

W.I. Centennial Song

words and music by
Marie Harris. A.R.C.T.

Allegretto M.M. 90

It's a hundred years since Adelaide Hoodless was convinced That milk should be pasteur-

ized. Then Janet and Erland Lee Found it easy to see That women should organize

Verse 2

ize For Mrs. Hoodless knew that in--formed women grew. So they did mo--bi-

For Mrs. Hoodless knew that in--formed women grew. So they did mo--bi-

lize. Hundred and one wo-men came And things were n'er the same For they formed the W.

lize. Hundred and one wo-men came And things were n'er the same For they formed the W.

Verse 3

Its. So this i--dea spread, Round the world it shed Its Light, Things mod-----ern

Its. So this i--dea spread, Round the world it shed Its Light, Things mod-----ern

ized.

Then wo-men's homes im-proved, And country's laws were moved, Their know-ledge ex-er-

ized.

Then wo-men's homes im-proved, And country's laws were moved, Their know-ledge ex-er-

Verse 4

cised.

To en-courage, help, and share, Build a better world with care Is the work of the W.

cised.

To en-courage, 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 vi-tal

I's.

Now a hundred years young, Still there's work to be done. Women's lives to be vi-tal

Verse 5 - unison with descant

ized. Now it's time to celebrate A-----chievements commemorate, With ho-----nour and with

pride. This Cen--tennial salute Of the Women's Institute. Women of the world, a-----rise!

poco rit.

8va



SUSAN McCONNELL/OUR COMMUNITY PRESS

TRIBUTE TO DOC!

The legendary long-time doctor David 'Doc' Monteith was honored by his Shedden patients, friends and neighbors Sunday at an open house, hosted by Shedden Women's Institute in honor of his retirement. Here, with WI's Jean Palmer (a patient for 50 years, Doc presided at the births of her four children) and Monteith with a collection of names of his 'babies' attending the bash. Story: *page 4*.

David 'Doc' Monteith hangs up stethoscope

by Susan McConnell, *Our Community Press*

SHEDDEN — He's a legend and the stories about Dr. David 'Doc' Monteith are as many as the (Mon)day is long.

He officially hung up his stethoscope here Sunday during an open house where he was honored by hundreds of his patients, community and rural neighbors.

The London native and UWO grad (1937), after a one-year internship at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, a stint at Queen Charlotte Hospital, Bermuda, and two practices in Lambton County, set out for rural Ontario, establishing his office here in '46 where he has served his patients for 40 years.

Monteith is colorful and his interests are wide and varied. He sought the PC nomination in Elgin in 1958 and twice ran as an independent. He was a long-time public Board of Education trustee where he served on the advisory committee for vocational courses.

Monteith won't confess his age ("there are two things we do at the farm when a calf is born. If it looks good and is healthy, we register the date of the birth. If it doesn't, it just goes into the pen. When I was born, I just went into the pen.") But it's believed he is 85. And he says he doesn't know how many babies he helped bring into the world ("maybe a half dozen or so") but he remains outspoken about issues close to his heart and right now, in the midst of the hub-bub about an Aylmer doctor leaving for the U.S., Monteith says communities should plan ahead for their medical care because there aren't enough doctors willing to set up a practice in rural Ontario.

He says smart farm youngsters should be given livestock to care for while they're in high school, financially supported during their medical education and training, and required to return to their rural area and commit time to serve the residents. "That way, they will already have an interest in farming and they will want to be there," he said. "If I hadn't started a farm, I might not have stayed."

Meanwhile, retirement means taking care of his beef livestock operation and the doc, who says scientific changes were "remarkable" during his 50-year tenure in the medical profession, will make himself available to talk to seniors about how to better care for themselves. And, since the husband (married to Maribelle, a RN, since 1939) and father of three, appears to be fit as a fiddle, that may just be right up his alley.

SHEDDEN W. I.
Dora McArthur -
Curator
Apr. 1996



ROSY INFORMATION – Visitors to this year's Rosy Rhubarb Days in Shedden were frequent visitors to the Shedden Women's Institute booth where they picked up schedules, cook books, t-shirts, hats and tasty jams. Carol Gordon, left, and Rose Marie McLeod browse through the Rosy Rhubarb cookbook looking for a favourite recipe.

SHEDDEN W. I.

Dora McArthur - Curator
Apr. 1996



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CELEBRATIONS - Shedden Women's Institute marked the 100th anniversary of Women's Institutes with a special meeting. Members of the group include, left to right, back row: Pat Palmer, Eileen Carr, Kay Chamberlain and Sharon Welch. Centre: Lorie Jones, Ruth Hunter, Lois Oldham, Pauline Silcox, Dorothy McLaughlin, Brenda Silcox and Margaret Campbell. Front: Connie Silcox, Maxine Silcox, Carol Gordon, Beth Vicary and Cheryl Garvin. Missing is Jean Palmer (the photographer).

Shedden W.I. celebrates 100th

To begin the February meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute the president, Connie Silcox, lit a candle in celebration of 100 Years of Women's Institute. The unity candle signified a common bond as all Women's Institutes in Ontario were meeting on the same date of February 19th and conducting a similar program.

Connie welcomed members and guests to the meeting and said that the W.I. is an educational organization for personal growth, self improvement, leadership development and community action. Valuable

assets are the friendships gained and friendships renewed. It is linked provincially through the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario; nationally through the Federated Institutes of Canada and worldwide through the Associated Country Women of the World.

Some accomplishments: Word recognition and phonetic programs for grades 1 and 4; traffic lights at dangerous intersections; best-before dates on pre-packaged fresh foods; flashing lights on school buses; music in elementary schools; brighter lines on highways; living wills; wrapped bread in plastic bags.

Ongoing activities; Tweedsmuir History Books which record farm histories and community developments; environmental concerns; reduce, reuse, recycle; emphasize that women over fifty have mammograms; identify and resolve needs in the community; greening of towns and tree planting; prevention of violence in TV programs.

The Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect were repeated. The motto for the evening was - Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future.

The roll call was answered by - What have I accomplished with a W.I. life skill. Answers included courses on quilting, hats, dresses, leather wallets, cooking, rug braiding, sweat-shirts, T-shirts, bread making, crewal, plants and landscaping. Also, many appreci-

ated the fact they learned the correct procedure of conducting a meeting and holding an office.

Brenda Silcox led in the singing of the W.I. Centennial song composed by Marie F. Harris.

Secretary Dorothy McLaughlin read the original minutes of the Stoney Creek meeting from February 19th, 1897, and the minutes of Shedden's January meeting.

Pauline Silcox gave the treasurer's report.

Connie, Pat Palmer and Cheryl Garvin offered to go on the nominating committee and Sharon Welch and Lori Jones volunteered to staff the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop in March. A Fire Fund bank accounts has been opened at the Shedden Branch of the C.I.B.C. for the Chinnery family.

Carol Gordon gave the museum report and stated that the 40th year of the museum will be celebrated in April.

Readers participated in a "Do You Know" review of past history which included the founders Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee; the Institute colours of blue and gold; Lady Tweedsmuir and her suggestion of community histories now called Tweedsmuir histories and the Home and Country magazine.

The motto "For Home and Country", indicates the first is the foundation on which the second is built. Life members in attendance were Maxine Silcox, Jean Palmer and Beth Vicary.

A traditional lunch of beef, egg, chicken, cucumber and watercress sandwiches, buttermilk tea biscuits with black currant jelly, sugar cookies, Johnny cake with maple syrup and gingerbread with whipped cream, was served.

Connie Silcox thanked the convenor Sharon Welch and her committee Margaret Campbell and Cheryl Garvin for arranging the evening of celebration.

The next meeting will be

held on March 26th at 7:15 p.m. at Bethany United

Church to travel for a visit to a goat farm. All are welcome.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Curator, Dora McArthur
April, 1997



**CURRIE & CONNIE SILCOX
25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

Currie and Connie Silcox will be celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday, May 22, 1996. All your family and friends wish you a wonderful day and all the happiness in the world for many years to come.



(CONTRIBUTED)

**AND BABY
MAKES FIVE...**

Baby Brett Silcox completes five generations the family tree at a reception gathering in St. Thomas. From left, grandmother Connie Silcox, father Jack Silcox, Brett, great grandmother Hazel Broad and great grandmother Shirley McQuiggan.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 1997

MARGARET TURNER

Margaret Ruth (McIntyre) Turner of Shedden passed away at Caressant Care on Saturday, September 20th, 1997.

Mrs. Turner was born in Southwold Township on March 28th, 1912, the daughter of the late Arthur and Mary Jane (Pollard) McIntyre.

A graduate of Dutton High School and London Normal School, Mrs. Turner taught at Muirkirk, Middlemarch and Shedden schools. She later was librarian at Shedden Public Library for sixteen years. Mrs. Turner was a member of Bethany United Church, Shedden, and active in the U.C.W.; also a director of the Shedden Fair Board, a member of the Elgin Manor Auxiliary and the Kensington Club. She was a life member of the Shedden Women's Institute and acted as Tweedsmuir History curator and the representative to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.

The wife of the late Alex Turner, she is survived by her sisters Kathryn Churchill and Frances Lepage, sisters-in-law Catharine Linke and Sylvia Turner, and several nieces and nephews. A sister, Marion Mitchell, died previously.

Resting at the Arn Funeral Home, Dutton, where funeral services will be held on Wednesday, September 24th (to-day) at 1:30 p.m. Interment in McArthur Cemetery.

Remembrances to Pearce-Williams Christian Centre or charity of your choice.

TURNER

At Caressant Care St. Thomas on Saturday, September 20, 1997. Margaret Ruth (McIntyre) Turner of Shedden in her 86th year. Beloved wife of the late D. Alex Turner (November 3, 1985). Survived by her sisters Kathryn and Max Churchill of Fraser Hills, Michigan and Frances Lepage of Beaconsfield, Quebec. Sister-in-law Catharine Linke of Mitchell and Sylvia Turner of St. Thomas and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by a sister Marion Mitchell. Relatives and friends will be received at the Arn Funeral Home, Dutton Tuesday 2-4 where the funeral service will be held on Wednesday, September 24th at 1:30 p.m. Interment in McArthur Cemetery. Donations to the Pearce Williams Christian Centre or charity of choice would be appreciated.

DUTTON ADVANCE--WEDNESDAY--JANUARY 7--1998--PAGE 3



JEAN AND RALPH PALMER

Congratulations Mom and Dad on your 45th Wedding Anniversary, January 9, 1998. Sincere Best Wishes and Love from your family, Brenda and Murray, Joshua, Janine and Jerry; Len and Pat, Kelly, Christopher and Michael; Peggy and Ian, Erin and Tim; Murray and Ineke, Andrew and Braydon. We will all be celebrating this happy occasion together.

Dora McArthur - Curator

Shedden WI

Tweedsmuir History

1998



ROSY INFORMATION— Members of the Shedd Women's Institute were offering t-shirts, hats, and of course rhubarb in the form of jams, etc., along with helpful information to visitors. Pictured with some of the items they had available are Dora McArthur, left, and Susan McKillop-Harris. *June, 1998*

SILCOX - At the John Noble Home, Brantford, Ontario on Thursday, July 9, 1998. Mrs. Effie (Campbell) Silcox of Brantford and formerly of St. Thomas and Shedden, in her 91st year. Widow of Thomas Edgar "Ted" Silcox (Mar. 7, 1995). Mother of Doug Silcox and his wife Nancy of Welland and Don Silcox and his wife Keep of Abbotsford, B.C. Also survived by 7 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Mrs. Silcox was the last surviving member of her own immediate family having been predeceased by 6 brothers and 2 sisters. The funeral service will be conducted at the Sifton Funeral Home, 118 Wellington St., St. Thomas on Monday at 4 p.m. Friends will be received by the family during the period of one hour prior to the service. The casket will remain closed. Interment in Shedden Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario gratefully acknowledged.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 1999

In Memory of

Mrs. Viola Margaret Howe

Born

December 18th, 1906
Ekfrid Township

Died

April 23rd, 1999
St. Thomas, Ontario

Service

1:30 p.m., Monday, April 26th, 1999
Williams Funeral Home
St. Thomas, Ontario

Officiating

Rev. Arlyce Schiebout
Bethany United Church

Interment

McArthur Cemetery
Southwold

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

HOWE

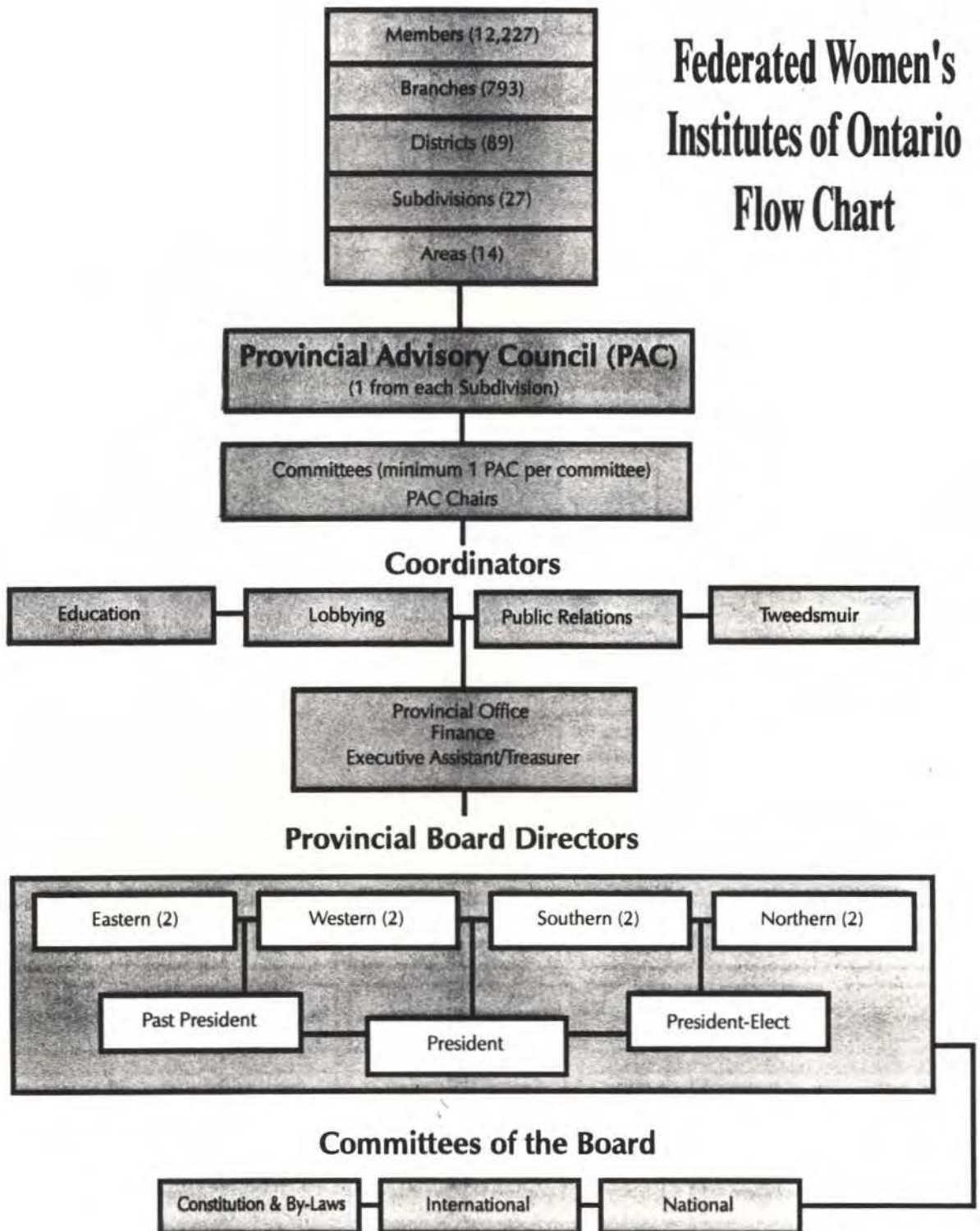
Mrs. Viola Margaret of St. Thomas, on Friday, April 23, 1999, at Valleyview Home, St. Thomas, in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of the late Thompson Howe and dearly loved mother of Keith and his wife Shirley Howe of Keswick, Mary Ruth and her husband Gary Begin of White Rock, B.C. and Ken and his wife Doris Howe of Shedden. She was the last of her family. Predeceased by 5 brothers Lawrence, Harry, Walter, Charlie and Morley and a sister Bertha. Loved grandmother of Gary and his wife Curinne Howe, David and his wife Sharon Howe, Janet and her husband Graham Brown, Chris and his wife Sandra Begin. Sadly missed by 5 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Resting at Williams Funeral Home, 45 Elgin St., St. Thomas where funeral service will be held Monday at 1:30 p.m. Interment McArthur Cemetery. Visitation Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Remembrances may be made to the Valleyview Home or the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.



A tree will be planted as a living memorial to Mrs. Howe.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur Curator
April 1999

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Flow Chart

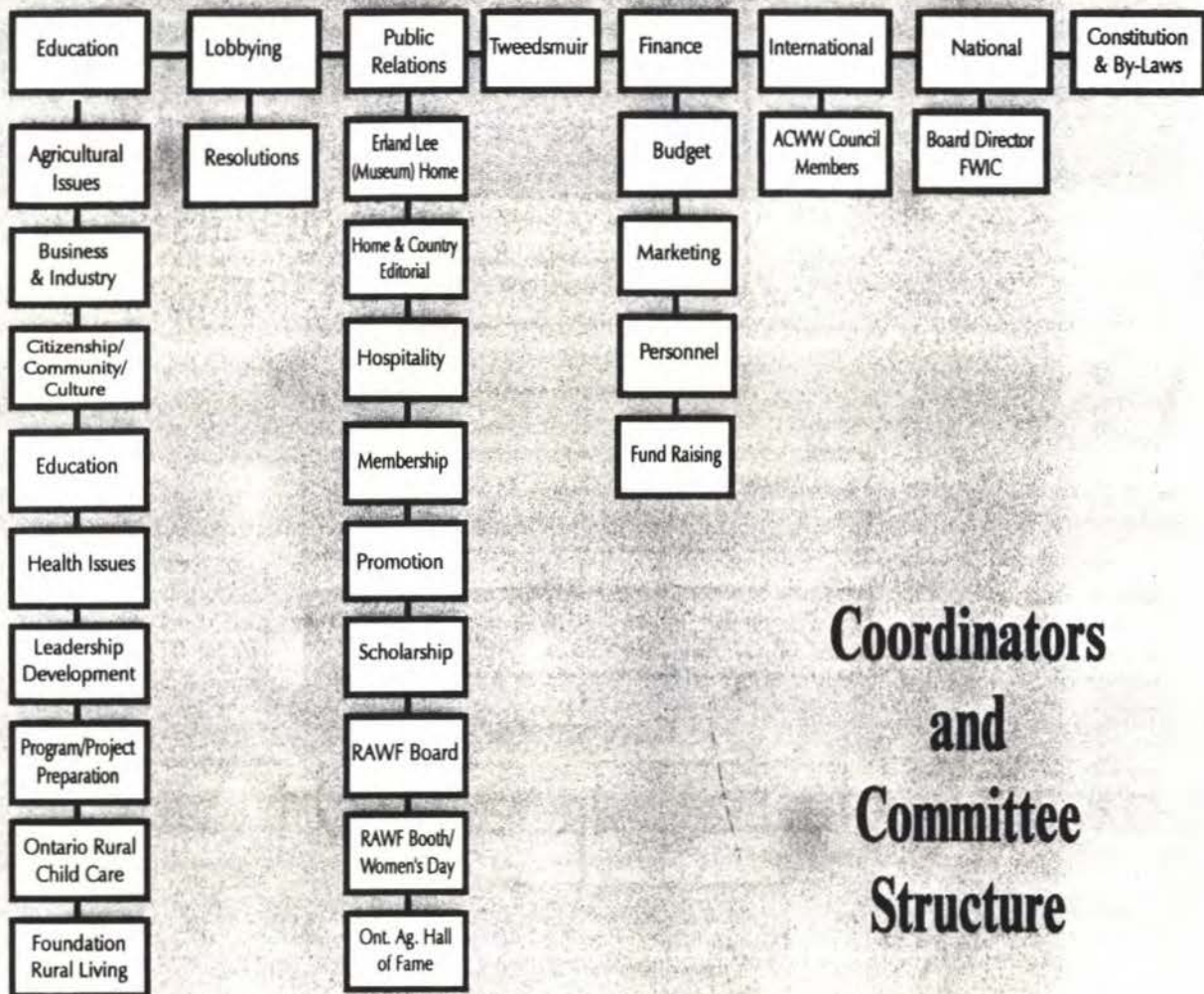


Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 1999

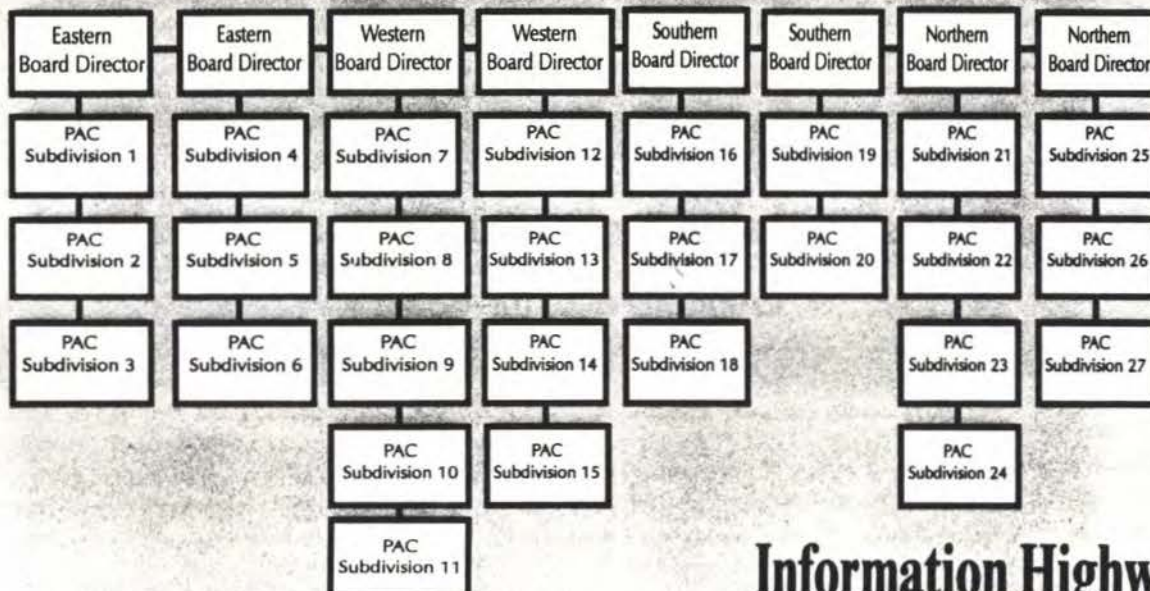
Elected Coordinators

Appointed Coordinator

Committees of the Board



Coordinators and Committee Structure



Information Highway

March 29, 1982 Miss Eva Morrison

Miss Eva M. Morrison of 180 John Street, Shedden, the village's oldest living resident, passed away at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital Monday, March 29, 1982 in her 93rd year.

Miss Morrison was born in Shedden Jan. 20, 1890 to the late William and Margaret (Dibb) Morrison and lived all her life in the village. She was a member of Bethany United Church in Shedden and a charter member of the Shedden Women's Institute.

She was never married and was an only child. Several cousins survive.

Miss Morrison is resting at the L. B. Sifton Funeral Home, 118 Wellington Street, St. Thomas where friends may call commencing at 2:30 p.m. today and where the funeral and committal services will be conducted Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. by Rev. A. E. Loree of Bethany United



MISS EVA MORRISON

Church. Interment will be made in the family plot of Shedden Cemetery at a later date.

Article found in a scrapbook in 2002

In Memory of

Lois B. Oldham

Born

March 9th, 1928
St. Thomas, Ontario

Died

March 14th, 2002
St. Thomas, Ontario

Service

1:00 p.m., Monday, March 18th, 2002
Williams Funeral Home
St. Thomas, Ontario

Officiating

Ms. Janet Laughren
Bethany United Church
Shedden, Ontario

Interment

McArthur Cemetery

WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME

BIRTHDAY



**90th BIRTHDAY
ILENE ORCHARD**

An Open House is being held on Sunday, May 27, 2001 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Keystone Complex, Shedden. If you wish, please bring a non-perishable item for the Caring Cupboard.

OLDHAM

Lois B. at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Thursday, March 14th, 2002 in her 75th year. Loved wife of the late Currie Oldham (1998). She was the daughter of the late Andrew and Elsie (Graham) Imlay. Born in Southwold Township she lived most of her life in the Lawrence Station and Shedden area. Loved mother of Andrew and his wife Jenny Simpson, Windsor; Sandra and her husband Danny Annett; Shedden and Holly and her husband Chris Finlay, Union. Grandmother of Kelly and Laurie Annett, Shannon Simpson and Nicole and Matthew Finlay. Dear sister of Doris McNaughton and sister-in-law of Ilene and her husband John Searay, Arthur and his wife Helen Oldham and Forbes Oldham. She is also survived by a number of nieces and nephews. Mrs. Oldham was a retired secretary of the Elgin County Board of Education; a member of Bethany United Church, Shedden, the Bethany United Church Women, the Shedden Women's Institute and the Elgin Manor Auxiliary. She was a past co-chair of the West Elgin Branch, Canadian Cancer Society annual fund raiser and a past member of Sweet Adelines, London Chapter. Resting at **Williams Funeral Home**, 45 Elgin Street, St. Thomas where funeral service will be held Monday at 1:00 p.m. Interment to follow at McArthur Cemetery. Visitation Sunday 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Remembrances may be made to the Chemotherapy Unit of the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital or the Heart and Stroke

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 2002



TIME FOR MODELLING—When the last stitches have been taken, comes the real test, and the completed styles are worn by the individual designers. Mrs. Kenneth McLaughlin, at the right, wearing her spring-like bonnet of pink straw,

with ribbon and flower accents, gives Mrs. Leslie Woods' lovely organza creation just the proper tilt for that added flair. Looking on approvingly are, l. to r., Mrs. Clayton Silcox, Mrs. Jack Schram, Mrs. George Ayling and Mrs. Archie McKillop.—(T.-J. Photo.)

Millinery Course Interesting

In the Spring, it has always been said, a woman's fancy happily turns to thoughts of a new hat, and apparently, the same holds true of any season of the year. It can be a morale booster, a panacea for the blues, and probably in its most valued guise, the important something that really perks up a jaded wardrobe.

All these attributes, and more, are credited to a spray of flowers, or a feather plume, held in place with a wisp of veiling, or silken straw and blithely called hat, toque, beret, chapeau, or what one pleases. The needed ingredients are present, and nothing else is necessary.

In Shedden, 16 members of the Shedden Women's Institute, yesterday completed a three-day course in the making of spring millinery. Sponsored by the Institute the course was under the talented direction of Mrs. M. Mulligan, of the Extension Branch of the Home Economics Department of Agriculture.

Variety in color and style were much in evidence, and Mrs. Mulligan remarked, that during her many schools of instruction, no two women have ever made identical models. There were such pretty hats, a white velvet toque, softly draped, with fabric flowers, a pink straw cloth brimmed model with softly shaded organza in tones varying from palest shell to deep rose, a beige pillbox, with saucy flower spray of vivid orange a discreetly sophisticated black cloche, stunningly smart in its simplicity. These were but a sample of the loveliness that had been created by the women, most of whom had had no previous training in the millinery making line.

As Mrs. Mulligan expressed it, "The hats are really more than just one of kind, they are hand-made, and individually designed, so to buy one of similar workmanship and pattern would cost a great deal."

Mrs. Ed Down was in charge of the project, and those enrolled for the course included Mrs. George Ayling, Mrs. Ted Silcox, Mrs. Leslie Woods, Mrs. Kenneth McLaughlin, Mrs. Stewart Brown, Mrs. Cletus Holborn, Mrs. E. Sells, Mrs. Archie McKillop, Mrs. F. Trace, Mrs. Clayton Silcox, Mrs. Leonard Moore, Mrs. Campbell Carroll, Mrs. J. Schram, Mrs. Basil Daugharty, Mrs. Hugh Silcox, and Mrs. Esther Braddon, a guest from Melbourne W.I.

This article was found in Maxine Silox's scrapbook in 2001.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April 2002



KEENLY INTERESTED — Everyone of the 16 members of the Shedden Women's Institute, who were enrolled for the millinery course, completed yesterday, were eager to learn all the ideas and plans put forth by the director, Mrs. M. Mulligan, of the Extension Branch of the Home Economics Department, Ontario Department of Agriculture. Here, she demonstrates the making of a

brown thistle like flower, to be used as trimming on a chic beige sailor. Looking on are some of 16 members enrolled for the course. These included Mrs. C. Holborn, Mrs. Ted Silcox, Mrs. E. Sells, Mrs. F. Trace, Mrs. A. McKillop, Mrs. E. Braddon, Mrs. B. Daugherty, Mrs. L. Moore, Mrs. C. Silcox, Mrs. S. Brown, Mrs. L. Woods, Mrs. K. McLaughlin, Mrs. C. Carroll, Mrs. J. Schram, Mrs. H. Silcox, Mrs. G. Ayling.—(T-J. Photo.)

Those in the picture are:

Back Row: Mrs. Hugh (Grace) Silcox, Mrs. Les (Cassie) Woods, Mrs. Basil (Lydia) Daugherty, Mrs. Len (Mary E.) Moore, Mrs. Stewart (Jean) Brown, Mrs. Archie (Catherine) McKillop.

Front Row: Mrs. Frank (Stella) Trace, Mrs. Campbell (Alice) Carroll, Mrs. Clayton (Maxine) Silcox.

This article was found in Maxine Silcox's scrapbook in 2001

Shedden W.I.

Tweedsmuir History

Dora McArthur - Curator

April, 2002

Women's Institute logs 104 years working for community

DEBORA VAN BRENK



COUNTY VOICES

ids' pyjamas are standard because a Women's Institute Southwestern In't want another suffer the tragic loss

ite lines running middle of highways: ank Women's Institute for that safety

em also for making loaf of bread comes apped, so the germs

nk safe, pasteurized use WI founder Ader Hoodless pushed v after the death of son.

members are urging ice to offer free live-lines in areas where rampant. They're g rural literacy and y.

unteer helping out at 1 hospital's night re-

ception desk is apt to be a WI member. So is the group catering that rural funeral.

If community commitment is what you're looking for, these folks have been ahead of the pack for most of their lives.

But this mainstay of rural family life has changed since our grandmothers' day.

Back when they began 104 years ago, Women's Institute meetings were pretty much the only place outside of church where rural women could escape the isolation of farm life and educate each other about family health and current events.

These were all-in-one sup-

port and political forums, steeped in tea and home-baked cookies.

Their emphasis today on women's health and family information is as strong as ever. But there are fewer to hear — and to pass on — the message.

Cars have made physical isolation less of a problem, public information can be found at the click of a computer mouse and mothers racing home from work to ferry the young ones from hockey practice to music lessons aren't likely to attend a mid-week afternoon meeting with friends.

The London area has 70 Women's Institute groups totalling 1,114 members. The numbers were "probably double that" when Fran Hyatt first joined the group 28 years ago.

Hyatt is head of the Mt. Brydges branch and president of the London and Area WI, which includes Middlesex County and a sizable chunk of

the surrounding counties.

Their good works are prodigious — from April 2000 to April 2001, they logged 68,114 hours of volunteer time, up 8,000 from the year before.

"Women needed to be educated to make their homes and families educated and healthier."

Member Marg Eberle

They drive people to appointments, raise money to equip local hospitals and build wells in developing countries, run fitness programs for seniors and deliver meals to shut-ins.

They run day-long health and education sessions for women in their communities.

Women's Institutes thought globally and acted locally before environmental groups appropriated that phrase for

themselves.

"They're a wonderfully dedicated group of women," Hyatt says.

But fewer. And older.

Most members are 60-plus, Hyatt says. "I'm probably the second-youngest member in the branch and I'm no young chicken."

Although the district saw 29 new members join the ranks last year, they lost more than they gained.

So are these groups headed the way of the quilting bee and wringer washer?

"I think only time can tell that," she says.

Marg Eberle, of Highgate in Chatham-Kent, is more optimistic. Her branch gained four new members this year.

"The original goal was that women needed to be educated to make their homes and families educated and healthier and all that good stuff. And that's what we're still doing today," says Eberle, a director

for the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and a former president of the provincial body.

"We're still basically an educational organization," she says.

"Part of our job (to entice new members) is to show what we have done and show that we are relevant."

She says it's a struggle to get members just to record their volunteer hours because they just don't want to boast.

"They don't advertise themselves. We're the best-kept secret in the world."

Without a lot of fanfare, these women are making a difference to each other and their communities.

When an organization this crucial to rural life is struggling to find members and support, it's no time for misplaced modesty.

Women's Institutes have more than earned the right to blow their own horns.

Shedden W. I.
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 2002



Elgin County Pioneer Museum

32 Talbot Street, St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1A3, (519) 631-6537

Email: ecpmchin@execulink.com • Fax: (519) 631-3884

April 6, 2002

Shedden Women's Institute
C/O Carol Gordon
35761 Horton Street
Shedden, Ontario
N0L 2E0

Dear Carol,

As you may be aware, Elgin County will be celebrating its sesquicentennial this summer. Many organizations including County Council have planned activities to celebrate this special anniversary. The Elgin County Pioneer Museum would like to develop a book to commemorate the sesquicentennial of Elgin County. Our book will be published in-house and hopes to include information on the founding of the museum and history on each of the Women's Institutes and I.O.D.E chapters of St. Thomas and Elgin County.

We are asking each chapter to submit a brief history on the founding of your organization, and any other significant achievements that have been accomplished. This brief biography of your chapter should be limited to three pages, typed on 5.5" by 8.5" sized-paper (half page) and can include accompanying photographs. We are also requesting that the names of the founding members of your group be included. The accompanying photographs could include buildings, individuals or events that are significant to your group. The submitted material will be edited for content.

If your chapter is interested helping the museum to pursue this book, we request that all material be submitted to the Elgin County Pioneer Museum on or before May 1, 2002. Once all the information for the book is compiled, we are hoping to sell the book for a nominal fee.

Please feel free to contact the museum if you have any further questions or concerns. Thank you for taking the time to consider our request and we hope that your chapter can be commemorated in our book.

Sincerely,

Jill Morrell
Acting Manager

HISTORY OF SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Shedden Women's Institute was organized May 31, 1913.

The first officers were:

President-----	Mrs. W. Guest
Vice-President-----	Mrs. J. A. Orchard
Secretary-Treasurer-----	Mrs. F. Trace
Directors-----	Mrs. C. Pettit
-----	Mrs. Dan Hamilton
-----	Miss M. McKenzie
Auditors-----	Mrs. D. Russell
-----	Mrs. M. White

CHARTER MEMBERS OF SHEDDEN W.I.

Mrs. W. G. Eady	Mrs. A. E. Orchard
Mrs. M. Guest	Mrs. D. Russell
Miss Clara Horton	Mrs. T. Tanner
Mrs. Mary McArthur	Mrs. F. Trace
Miss Eva Morrison	Mrs. M. White
Miss Edith McGibbon	Mrs. G. T. Hopkins

During World War I all the war work for the community was done under the auspices of the Shedden W.I. Money was raised by various means, and hundreds of articles were knitted. At the first of the Second World War a Patriotic Society was organized under the Red Cross. This organization took charge of all the work, the Women's Institute contributing money to buy supplies. At the end of the war, the W.I. along with the Community welcomed the returning veterans with a banquet and a special Memorial tribute.

Over the years the W. I. sponsored special courses to the women of the community to improve their skills in many areas, such as quilting, needlework, millinery, baking and many other crafts.

An adult and child immunization clinic operated in the United Church Basement for a number of years, which proved to be very beneficial to all who attended.

In 1948 the Tweedsmuir History was established to record the history of the Shedden area. Mrs. Arthur (Mary Jane) McIntyre was the first curator.

Mrs. Arthur McIntyre also contributed a column to the St. Thomas-Times Journal entitled "Janet's Saturday Column by Mary J. McIntyre" for 40 years that dealt with local

issues, and in 1990 members of Shedden W.I. selected 100 of their favourite columns and printed a booklet that sold many copies.

In the year 2000 a book containing pictures and information about all the properties in the village of Shedden was prepared with a copy to be placed in the Shedden Library.

When new families move to the village, a leaflet supplied by the Shedden W.I. listing community activities and businesses are taken to the home to welcome the family to the community.

Appropriate cards are sent to those who are celebrating a special occasion, those who are ill, or to those who are bereaved.

Over the years Shedden W. I. has sponsored 4-H Clubs, contributed to St. Thomas Memorial Hospital, St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital, Pioneer Museum, and many local organizations and projects. Volunteering in many ways has contributed to the community. Along with UCW of Bethany United Church they have served meals at Shedden Fair for over 50 years. The flashing traffic lights installed in 1955 at the corner of Union Road and # 3 Highway were the result of urging from the W.I.

For the past 10 years an information booth has been operated by the W.I. at the Rosy Rhubarb Festival, where they have sold homemade rhubarb jam and a variety of articles to support the Southwold Keystone Complex.

Shedden Women's Institute has been a thriving organization for almost 90 years and to all appearances will continue for some time yet serving "Home and Country".

Dora McArthur,
Tweedsmuir History Curator,
Shedden Women's Institute.
April, 2002.