
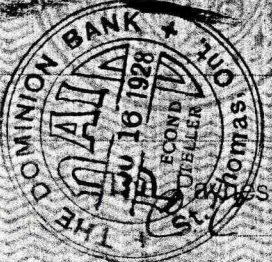


No. *St. Thomas Ont. Jan 31 1930*  
*The Dominion Bank* (12/27)  
*Pay J. Styles* or Order  
*Jan 10*  
*\$1000*

  
No. *St. Thomas Ont. July 13 1929*  
*The Dominion Bank* (12/27)  
*Pay D. L. Laramie* or Order  
*St. Thomas Ont. March 9 1929* 100 Dollars.  
*Pay*  
*inn*

  
No. *St. Thomas Ont. Dec. 10 1928*  
*The Dominion Bank* (12/27)  
*Pay C. Pay* or Order  
*St. Thomas Ont. Oct 15 1928* 100 Dollars.  
*Pay*  
*inn*

  
No. *St. Thomas Ont. Oct 15 1928*  
*The Dominion Bank* (12/27)  
*Pay* or Order  
*St. Thomas Ont. Oct 15 1928* 100 Dollars.  
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No. *St. Thomas Ont. Oct 15 1928*  
*The Dominion Bank* (12/27)  
*Pay* or Order  
*St. Thomas Ont. Oct 15 1928* 100 Dollars.  
*Pay*  
*inn*  
  
*St. Thomas Mills Cheese Factory*  
2-91



February 1991

45 YEARS - PAYNES MILLS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The following pages will begin with part of an article that was read when we celebrated our 40th anniversary, as well as a copy of the press coverage from the local St. Thomas Times Journal.

Feb. 1946 - 1986

40th Birthday Paynes Mills W.I.

For the next few minutes come journey with me down Memory Lane over the past 40 years of Paynes Mills W.I.

It was 40 years ago this month, Feb. 1946, the year Peace returned to our world again, that a group of W.I. ladies met and formed the Payne's Mills Women's Institute. Several of our Charter members are still active today - Mrs. Marion Berdan, Mrs. Dorothy Dawdy, Mrs. Catherine Pow.

Some of our past members, by their example, now have daughters active in our W.I. Our President Mrs. Hazel Rowe and her sister Mrs. Jean Lunn are the daughters of the late Mrs. Susie Smith, a Charter Member. Mrs. Pat Nichols is the daughter of Mrs. Vera Meek - they both are past presidents.

Life membership is an honour which is given to those who serve 25 years in the W.I. The following are Life Members of our W.I.: Mrs. Essie Lewis; Mrs. Flossie Abbot; Mrs. Catherine Pow; Mrs. Irene Auckland; Mrs. Fran Blackman; Mrs. Edith Auckland; Mrs. Vera Meek; Mrs. Dorothy Dawdy; and Mrs. Margaret Lyle.

Now for a resume of these busy forty years...

Reading through the Minutes, one becomes very aware of the value of such an organization. Not only to the members, but also the Community and Country. With the Payne's Mills branch there has been built up over the years a caring relationship with other organizations of the community.

Our Hall is available for Community activities or individuals within our old School Section, also organizations related to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture - our W.I. comes under the umbrella of this Ministry - Rent of the hall is reasonable - mainly to cover costs of heat, hydro, etc. Recently we installed a new furnace at a cost of \$2,000.00, and our next major expense is a new roof for the Hall, but as so many folks enjoy our Hall, we feel it is important to keep it in top repair.

So by example and leadership we work together for our Community and Home and Country - in our Women's Institute, and acknowledge with sincere and heartfelt thanks the contributions over 40 years by so many, and trust many more years to come.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PAYNE'S MILLS INSTITUTE

# Paynes Mills WI celebrates 40 years

Paynes Mills Women's Institute met on their regular meeting day to hold an anniversary party, recognizing forty years of participation in the community as well as reaching out to Women's Institute activities around the world.

The evening began with a potluck supper held in the institute hall. Mrs. W. Rowe, president, gave words of welcome.

Before returning to the upper floor Mrs. R. Berdan a charter member and a descendant of the Payne family cut the traditional anniversary cake. Other charter members still active in the Paynes Mills Institute are Mrs. S. Dawdy and Mrs. V. Pow.

To begin the evening's program Mrs. Berdan spoke of the Payne family, bringing with her early pictures and notes from her grandfather's journal during the 1860's. The history of the

Paynes Mills Women's Institute during the past 40 years had been "journalized by Mrs. Dawdy, Mrs. Pow, Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. T. Blackman. With Mrs. R. Ahara as co-ordinator much of the work of the Women's Institute was easily reviewed. An enlarged map of the former school section, SS 7, Southwold, which formed the original boundaries for the institute was on

display. Names of forty years ago as well as present landowners were noted.

Music during the evening was provided by people with strong ties in the community. Mr. Randy Dawdy with his harmonica, Mr. Glen Williams on Guitar and Mrs. Eva Small, violinist, combined to lead in toe tapping tunes of earlier times as well as blue-rock sounds.

*Times-Journal*

## Lifestyles



February 1989

Entertainment for Paynes Mills Womens Institute's last Family Night.....left to right: Audrey Harris, piano; Glen Williams, Guitar; Eva Small, violin; Lloyd "Kayo" Lampman, violin; Harold Harris, violin; and eve Harris, spoons.



However....

a mere five years has brought many changes to our community. It was with regret that the operating costs became prohibitive, and after much agonizing, and with legal advice, members went through the process necessary to dispose of their property.

Photocopies of the legal documents are on the following pages. In June 1989 the contents of the hall were sold by public auction, and by August 1989 the sale of the building had been completed. This brought to an end any building which carried the name Paynes Mills. The cornerstone from the first hall (1906), and the second building (1962) are being preserved and placed at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

## Paynes Mills Women's Institute votes to close community hall

The Paynes Mills Women's Institute has chosen to sell its 27-year-old community hall rather than bow to demand and seek a liquor licence to make it economically viable.

After months of discussion, the approximately 24 members of the institute, which has operated a community hall in the hamlet for 40 years, voted Oct. 13 to sell. The current building was constructed in 1961.

Former president Edith Auckland said securing a liquor licence would force the institute to upgrade the hall in order to meet Building and Fire Code standards required by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario.

And not only is the institute concerned about the cost. Mrs. Auckland, a member of the institute committee which will sell the facility, said the institute itself doesn't need a licensed facility, and doesn't want to run one.

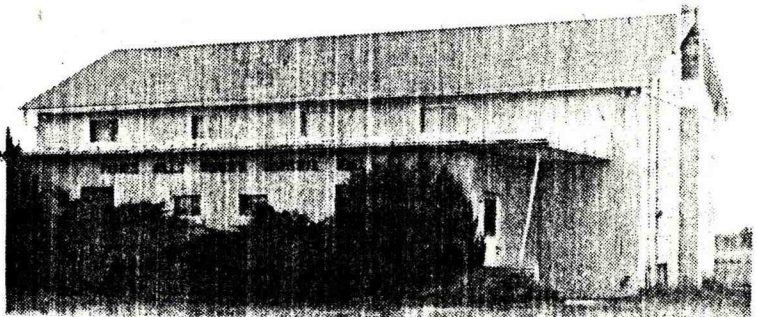
"We don't want to be in that sort of a business. As a part of the institute, we don't want to be governing that."

The Woman's Institute has been approached "fairly often" to permit licensed events at the hall but temporary liquor licenses have never been issued. Refusing to permit alcohol at the hall has cost the WI a number of rentals.

Upgrading would cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and among the things the institute would be required to install would be a safety door, emergency lighting, an extra sink in the kitchen and others.

Mrs. Auckland said members of the institute, which is currently operating on a tight budget just to pay for operation of the hall, decided licensing wasn't in their interest.

"As we got into it, we thought, what



**FOR SALE** — The Paynes Mills Women's Institute has voted to sell its 27-year-old hall rather than pursue a liquor licencing that would accommodate more functions and make it more profitable. The institute has operated a hall in the hamlet for 40 years.

—(T-J Photo).

are we doing this for," she said. "Why, as an institute, would we pursue this when it doesn't serve any of our objectives."

Members of the institute support community projects, such as helping to establish the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

In order to meet the \$2,500 to \$3,000 annual operating costs of the hall, the institute holds card and tea parties and sells tickets for dinners and dances.

The lack of younger participation in the institute also makes it difficult to continue covering the costs of the hall, said Mrs. Auckland. Young people aren't as interested in the duties required to keep the hall operating.

Although the institute chose to sell "with reluctance," Mrs. Auckland said there was no split among members regarding the decision. Members hope they'll still be able to use

the hall once it is under different ownership.

"(The hall) has been a vehicle for fund-raising but at the same time, there were costs involved," said Mrs. Auckland. "The institute will change (without a hall) but I don't see it as splitting the institute."

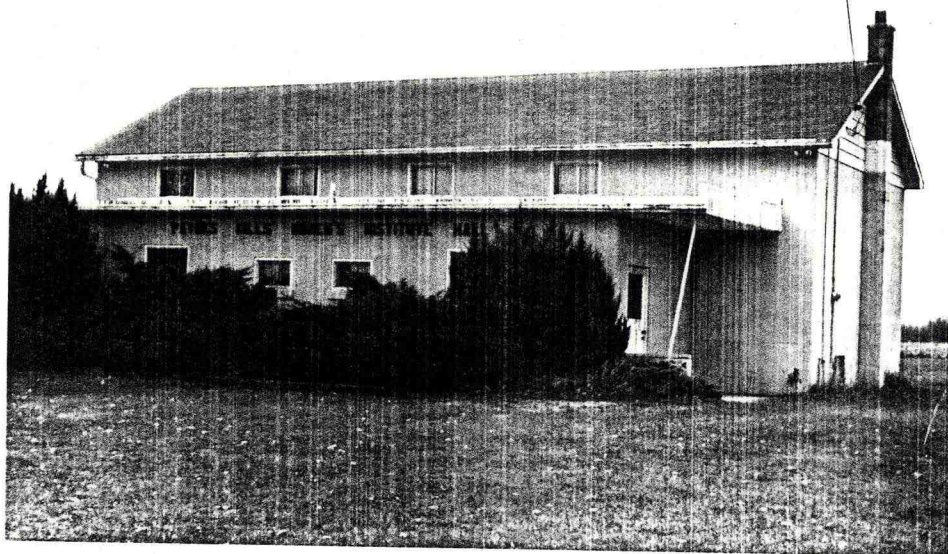
The Middlemarch Woman's Institute closed its hall about a year ago because of its poor condition and the Iona Woman's Institute put its hall in the hands of community trustees a few years ago.

Mrs. Auckland said the problem is that small communities aren't as close as they once were.

"I think it goes back to the fact that when we lost the one-room school house, we lost the close knit communities

Once the hall is sold, the institute will continue meeting in individual homes or maybe a school.





PAYNES MILLS  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
HALL



PUBLIC AUCTION OF  
W.I. HALL CONTENTS  
JUNE 1989



SHARON LITTLE  
ACCEPTS DONATION  
FOR ST. THOMAS  
ELGIN GENERAL HOSP.

from  
PRES. LIL LARSON  
(on right) and  
ADELAIDE AHARA  
(on left) 6-91