Hospital" The address was signed by the president, Mrs. John Donald and the secretary, Mrs. Lorne H. Orris.

THOMAS, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1951

Gift to Hospital by Kingsmill Group of W. I.



FROM THE HANDS OF MRS. JOHN DONALD, president of the Kingsmill section of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, Nyal Cook, president of the St. Thomas Memorial Hospital Trust, receives the bronze plate to be placed on the modern invalid wheeled chair, the gift of the Kingsmill group to the hospital. In the picture (left to right): Mr. Cook; Mrs. Ivan Warren, hostess for the meeting; Mrs. Donald; Miss Isabell Stewart, director of nursing at the hospital.

—Photo by Stollery

Modern Wheeled Chair in Honor of Kingsmill Heroes

History Will Probably Show Their Country Closed Door on Great Opportunity When Japan Was Beaten

One of the most modern invalid's wheeled chairs was received by the Memorial Hospital Trust, Wednesday afternoon, from the officers and members of the Kingsmill division of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute, as a useful memorial to the five young men from that little community who made the supreme sacrifice in the Second World War.

The gift was presented to Nyal Cook, president of the Memorial Hospital Trust, and Miss Isabella Stewart, director of nursing, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Warren, Mrs. Warren officiating as the charming hostess. Mrs. John Donald, president of the Kingsmill section of this dual Institute made the presentation.

James C. Jenkins of Belmont, Warden of Elgin County in 1943 and vice-president of the Ontario Concentrated Milk Producers' Association, attended the presentation ceremony in behalf of Warden Charles F. Jackson who was attending the annual convention of the Ontario Agricultural Council in Toronto. Mr. Jenkins expressed his personal commendation for the thoughtful act on the part of the ladies. In giving the hospital such a gift which is to be transferred to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital when that institution is completed, will not only be a useful memorial to the five unreturning war heroes but it may help in saving the lives of others or in alleviating their suffering. The gift was accepted in the sacred cause of humanity.

The presentation address bearing the signatures of Mrs. Donald and Mrs. Lorne R. Orris, secretary, and read by Mrs. Kenneth McNeil, R. R. 2, Springfield, was worded as follows:

"The Kingsmill Group of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute have been much concerned as to how best honor the men of this district who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

"After much thought it was decided that a piece of equipment that could be used, first in the present Memorial Hospital and then transferred to the new hospital, would not only keep their names in honored remembrance, but be of service as it is used in

the sacred calling of ministering to the sick.

"On behalf of the Kingsmill Group we take pleasure in presenting to the Hospital Trust this wheel-chair in memory of our honored dead . . ."

"Their work is done. They gave their all in service.

"It is our sincere wish that this chair may, too, be of service in the great work that is being done by the hospital."

Bears Bronze Plate

The chair, one of the newest in stainless steel design and fabrication, represents an outlay of \$125 on the part of the Mapleton ladies.

A bronze plate has been inscribed with the names of the five war heroes who are being memorialized. They are: Donald D. Finch and J. Barry Cleaves, who served in the R. C. A. F. and Glenn D. Durdle, Archie T. Fisher and Leon S. Williams, who served in the Canadian Army.

Letter of Thanks

A letter is being sent to the Kingsmill ladies, on motion of Mayor E. C. Glicdon, expressing the thanks of the Trust and personal appreciation of the Trustees for such a thoughtful and useful gesture.

Dr. J. W. Snell asked about giving the Kingsmill ladies credit in the records of donations and gifts for furnishing the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

The wheeled chair was brought from the Warren home by Mr. Cook and displayed at the monthly meeting of the Trust, Wednesday afternoon.