



FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

MAPLETON — Elgin East District Women's Institute branches celebrated their 100th anniversary at Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples. Kingsmill-Mapleton were the hosts.

Betty Van Patter, president of East Elgin District, brought words of welcome to guests, members of seven branches participating and friends. The opening Ode and Mary Stewart Collect was shared by about 80 women present. The Centennial song was played by Esther Humphrey on the piano, and Jean Phoenix assisted us in song.

Sylvia Cerna led us in our WI grace before the smorgasbord luncheon which consisted of a menu that would have been prepared similar to 100 years ago.

Each branch brought a variety of food such as beef, chicken, egg sandwiches, and cucumber/ watercress sandwiches. There were buttermilk tea biscuits with strawberry jam, sugar cookies, Johnny cake with maple syrup, gingerbread with whipped cream and tea.



For Home and Country

More than 15,000 women gathered in homes and community halls across Ontario to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute on Feb. 19.

An agenda for these branch meetings was designed by a committee from the Eastern Area of Ontario to celebrate the history of the Women's Institute.

Greetings were brought from Kingsmill-Mapleton branch by their president, Gerry Jenken.

Congratulations were received from chairman of the church, Jim Thompson, and reeve of South Dorchester, John Wilson, also had recollection of what the Women's Institute has done for Ontario; remembering when the organization brought he and his wife, Doreen together when there were students at the University of Guelph. She was studying home economics at the school's WI-sponsored McDonald College, and he was studying agriculture.

Special greetings were from Willa Johnston, board director Subdivision 22 for Federated Women's Institute of Ontario.

Congratulations were extended by Donna Doleman, past home economist for Elgin County, and also from Valerie Clark, rural agriculture specialist for Elgin County. A special collection was gathered by Kingsmill-Mapleton branch for the headquarter's fund.

Joanne Erickson, who proudly celebrated her birthday on this eventful day, served punch at intermission. She was dressed in period costume. Several other women were in similar attire.

The motto "Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future" was written and read by Joan Mansell.

The roll call, "What have I accomplished with a Women's Institute life skill?" was answered by each branch president.

Grace Blewett, Elgin East District secretary, read the original minutes of the Stoney Creek meeting. Following this, one member of each branch read the historical accounts of the W.I. entitled, "Did you know that...?"

An invitation followed downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to continue celebrating another anniversary. This was for the Kingsmill-Mapleton branch that were having its 90th. Janet Heipleh reminisced their history over these wonderful years of memories.

February 19, 1997

Evelyn Hoshal, left, and Betty Van Patter dressed in historic costume for Wednesday's 100th anniversary of Women's Institute. (T-J photos)



February 19, 1997

June 17-22, 1997

WI celebrates 100th at Hamilton

BY FRANCES ANDERSON Ontario Farmer staff

Two thousand country women from around the world gathered in Hamilton recently to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Held in conjunction with the triennial Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC), convention public relations officer Mary Janes said the week-long extravaganza was an unforgettable experience.

A highlight of the event was the opening ceremonies, attended by Helen Burt Upper Saunders-Baufelt, a long-time W.I. member from Thorold who was born the same year as the first W.I. branch. She recently celebrated her 100th birthday as well.

Keynote speaker Roberta Bondar, a Canadian woman who joined the space program drew on her life experience to address the convention theme Indebted to the Past; Committed to the Future. Bondar stressed the importance of setting adventurous goals, keeping a clear vision of them, and finding a different path if the first one failed. When a goal is reached, she said, we need to continue to improve, realizing that achievement is not the end, but only the beginning. Other motivational speakers were Rosalie Wysocki and Norman Rebin. Lyndsay Hacket-Pain, the world president of the umbrella association Associate County Women of the World, was present to encourage members in their goal of helping women help themselves and to talk about how women are helping each other around the world by funding modest, practical support to rural communities, sometimes with matching funds from the United Nations and other aid agencies.

Linda Ambrose, author of the recently published For Home and Country, the Ontario Women's Institutes History, attended to encourage the WJ in its future plans and to autograph copies of her book.

Janes reports that Charlotte Johnson, president of the FWIC for the past triennium, turned over her duties to Mildred Keith, of New Brunswick. After a two-ballot election, delegates chose Fay Mayberry, a Red Deer, Alberta farmer and FWIC executive member, to be president-elect.

Resolutions included requesting that Canada Post review addressed ad mail rates, requesting Health Canada to set safety standards for cooking pots, set minimum standards for print size on medicinal containers, and ensure labeling of contents of imported liquid-filled products such as paperweights. The W.I. will also petition the government to preserve quality health care by maintaining the Women's College Hospital in Toronto.

W. I. CENTENNIAL SONG

- It's a hundred years since Adelaide Hoodless was convinced That milk should be pasteurized. Then Janet and Erland Lee Found it easy to see That women should organize.
- 2. For Mrs. Hoodless Knew That Informed women grew, So they did mobilize. Hundred and one women came And things were ne're the same, For they formed the W.I.'s.
- So this idea spread, Round the world it shed its light. Things modernized. So women's homes improved, And countries laws were moved Their knowledge exercised.
- To encourage, help and share, Build a better world with care Is the work of the W.I.'s. Now a hundred years young, Still there's work to be done. Women's lives to be vitalized.
- 5. Now it's time to celebrate; Achievements commemorate With honour and with pride. This Centennial salute Of the Women's Institute. Women of the world, Arise!

C) Words & music by Marle F. Harris, Coningsby Branch, Wellington Centre, Guelph Area October 1994

HILDE GERTRUD MORDEN

A devoted worker in her community, Hilde Morden of Rodney, Ontario, is best known for her contributions to the betterment of rural life in Ontario.

Active at all levels of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Hilde accepted two challenging positions as Program Co-ordinator and, later, as New Branch Organizer. As Program Co-ordinator, she worked with the Recycling Council of Ontario and was successful in encouraging all Women's Institute members to be part of the environmental movement, and later accepted an award from the Recycling Council on behalf of F.W.I.O. In her position as New Branch Organizer, Hilde developed the criteria for working with New Branch Organizers in each of the 14 areas in the province. As a result, several new branches were started across Ontario.

Hilde Morden's expertise has been sought by many organizations and she has served as a delegate to the 1st and 2nd National Farm Women's Conference. advisor to Southwestern Women for the Support of Agriculture and as a member of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. In 1986 she served on the Advisory Committee, Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology. A source of knowledge and encouragement to many people, Hilde has acted as public speaker and seminar facilitator for human relations. communications, museum interpretation and parliamentary procedures.

In recognition of her service to the agricultural industry and the rural community, Hilde Morden has been awarded the Ontario Bicentennial Medal in 1984, O.M.A.F. Centennial Award in 1988, and the W.I. Certificate of Merit in 1991.

On June 8, Hilde was honoured by the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association as one of its 1997 Inductees. Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Institute Vomen's Institute VARMOUTH CENTRE UNITED SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1997 10:30 A.M.

Janet Breeflet

<u>MUSIC:</u> The W.I. Choir: under the direction of *Eleanor McMillan* <u>SERVICE:</u> Co-ordinated by : Elgin East District Women's Institute St. Thomas Suburban Pastoral Charge (Betty Van Patter; Grace Blewett; Edith Auckland)

Ministers: All The People Pastor: Rev. Roger Landell - 633-7325

ORDER OF WORSHIP

** You are invited to stand

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

MUSICAL PRELUDE CALL TO WORSHIP: Leader: The Lord is with us! People: And also with you! Leader: Let us open our hearts to the Spirit, that the present might take on new meaning and the future be bright with hope as we remember the past. Let us worship the Lord! SONG OF PRAISE: "This Is The Day" WELCOME (Betty Van Patter) THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ODE:(unison) A goodly thing it is to meet. In Friendship's circle bright, Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet Nor dims the radiant light. No unkind word our lips shall pass, No envy sour the mind, But each shall seek the common weal, The good of all mankind. PRAYER OF APPROACH: (unison)

Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed. Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self seeking. May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face, without pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us take time for all things: make us grouw calm, serene, gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize that it is the littlw things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one. And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind. Amen ("Mary Stewart Collect") MUSICAL OFFERING: **HYMN: 199 "For the Beauty of the Earth" Children going to Nursery (Kindergarten & under come to front) CONVERSATION WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE: HYMN: balance of "For the Beauty ..." remain seated as children go out

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING: I Peter 4:7-11 MUSICAL OFFERING W.I. CENTENNIAL SONG (Overhead) MESSAGE: "Stewardship of Time and Talent"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF OURSELVES... TITHES AND GIFTS "DEDICATION: "Joyful, Joyful" (tune 19) LIFE OF THE CONGREGATIONS PASTORAL PRAYER "CLOSING HYMN:197 Now Thank We All Our God INVITATION: (Edith Auckland) WOMEN'S INSTITUTE GRACE: We thank Thee, Father for Thy care, Food, Friends and kindliness we share; May we forever mindful be Of "Home and Country" and of Thee. COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION MUSICAL POSTLUDE

> THE END OF WORSHIP..... THE BEGINNING OF SERVICE *** *** ***

PLEASE join us for lunch, following worship, as we continue to celebrate our100th !

LIFE OF THE CONGREGATIONS

NEXT SUNDAY: Joint Service of Celebration. 10:30 am at Townline SUMMER SERVICES: all are joint services at 10:30amfollowed by refreshments JULY: 20th: Talbotville 27th: Yarmouth Centre AUGUST: 3rd: Townline 10th: Dan Patterson 17th: Talbotville 24th: Yarmouth Centre 31st Townline SEPTEMBER: 7th: Regular services begin again 9:00am: Talbotville 10:15am: Townline 11:30am: Yarmouth Centre

The town of Forest, On., is developing a huge amphitheater capable of seating over 6000 people on a hillside overlooking a small lake. On an island in the centre of the lake a stage has been built. This will be the beautiful setting for an epic openair musical pageant called "The Promise" which will be presented today and on July 11, 12, 13, 1997. The story, based on the life of Jesus Christ, takes about 2 hours each night.

Gates open at 7pm. Performance starts at 8:30pm. Tickets available at the gate...Adults \$5.00...Elementary Students & Pre-school Children Free.. Hillside seating only...bring a blanket or lawn chair.



Betty Van Patter, left, president of Elgin East District Women's Institute was joined by Hilde Morden, Edith Auckland, Grace Blewett and The Rev. Roger Landell at a cake cutting ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of Women's Institutes. More

than 100 persons attended a luncheon at Yarmouth Centre United Church. W.I. was formed to assist rural women with health problems and led the campaign for mandatory pasteurization of milk in Ontario.

Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Institute Yarmouth Centre United Church Sunday, July 6, 1997 10:30 A.M.

A. A.

Monday, July 7, 1997

Ag hall of fame member leads WI celebration



BY TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF YARMOUTH CENTRE

 It was 100 years ago when Adelaide Hoodless lost a child due to impure milk.

And out of that tragedy, the first Women's Institute was formed during a meeting held in Stoney Creek.

A type of "rural women's university," WIs have since flourished, educating women on issues to help them with day-to-day matters and live richer lives.

There are now seven million members worldwide.

And one of them, a very respected woman at that, reminded members and visitors to Yarmouth Centre United Church on Sunday that at the heart of WIs is service.

That word, in the Christian sense, takes on a whole new meaning than just socializing, said Hilde Gertrude Morden, a WI worker in her home community of Rodney.

"We can use our time and talent to fill life to its potential, or we can waste it," said Morden, guest speaker at a packed Yarmouth Centre, holding the special service to celebrate WI's centennial. Serving means volunteering, showing hospitality, teaching, encouraging, even healing, said Morden, who has been active at all levels of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

She's been particularly successful in encouraging WI members to be part of the environmental movement and has helped several new WI branches start across the province.

"It isn't what we need, but what we give that makes our communities better places to live," she said.

"As Christians we can develop our full potential as human beings and can help restore the world. We can become more Christlike. If we don't use our gifts, we become stunted."

In recognition of her service to the agricultural industry and the rural community, Morden was inducted into the Ontario Agriculture Hall of Fame in June.

She's also been awarded the Ontario Bicentennial Medal in 1984, the OMAF Centennial Award in 1988, and the WI Certificate of Merit in 1991.

WI LEADER: Hilde Morden (speaking, top photo) greets Velma Campbell, of River Road Women's Institute, after being guest speaker at Yarmouth Centre United Church Sunday. (T-J photo)



Yarmouth Centre United Church Sunday, July 6, 1997 g.H.

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Elgin E. District W.I.

by Marjorie Andrews

The last of the Elgin East District W.I. Winter Picnics was held at noon on February 25 at Yarmouth Centre United Church.

Hostesses were members of Yarmouth Glen W.I.

A long centre table was laden with tempting potluck entrées and desserts.

Pots of spring bulbs (donated by Yarmouth Glen members) brightened the tables of winter picnickers.

Pauline Lindsay, president of Elgin County W.I. Rally, vice-president of London Area W.I., and past chairman of board of directors of Erland Lee (Museum) Home, chaired the gathering.

Honoured guests were: Willa Johnston, F.W.I.D. board director, subdivision 22; Margaret Armstrong, PRO London Area; Anne McLean, incoming president of combined Elgin East Elgin West W.I; Grace Campbell, secretary-treasurer of combined Elgin East Elgin West., and Dorothy Way, president of Oxford South W.I.

Each guest contributed to the day, with humour, wit and wisdom.

The chairman, Mrs. Lindsay, also contributed to the program reading "Twenty-six ABCs for Troubled Times".

Each Elgin E.W.I. branch has museum memberships to sell and are asked to keep track of the names to whom they are sold.

Coming events to remember: Elgin E. District Spring Board meeting on March 24, 10 a.m. in training room of Elgin County offices and Sparta Sorosis W.I. coffee break and bazaar at Forge and Anvil on April 18, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Each Elgin E.W.I. branch present contributed to the talent-filled program.

Audrey James, Jean Phoenix, Greta Chase and Ruby Woodworth from Calton W.I. did a prize winning skit written by a W.I. member from Chilliwack, B.C., titled "The W.I. District Annual".

From Corinth, Mary Newland read "The Hockey Game" by Glen Duff, from the "History of Corinth".

Kingsmill-Mapleton combined humour and sadness in its skit written by Madeleine Jenkins.

"Edelweiss" and the song "Adieu Adieu" from The Sound of Music were sung in farewell to Elgin E.W.I.

Elaine Robinson, Leola Sadler, Grace Manning, Madeleine Jenkins, Gerry Jenkins and Nell Bouthoorn were the players for Kingsmill-Mapleton W.I.

From N. Yarmouth,

Donna Powles brought the house down with the story of the McIntosh apple and the poem "Health Care in the Garden of Eden".

Faith McLorn from Sparta delighted her audience with "My Native Land" by Sir Walter Scott and "The Farm Wife on the 12 Days of Harvest".

From Yarmouth Glen, Marion Facey gave all present much to remember with a reading by Edith Auckland about the founding of the old W.I. hall at Union after a great lot of effort and time.

Special tribute was given in this historic write-up to the work and effort of Marguerite Young and to Marion McKenzie's mother, both instrumental in the founding of the W.I. hall.

Thanks on behalf of all were extended by Pauline Lindsay for all who made it a memorable afternoon.

f.2+

Elgin East District Women's Institute hold last Winter Picnic February 25, 1998. Thursday, May 14, 1998

20.

Elgin's Wis amalgamate BY MARG BERRY Cess according to McLean. "It's wo

By MARG BERRY TIMES-JOURNAL STAFF

FINGAL — The recent gathering of members from the Elgin East and Elgin West Women's Institutes at Fingal United Church was an historic meeting.

It marked the last time the two groups would meet as separate entities. The groups from the east and west sections of the county have now been amalgamated to form the Elgin County Women's Institute (ECWI).

Ann McLean, president of the newly formed ECWI, said the amalgamation is a sign of the times.

"We're downsizing, just like the government. It just cost too much for all of these board members to meet. Everything is changing. All our districts are changing to make our numbers smaller. "

Each of the districts sends representatives to the provincial board. Because of amalgamations of the districts throughout Ontario the provincial board has dropped from 32 members to 26.

"It's happening all over Ontario," McLean noted.

The new Elgin group includes 11 branches in Elgin West and five branches in Elgin East.

At the start of the amalgamation meeting, the original two county groups metseparately for the last time, one upstairs in the church and the other in the lower hall. Before unification Elgin West had been in existence for 90 years, and Elgin East for 86 years.

The first meeting was a decided suc-

cess according to McLean. "It's wonderful. No one was opposed. It was unanimous."

The day included a luncheon and the first meeting under the new board. "We held a candlelight ceremony to bring us together," McLean reported.

The newly amalgamated Elgin group will meet as an executive about four times a year. In addition to McLean, the new executive includes Madeline Jenkins, vice-president; Mary Veenstra, second vice-president; Grace Campbell, secretary-treasurer; Pauline Lindsay, program co-ordinator; Julie Morden, assistant program co-ordinator; Eleanor McMillan, public relations officer; Willa Johnston, member of the provincial board of directors for the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario.

Women's Institute members discuss and act on current issues affecting the family and society. Last year Women's Institutes donated half a million volunteer hours to various causes such as 4-H, libraries, hospitals and food banks. Members meet annually with local MPPs to update them on institute activities and resolutions. Local Women's Institutes network with provincial, federal and world bodies.

"We reach out to help in the home and community," McLean explained. "We are basically rural but we also reach into urban areas."

Last year Women's Institutes celebrated 100 years, after the organization spread around the world from its beginnings in Stoney Creek, Ont. The first executive of the new Elgin County Women's Institute, from left, includes: front - Eleanor McMillan, public relations officer; Madeline

Jenkins, vice-president; Ann McLean, president; Willa Johnston, director for the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario; back — Julie Morden, assistant program co-ordinator; Mary Veenstra, second vice-president; Grace Campbell, secretary-treasurer; Pauline Lindsay, program co-ordinator. (T-J photo)

> Elgin County Women's Institute first executive, May 13, 1998.

Rural Women's Health Gets Boost From Province

22.

Guelph (CP) - Health Minister Elizabeth Witmer launched a new program to-day, Monday, to get important health and welfare information to Ontario's rural women.

Under the partnership, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario will co-ordinate delivery of health education for organizations like the Osteoporosis Society of Canada and the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

"Women's health is one of my primary initiatives" Wimer said after announcing her ministry has provided \$229,000 to help the program get started.

taken from: St. Thomas Times-Journal, Tuesday, August 24, 1999

Madeleine Jenkins canes an antique wooden Ontario chair Oct. 1999



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Presidents of the Aylmer W. I.

Past Presidents of the Aylmer Women's Institute , formed in 1902 are: Mrs. T. Hammond, 1902-1908; Mrs. J. Trim, 1909; Mrs. J. Haggan, 1910; Mrs. S. Adams, 1911; Mrs. L. Mitchell, 1912; Mr. D. McClennan, 1913; Mrs. M. Griffin, 1914-1915; Mrs. A. Almas, 1916; Mrs. R. Rogers, 1917-18; Mrs. M. Griffin, 1919; Mrs. Charles King, 1920-21; Mrs. F. Canning, 1922; Mrs. F. Garner, 1923; Mrs. H. Ball, 1924; Mrs. A.R.Christie, 1925; Mrs. Blanchard, 1926-1929; Mrs. J. Adams, 1930-1934; Mrs. G. Mitchell, 1935; Mrs. Ed. Lloyd, 1936-1942; Mrs. F. Bennett, 1943-1944; Mrs. A Richardson, 1945-1948, Mrs. Pressey, 1949-1950; Mrs. F. Bennett, 1951; Mrs. Wolfe, 1952-1953; Mrs. Shain, 1954-1956; Mrs. A. McTaggart, 1957-1959; Mrs. Wm. Holmes, 1960-1962; Mrs. Wheatley, 1963- 1968; Mrs. G. VanPatter, 1968-1971; Mrs. I. Warren, 1973-1978; Mrs. J.C. Dance, 1979-1983; Mrs. Arthur Hatman, 1983-1987.

Aylmer Women's Institute disbanding after 85 years

Wed., April 8, 1987-AYLMER EXPRESS-PAGE 13



The Aylmer Women's Institute is disbanding after 85 years of service. President Iva Hayman said the group just couldn't get new members. Current members include, front row: Ellen Clifford, life member Ethel Wheatley, president Iva Hayman, life member Iva Ashford, Doris Summers, Norma Dance, back row: treasurer Mildred Owen, Grace Cox, Mary Hogan, Leona Clarke, Gladys Magee, Nellie Putnam, Hilda Blakley, secretary-treasurer and life member Gertrude Holmes, and Barbara Cross. 1993

Mrs. Riddell (nee Carole Herbert) is originally from East Elgin, growing up on a farm on Mapleton Road in South Dorchester and attending local schools. She held a grupper of part-time jobs while raising their two children after their marriage in 1969.

Mr. Riddell, originally from Cambridge, is a former professional musician, insurance salesman and tile drainage installer.

They lived in Cambridge after their marriage until they moved to their house in Kingsmill in 1973. They set up Cinema City a decade later.

The idea for a video store in Aylmer was Mr. Riddell's. Mrs. Riddell explains they were tired of driving outside the area to rent videotapes.



Rick and Carole Riddell of Cinema City Aylmer added a home brewing and winemaking sideline to their video store after moving to a new location on Talbot Street West this year. They say the Wine Kitz franchise they bought is doing enough business already for them to consider it a success.

STEPHANIE JENKINS

Stephanie Jenkins, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Jenkins, R.R.1, Belmont, Ontario, NOL 1BO, received the Macdonald Award in her second year at the University of Guelph in 1990. Other Awards received were the University of Guelph Scholarship, Elgin County Women's Institute Scholarship, Aylmer Legion Scholarship and the Ontario Academic Scholarship.

She was crowned Miss Aylmer Fair in 1988. Stephanie was involved in the Buddy program for the trainable mentally handicapped and tutoring program. She was a 4-H member and had the opportunity to go to Provincial 4-H Leadership Camp. It was there that she learned many of her leadership skills. Prior to her marriage in 1993 to Reverend Wilbert Zavitz, she was a member of the Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Committee. She believes that she and her husband can minister more effectively together. She has led a Youth Group Vacation Bible School Kid's Club and a Ladies Bible Study. Outside the church, Stephanie is involved with the West Lorne Women's Institute and is their representative to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum in St. Thomas. At the present time her Mother and Grandmother are actively involved in Women's Institute.



<u>Stephanie Jenkins</u>, 18, of RR 1, Belmont, was presented with a \$250 scholarship by the rally of the Elgin County Women's Institute. 9.27

Stephanie Jenkins

