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*Auditors* - Beth Vicary, Jean Palmer



*Callers* - Pauline Silcox,  
Kay Chamberlain

**SHEDDEN W.I. MEMBERS**

1. Maxine Silcox	1935
2. Jean Palmer	1955
3. Beth Vicary	1967
4. Dora McArthur	1976
5. Pauline Silcox	1988
6. Cheryl Garvin	1985
7. Connie Silcox	1986
8. Brenda Silcox	1979
9. Ruth Hunter	1981
10. Pat Palmer	1981
11. Sharon Welch	1993
12. Dorothy McLaughlin	1981
13. Ilene Orchard	1980
14. Kay Chamberlain	1982
15. Denise Maton	2000
16. Carol Gordon	1979
17. Joanne Does	2003
18. Doris Molnar	2004
19. Bev McCarty	2004

## SHEDDEN W.I. MEMBERS -2010

1. Jean Palmer	1955
2. Beth Vicary	1967
3. Dora McArthur	1976
4. Brenda Silcox	1979
5. Carol Gordon	1979
6. Ruth Hunter	1981
7. Pat Palmer	1981
8. Kay Chamberlain	1982
9. Cheryl Garvin	1985
10. Connie Silcox	1986
11. Pauline Silcox	1988
12. Sharon Welch-Leeming	1993
13. Doris Molnar	2004
14. Connie Molnar	2008
15. Ethel Minor-Clare	2008

## THE STORY OF LEE FUNG LAN

Lee Fung Lan was the first foster child adopted by Shedden Women's Institute. This is her story.



January 15, 1973



From left to right:

{ Mrs. Ralph Palmer,  
Mrs. Currie Oldham  
(Sheddën W. I.) }  
Mrs. F. McIntyre  
Mrs. Russell Campbell  
Mrs. Mary Downie  
?  
Mrs. Bentley  
Mrs. Drager  
(Dutton W. I.)  
?  
Mrs. Claire Blue  
(Wallacetown W.I)  
Mrs. Bawden  
(Payne's Mills)  
Mrs. Percy Willson  
(Iona W. I.)  
Mrs. John Zeegers  
Mrs. Ruth Jones,  
(Boxall)  
Mrs. Betty Smith  
Mrs. Harold Carroll  
(Crinan)



Shedden Women's Institute Meeting at Elgin County  
Pioneer Museum

January 1978



(Back Row) Mrs. Pettzold (Curator) Mrs. Willson, Mrs. Vera Ballam  
(Middle Row) Mrs. Ina Ross, Mrs. Dora Mc Arthur, , Mrs. Ivy Stafford  
(Front Row) Mrs. Margaret Turner, Mrs. Jean Palmer.



(Front Row) Mrs. Margaret Turner, Mrs. Madeline Parks



Mrs. Leslie Wood  
Mrs. Lynn Stafford  
Marilyn Pennings  
Mrs W. Neal

## Elgin's last rural health clinic Shedden has closed after 20 years

**SHEDDEN** — The Shedden Child Health and Immunization Clinic held its final day of operation, Tuesday, in Bethany United Church. The clinic was the last rural health clinic in operation in Elgin County.

There are two health clinics still in operation in the county one in St. Thomas, which is open every Thursday, and one in Aylmer, which is open the first Tuesday of each month.

The Shedden clinic was closed because of the fall in attendance over the last two years. According to the public health nurse on duty, Mrs. Wayne Neal, OHIP funding for immunization makes it easier to obtain the shots at the family doctor's. Previously, parents had to pay for immunization for their children at the doctor's, whereas the health clinic was free.

When the clinic first started, it treated an average of 60 children a day. Now the

average is about seven.

The clinic was first set up at the request of Dr. Cecil Hoffman, then Medical Officer of Health for Elgin County. Dr. Hoffman and Public Health Nurses, Miss Edith Horton and Mrs. Betty Bartley, met with representatives from Shedden WI, Iona WI, Paynes Mills WI, Southwold Country Club, Coon Road Community Club, Fingal Home and School and the Kensington Club of Lawrence Station to make plans for the clinic.

Mrs. E. L. McCall chaired the meeting assisted by Mrs. Herbert Parks who acted as secretary. From this meeting a committee was named to set up the clinic including Mrs. E. S. Down, Mrs. E. S. Down, Mrs. E. L. Baker, Mrs. McCall, Mrs. D. C. Turner and Mrs. William Richardson.

The first clinic was held Tuesday, April 20, 1954 in the United Church. Shedden, with

Dr. Hoffman, four nurses, and several volunteers in attendance as well as a large number of mothers and children. The facilities of the Shedden United Church have been available throughout the life of the clinic and appreciation for this service was expressed by all concerned.

Mrs. Baker was named convenor for the clinic from 1954 to 1962 assisted by Mrs. Leslie Wood. Mrs. Lynn Stafford was convenor from 1962 to 1972 and during her term of office the number of volunteer groups, assisting at the clinic, was expanded to include all the WI branches in Dunwich and Southwold Townships; as well as the Kensington Club, the Country Club, the Coon Road Community Club and the Fingal Home and School having disbanded.

Two volunteers from each group staffed one monthly clinic a year. Mrs. Currie Oldham was appointed convenor in 1972 and continued until the present time.



A polio scare in the summer of 1979 prompted the Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit to set up a polio booster shot clinic in Shedden.

## Interest in clinics slackens

"Dwindling interest" will put a stop to any more polio vaccination clinics in the county after today, the county's medical officer of health said this morning.

Dr. Mary Webster added, however, that starting Friday a person will be available at the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to administer booster shots "for as long as interest in the vaccination program is expressed."

"The mass concern is fading," Dr. Webster said.

The health unit had more than 1,400 doses of vaccine at a polio clinic in Shedden Wednesday, but only about 550 people showed up to get booster shots.

### CLINIC TODAY

Another vaccination clinic is being held today at the health unit from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to the vaccinations clinics held in the county, Dr. Webster said she has been travelling around to farms in Elgin where immigrant labor is employed and administering booster shots.

"We are also supplying local physicians with vaccine," she said.

At the clinic in Shedden Wednesday, no one seemed too worried about contracting polio. Rather, most viewed it as a convenient way of taking precautionary measures.

Bill Swanson, of Dutton, who hadn't had a booster shot since high school, said the recent polio scare "really wasn't that much on my mind" when he decided to attend the clinic.

"It's very convenient having it here," he said, adding, "I should have had a booster even without the polio scare."

### CLINIC HANDY

Milton Cole, of RR 1, Southwold, also said he came to the clinic because it was "just handy". His last booster shot was in 1969.

Grant Williams of RR 7, St. Thomas, said he didn't know whether the polio scare is really that serious, but as far as getting people out to vaccination clinics is concerned, "it works".

Mr. Williams said he came to the clinic "because I have friends in Oxford County and go down there quite a bit."

The first and only reported cases of polio so far in this area have all been from Oxford.

Don Dawdy of RR 3, Shedden, couldn't remember the last time he had a booster shot, but decided to be "cautious" and attend the clinic.

Leigh Vicary, 14, of RR 3, Shedden, said he really wasn't too concerned about the polio scare, but he had a pretty solid reason for attending the clinic.

"My mom made me come down," he said.



## *Shedden Institute Going to Aylmer*

### **St. Thomas Luncheon Will Precede Visit to Pottery Studio**

SHEDDEN, July 29.—The Women's Institute met Wednesday afternoon at Mrs. E. T. Baker's home, Mrs. E. S. Down presiding. There was a large attendance. Roll call brought forth reports of many kindly acts performed by neighbors.

It was decided to serve a hot dinner in the United Church school room on Fair Day, Sept. 20, Mrs. A. McIntyre, Mrs. E. S. Down and Miss Grace McCormick to be the committee of management. Miss E. Morrison announced all hospitalization dues can be paid at her home before August 10.

Mrs. Baker gave an interesting travelogue of her trip to Vancouver, B.C., and Tacoma, Wash. A snapshot contest of each member and mother added fun to the program.

Mrs. Clement and Mrs. F. Miller assisted the hostess in serving tea.

Out-of-town guests were Mrs. G. Shackleton, Mrs. H. McCarthy and daughter of St. Thomas.

The August Institute meeting will be held at the Pinecraft Ceramics, Aylmer, on Aug. 23, at 2.30 p.m. Members and friends who would like to attend the luncheon, being held previously in St. Thomas at one o'clock, are asked to notify Mrs. Duncan Brown or Mrs. Nell Campbell, not later than Aug. 19. Those unable to attend the luncheon, but who plan to go to Aylmer, should call Mrs. Campbell before that date.



### *WI district annual meeting*

The 70th annual meeting of the Elgin West District Women's Institute was at Bethany-United Church in Shedd.

Pictured from the left are Mrs. Earl Morden, second vice-president; Mrs. Russell Campbell, president; Mrs.

Garnet Cowell, first vice-president; Mrs. Gordon Teare, public relations officer, and

Mrs. Donald Vicary, Tweedsmuir history curator. — T-J Photo).

The Shedd Branch of the Women's Institute was hostess for the 70th District Annual meeting of Elgin West District Women's Institute on May 17, 1978 in Bethany United Church, Shedd.

Mrs. Donald (Beth) Vicary, shown in the picture is a member of Shedd Branch WI and became District Tweedsmuir History Convenor in 1978 for a six year term.

Absent when the picture was taken was Mrs. Ralph (Jean) Palmer, District Second Vice-President and also a member of Shedd Branch WI. Jean will be District President for the years 1983 and 1984.





ELIZABETH McDIARMID GUEST  
Charter Member and First President  
Shedden Women's Institute

Elizabeth McDiarmid was born on Lot 12 NEBTR near Watson's Corners, the oldest daughter in the family of ten children of Andrew and Ann Smith McDiarmid. In 1852 she moved with her parents to a log house on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$  lot 17 SNBTR east of Shedden. Soon they purchased the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of lot 17 also and moved to the log house there.

Elizabeth cared for each new baby as it arrived and never received more than a grade 8 education. She was quite an artist and several of her oil paintings are owned by members of her family.

On January 8, 1878 she married William Guest and moved to Lucan where they operated a drygoods store. In 1880 they were  
Shedden Women's Institute

B. Vicary



too busy with the store to attend the wedding of her brother Alex McDiarmid at Shedden. In Lucan several nieces and nephews boarded with them from time to time while they attended high school. One of these, Dr. Edna Guest, became chief of surgery at Women's College Hospital, Toronto.

Another niece, Emily Guest, was a graduate of the University of Toronto and a school teacher. She organized Women's Institute branches in Parkhill, Belleville and Birr. After working with the British Red Cross during world war one, she organized Women's Institute branches all over Scotland. Upon returning to Canada she devoted the rest of her life to Women's Institute work and is a member of the Agricultural Hall of Fame in Mil ton.

In Lucan Elizabeth Guest was president of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid. Mr. and Mrs. Guest moved next to St. Johns (later Arva) where they had a general store and then to London where they had a store at the west end of Blackfriars Street bridge.

In 1901 when Mrs. Guest's favourite sister married Nelson Bawtenheimer and moved to Ayr, the Guests opened a store in Ayr. When the Bawtenheimers bought a farm on the north half of lot 18 and the N $\frac{1}{4}$  lot 17 SNBTR north-east of Shedden, the Guests moved to Shedden too, living in the house at 204 John Street north of the railroad tracks where Mrs. Bessie Barrett now lives. Mr. Guest operated a clothing store in part of the building now occupied by Palmer's store, 138 Talbot Street.

When the Women's Institute was organized in Shedden at the urging of her niece, Emily Guest, Elizabeth Guest became the first president and her sisters, Mrs. Nelson Bawtenheimer and Mrs. Milson Stafford were members.

Mrs. Guest was a very intelligent woman and a capable speaker. She was a life member and charter member of Shedden Women's Institute and a life member of the WMS of Shedden

United Church.

Mrs. Guest died June 29, 1933, and is buried in Shedden Cemetery.

MRS. ELIZABETH GUEST

Shedden, July 3.—The funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Guest took place from Munro's chapel, Shedden, on Thursday afternoon and was largely attended. Services were conducted by Rev. W. T. Eddy. A solo, "Does Jesus Care," was sung by Miss Catherine Raynham. Lawrence Stafford accompanying on the piano. The floral tokens were very beautiful including a wreath from husband, spray from sisters, spray from nieces, spray from Shedden Women's Institute; bowl of roses, Shedden Ladies' Aid, and other beautiful designs from friends. Those attending from a distance were: Mrs. E. M. Grose (niece), and two sons, Toronto; Dr. Edna M. Guest (niece), Toronto; Ernest Guest (nephew), London, Ont.; Mrs. John Kress (niece), Granton; Mrs. Jessie Henderson, London; Mr. James Brown, Chatham; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brown, Tupperville; Mrs. Henderson and Miss McLachlin, London; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Morrison, Copenhagen; Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Stafford and daughters and Mrs. Watterworth, St. Thomas; Mr. and Mrs. H. Vicary, Tempo; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Vicary, South Delaware. Interment was made in the Shedden cemetery, the pall-bearers being Arthur Vicary, Herbert Vicary, Elvin Stafford, Morley Stafford, Albert Bawlenheimer, Stanley Stafford.

# The Woman's Missionary Society of the UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

*Certifies that*  
*Mrs William Guest*  
*is a*  
**Life Member**

*in accordance with the terms of its Constitution*

*April 13<sup>th</sup> 1927*

*James T. MacKilling*  
President

*E. A. Jamieson*  
Secretary



# ONTARIO WOMEN'S INSTITUTES



## Life Membership Certificate

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

*Mrs Wm Guest*

has been granted Life Membership in the *Shedden* Women's Institute.

This Certificate has been granted in recognition of much appreciated service.

President *Mrs C. R. Hamilton*

Secretary *Mrs. C. C. Moore*

Date *March 28-1928*

This is a photocopy of the Life Membership Certificate presented to Mrs. Wm. Guest, Charter Member and first president in 1913 of Shedden Women's Institute.

B. Vicary



# ONTARIO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



## Life Membership Certificate

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

*Miss Eva Morrison*  
has been granted Life Membership in the *Shedden* Women's Institute.

This Certificate has been granted in recognition of much appreciated service.

President *Mrs. E. S. Down*

Date *May 23, 1951.*

Secretary *Grace Mc Cormick*

This Life Membership is transferable to any Women's Institute in Ontario.

Serial No. *814*  
To be used in applying for transfer.

## INDEPENDENCE AND PLENTY

In January 1979 an application was made by the Shedden Women's Institute to the federal government for a Young Canada Works Grant. The Institute wished to hire three students to prepare an early history of Shedden and the surrounding area and Mrs. Margaret Turner, Mrs. Madeline Parks and Mrs. Beth Vicary were appointed as a committee to oversee this project.

Our Branch received a grant of \$6540.00 and hired Michael Clark of St. Thomas and Jo-Anne Chamberlain and Alison Vicary of the Shedden area to do the research and write the book.

Alison's grandmother, Alice Vicary, had moved to Elgin Manor and she gave permission for her empty house to be used as headquarters for the project. (S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> lot 17 SNBTR)

The students conducted over fifty personal interviews with local citizens and did research at the Southwold Township office, the St. Thomas Library, the Elgin County Library, the D. B. Weldon Library, U. W. O. , The Provincial Archives and the Canadian Archives. After completing the research, the students began the task of writing the history and choosing pictures for the book. This proved to be a huge undertaking and they were unable to finish it before returning to school. Volunteer typists completed the work and the book was printed by Ted Ram Printing, London.

The book has 140 pages and fifty pictures. We now had piles of two hundred each page which we had to assemble. We coerced friends and relatives into helping and we spent many hours walking in a continuous circle around a long table at the St. Thomas Public Library putting the pages of the books together in order. We learned from that experience and when we ordered two hundred more books we had the printer assemble them!

Shedden Women's Institute

B. Vicary



The book named "Independence and Plenty" was completed in time for Christmas 1979 and we all in our Institute Branch have reason to be very proud of this project. Shedden Women's Institute holds the copyright to all the material in the book.

Our three students all completed their university degrees and Michael Clark used his work on this book as part of his credit for his MA in History.



**Michael Thomas Clark** graduated recently summa cum laude from the University of Massachusetts in Boston

with an MA in history. The son of Thomas P. Clark, RR 5, St. Thomas, and Mrs. Sandra L. Saunders, 4 Airey Avenue, he is a graduate of Parkside Collegiate Institute (1975) and holds a BA in Honors English and History from the University of Western Ontario. Michael is co-author with Alison Vicary, Shedden, of *Independence and Plenty: An Illustrated History of Shedden, Fingal and the Surrounding Area* (St. Thomas, 1979) and will begin studies this fall toward a Ph.D. in history at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts. He has been awarded the Irving and Rose Crown Doctoral Fellowship in history and American civilization at that university.



**Jo-Anne Chamberlain** is a recent graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a BA in administrative office management studies. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Chamberlain, of RR 1, Southwold, she is a graduate of Parkside Collegiate Institute and Southwold-Lynhurst Public School. Jo-Anne has accepted a position at IBM of Canada Ltd. in London.



**ALISON JEAN VICARY**

Alison Jean Vicary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McDiarmid Vicary, R.R.3, Shedden, received a Bachelor of Music degree with honours in music education at the spring convocation of the University of Western Ontario. Alison is a graduate of Parkside Collegiate, St. Thomas, and she will attend the Faculty of Education, University of Toronto, in the fall.



The Branches of the Women's Institute are very involved in compiling and preserving local histories and old pictures in their Tweedsmuir Histories. Our own branch at Shedden has a history which was begun in the 1940's but it is incomplete especially in the early history of Shedden. Since there is no Institute branch at either Fingal or Frome, no Tweedsmuir History has been done for those areas. Although we would like to have a history compiled of those areas, we have only 22 members, some of them quite elderly, and we do not have the volunteer labour, financial resources or expertise to undertake such a project on our own.

By referring to our map you will see that the area we propose to cover is very interesting historically. Fingal is the oldest village in Southwold Township and was once larger than St. Thomas. It had several industries including the Macpherson, Glasgow Foundry, Metcalf Furniture Company, a tannery, sawmill, brickyard and several stores. There are several buildings of architectural and historical interest including the homes of Amasa Wood, George E. Casey, M. P. and the Blackwoods.

When the Great Western Railroad was built Fingal stopped growing and Shedden soon had a cheese factory, basket factory, grain elevator and many new houses because it was on the railroad.

At present there are several residents in this area who are eighty and over who remember a great deal about the old villages. If they are not interviewed soon all this information will be lost. Many old buildings have been torn down and the remaining ones should be listed and photographed for future reference.

Preparing this history would give summer employment to three local students and would contribute to the cultural well-being of our community

Fifteen projects, involving a total expenditure of \$198,875, have been approved for Elgin County under the Young Canada Works Program.

The projects are as follows:

—Outreach 79 (\$11,448) will employ four persons for 18 weeks, a total of 72 work weeks. It is sponsored by the St. Thomas-Elgin Association for the Mentally Retarded and will provide group activities and individual training programs for mentally retarded children and adults in selected areas of Elgin County.

—Association for Children with Learning Disabilities (ACLD) Residential Camp (\$4,050) will employ three persons

for 27 work weeks. The project involves the operation of a summer camp for children with learning disabilities.

**FITNESS TRAIL**

—Springwater Park Fitness Trail (\$3,633) will employ three persons for 27 work weeks. The project will build a fitness trail in the park with the support of the community and the Ontario ministry of natural resources.

—Elgin Youth Theatre (\$7,860) will employ six people for 50 work weeks and will consist of two touring productions and a third historical or classical play at the Dutton Memorial Hall.

—Port Stanley Summer Festival (\$23,790) will employ 13 persons for 155 work weeks and

will produce two plays for a general audience, two children's plays, an art display and a local talent show at the Port Stanley Town Hall Theatre. In addition, at least one production will be performed in London as an exchange with the London Sanctuary Theatre.

—Rodney Day Camp (\$4,204) will employ three persons for 27 work weeks and will be for children aged three to 13.

—History of Fingal, Shedden, and area (\$6,540) will employ three persons for 40 work weeks. The object of the project is to collect material, write, edit and print a history of the area.

—Creative Playground and Track and Field Complex (\$6,712) will employ five persons for 40 weeks. Sponsored by the Catholic Parent and Teachers Association, this project will construct and install equipment for two creative playgrounds located at Assumption and Holy Rosary Schools in Aylmer.

**YOUTH RECREATION**

—Optimist Youth Summer Recreation Program (\$10,296) will employ six persons for 60 work weeks and will provide a daily recreation program for children aged five to 12. It will be located in the YMCA and will serve children referred by Family and Children's Services as well as those registered through general advertisement.

The Shedden Women's Institute application for a Federal grant and The St. Thomas Times Journal announcement of our success.

Shedden Women's Institute

B. Vicary  
January 1979