

September, 1992

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inity News

Nancy Sheppard
Editor — 631-2790

Shedden Women's Institute learns about landscaping

At the September meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute Pauline Silcox introduced David Chamberlain of "Rural Roots" who spoke on a number of little topics.

Mr. Chamberlain related to his experiences of teacher training at the Ridgetown teacher's college especially attracting the students attention.

Since Mr. Chamberlain's livelihood is landscaping he spoke of the Purple Loosstrife known as Lythrums grown in flower gardens. Since 1990 this plant is destroying the wetlands and now is called "Beautiful Killer."

Mr. Chamberlain said now is the time to shop for unique and inexpensive bulba at the garden centres and shop early to avoid disappointment. He also praised the City of St. Thomas for an excellent job on land-

scaping with flowers on a restricted budget.

A lively question and answer period followed. Dora MacArthur thanked David and presented him with a gift certificate.

President Lois Oldham conducted the meeting assisted by Secretary Barb Bolden. The Roll Call was favourite sounds and smells of autumn and was answered by 21 women. Dora MacArthur reported on the Tweedsmuir workshop on Aug. 11 in Embro. A display of the Janet Columns was shown.

Madeline Parks reported 16 new residents moved into Elgin Manor during the summer months. Pat Palmer, the new Welcome Committee Co-ordinator and volunteers welcomed these newcomers to the village. Trait and Tammy Armstrong,

Ronald Goode and Sheila Martin-dale, Glenn and Susan Smith, Bruce and Elizabeth McIntyre, Gary and Teresa Baldwin, Abe and Mary Friesan and Martin and Anne Yyn.

During the summer months Ilene Orchard sent out 11 cards for the Remembrance Committee.

Brenda Silcox gave the District Report. Brenda informed us Peggy Knapp is the new President for the A.C.W.W. This is a list of dates to remember and mark on your calendar.

Oct. 4-10 - Agri-Food Week.

Oct. 7 - Bethany U.C.W. has Pat Shakir, Head of Volunteer Services, St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital speaking on "Lifeline" a medical alert system for Seniors and disabled persons living alone. Starts at 8 p.m. at the Shedden Bethany United Church.

Oct. 8 - Daffodil Tea at the Talbot-

ville United Church from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Hostess: Paynes Mills WI.

Oct. 10 - Rain or Shine! Tree planting at the Shedden Fair grounds by the Shedden W.I. at 10 a.m. This red maple will commemorate Canada 125.

Oct. 14 - London Area Conference, Alisa Craig, Theme: "I'm proud to be a Canadian."

Oct. 14 - Shedden Fair Fashion Show at 8 p.m. Fashions from the Corner Shoppe, Dutton and some homemade clothes by local residents.

Oct. 20 - WI Rally Social Yarmouth Centre Church at 7:30 p.m. Bring cups plates and cutlery. Speakers are Hilda Mordan on ACWW and Jeanne Leitch on Thunder Bay.

Oct. 22 - Volunteer Luncheon at the Elgin Manor at 1 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Frome Coffee Break at the

Frome United Church from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The training for leaders on the Short Course for Decor Accents is at the OMAF Office on Nov. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 12 - the Royal Winter Fair for the Women's Institute.

Dec. 4 - Museum Coffee Break is from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 4, 1993 is the W.I. Winter Picnic and Feb. 27, 1993 is the date for the Community Outreach.

Kay Chamberlain announced the Christmas Shoppe for needy families is accepting donations of new items and good used items the last two weeks in November at the Fifth Ave. Plaza.

The next meeting is on Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethany United Church with Lorne Spicer as guest speaker.

The November meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at the Bethany United Church. President Lois Oldham opened with the Institute Ode and The Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call - An experience with wallpapering or painting, was answered by 18 ladies.

Secretary Barbara Botden read the correspondence as follows:

The W.I. Winter Picnic is January 4th, 1993, 6:30 p.m. at the Fingal United Church. Bring your own dishes, cutlery and cup for the potluck supper. An OMAF Seminar on "Responsibilities and Liabilities of Organizations" on Saturday, February 20th at Regina Mundi, London.

Jean Palmer reported for the Museum and a reminder of the Museum Coffee Break on December 4th, 9:30-11:30 a.m. December 10th is the Volunteer Appreciation Night at 7:00 p.m. at the Museum.

Madeline Parks reported the Manor is having a Tea and Craft Sale on December 5th and the Christmas Party, December 11th, where the residents receive a gift and corsage.

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Carol Gordon introduced the guest speaker, Vaunece Schnell, manager of a store in St. Thomas. She is an interior designer, a certified product consultant and a trainer for product knowledge for the head office of her company.

A video tape was shown on the various methods and products to use in wallpapering. Vaunece suggested 5 basic steps - Clean, Patch, Prime, Install and Maintain. It is very important to use sizing on walls before papering. This makes walls gritty to help wallpaper to adhere.

Everyone learned a little about the "wallpapering language." One of these was "book" your paper and this method is used to help relax your paper before hanging.

Vaunece suggested that anyone decorating with wallpaper or paints take the time to talk to a trained certified product consultant. They are able to suggest different products and offer new ideas.

Carol thanked and presented Vaunece with a gift of appreciation for taking time from her busy schedule.

To finish the evening everyone created a wallpaper fan to take home. A delicious lunch of cheese, crackers and fruit was supplied by committee members Beth Vicary and Carol Gordon. Pauline Silcox gave the courtesy remarks.

The next meeting is December 6th at Bethany United Church at 7:30 p.m. Don't forget to bring items for Christmas Care.

Shedden group visited by legislative page

The January meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at the home of Pat Palmer. Everyone sang the Institute Ode and repeated the Mary Stewart Collect.

Mrs. Margaret Carder proudly introduced our guest speaker, her granddaughter Lillian Carder, from Shedden. Lillian was a legislative Page at the Parliament Buildings in Toronto from May 25 to June 26, 1992.

Lillian went to school in Middlesex County and applied there. Her school marks were over 80 per cent and she is extensively involved in extra-curricular activities. These were some of the requirements. Lillian was chosen as one of 30 pages for a one-month period. There are an equal number of boys and girls. All pages were given a test on learning the names of 130 members of Parliament and the riding they belonged to. Full uniform is required except at lunch.

There are eight pages on the dias. Four are on each side of the Speaker of the House and the rest of the pages at the back of the room. The page's duties consisted of House duties, deliver messages, filling water glasses, etc. Math and French classes were taken during the day, as well. An interesting video taken by Lillian's mother showed the uniform Lillian wore, her special locker, common room and friends.

Pat Palmer thanked Lillian and presented her with a gift.

Jean Palmer announced a fund raiser for the "Rosy Rhubarb Weekend" is a variety show on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shedden Country Club. The group decided to perform in a play.

Dora McArthur, Tweedsmuir Curator, gave a history lesson on the settler's of Watson's Corners. Richard Williams and The Burwells are mentioned as traveling a rugged trail carrying bags of wheat to Kettle Creek. This trail is now known as Union

Road. The descendants are still living in the area.

Welcome committee co-ordinator Pat Palmer reported Dale and Maggie Underhill have moved to John Street. Welcome to Shedden.

Everyone enjoyed Margaret Carder's game "Have Fun Let's Travel."

Carol Gordon gave the courtesy remarks to the committee members Pat Palmer, Margaret Carder and Vivian Cairns.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shedden Bethany United Church. New members are welcome.

At the December meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute Mrs. Santa took time from her busy schedule to make a surprise visit.

Members enjoyed a "mini" Christmas concert. Participating were Dora McArthur - Christmas in Florida; Jean Palmer - The Angel who wore long underwear; Margaret Turner - several Christmas readings; Barbara Botden - pregnant at Christmas; Brenda Silcox - I can explain!; Cheryl Garvin - T'was the Night before Christmas; Connie Silcox - closely related to Mrs. Santa.

Several Christmas songs and contests were enjoyed before the convenors Maxine Silcox and Brenda Silcox, served a festive lunch of fancy cookies, squares and Christmas cake.









80th Anniversary Shedd W.D.

May 26, 1993

Dora McArthur

Jean Palmer

Ina Ross

Madeline Parks









Feb, 1993

Weather Watcher informs Shedden W.I.

Mr. Keith Kelly was the guest speaker at the February meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute. Mr. Kelly keeps records of the weather including daily temperature and wind direction, and is one of 2,800 weather watchers across Canada. He was supplied with a "Stevenson Shelter" in 1957 and sends reports into the Pearson International Airport monthly. His vast knowledge and interest in the weather has been handed down in his family from generation to generation.

Mr. Kelly showed us his great great grandfather's small black diary which recorded daily weather patterns in the year 1872. He has daily weather records from the year 1869 and has transcribed them for future comparisons. Of interest, on June 25, 1859 there was a killing frost, just as was experienced on June 11th, 1972. Rainfalls per year: 1958 - 22", 1962 - 24", 1972 - 31", 1975 - 38", 1983 - 42",

1988 - 27-1/2", 1992 - 48". Our last severe winters were in 1976, 77 and 78. Mr. Kelly told us that because of the great lakes, our area is one of the most difficult to forecast weather. Margaret Turner expressed our appreciation for this most informative and interesting presentation.

President, Lois Oldham, assisted by the secretary, Barbara Botden, conducted the business. The Country Quilt Fest will be held at the Ontario Agriculture Museum in Milton from August 6th - 15th, 1993. The nominating committee for 1993-94 will be Pat Palmer, Connie Silcox and Margaret Turner. Museum tickets are available from the treasurer, Pauline Silcox, at \$5.35 each. Sharon Welch, Ruth Hunter and Margaret Turner will staff the Tuck Shop in March.

Lunch was served by the convenor, Connie Silcox, assisted by Margaret Turner. Courtesy remarks were extended by Lois Oldham.

The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. It will begin with a pot luck supper with a donation of \$2.00 per member. There will also be a "touch and take" table. Brenda Silcox will construct a "loonie box" for all those extra loons floating around in the bottom of your purse. This evening will be held to raise funds for our contribution toward the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario purchase of their headquarters, "Parkhouse" in Guelph.

March, 1993.

Shedden WI looking for new members

Sounds of laughter, friendship and aroma from the Potluck Supper filled the church basement for the March meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute.

Each member donated \$2 for their meal and then purchased one or more articles from the "Touch and Take Table". As an added attraction to raise funds Brenda Silcox made a "loonie box" for all those extra loonies in your purse. The funds from this evening are contributed towards the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario for their new headquarters, "Parkhouse" in Guelph.

President Lois Oldham, assisted by Secretary Barbara Botden, conducted the meeting.

The Roll Call "in what way do you feel you have contributed to your community" was modestly answered by all our active members.

A seminar on "Strategies for Participation" will be held at the Holiday Inn, Guelph, from April 22-25. It is presented by Women and Rural Economic Development.

Shedden Girl Guides and Brownies Craft and Bake Sale is on Saturday, April 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A committee is being formed to

report on the history of the group to the FWIO for 1994. Another group of ladies are forming a committee to research future projects for the Federated Women's Institute of Canada by April 19.

Jean Palmer gave a report from a recent board meeting. The 85th Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 19, at 6:15 p.m. at Crinan.

The Strawberry Social is on June 23 at the Museum.

To help recruit new members to the Women's Institute, it was suggested to have a telephone survey.

All convenors and executives

are meeting at Brenda Silcox's on Monday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Video tapes are shown for those members absent from the Rosey Rhubarb Talent Night held in February. Institute members were involved in two plays and other functions during the festival.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Shedden Bethany United Church. The speaker, Matt Botden, will talk on "Listening Skills".

Shedden Women's Institute Officers 1993 - 1994

Past President - Cheryl Garvin

President - Lois Oldham

1st Vice President - Connie Silcox

2nd Vice President - Barbara Botden

Secretary - Barbara Botden

Treasurer - Pauline Silcox

District Director - Cheryl Garvin

Alternates - Brenda Silcox

- Pat Palmer

Branch Directors - Maxine Silcox

- Jean Vine

- Margaret Turner

P.R.O. - Carol Gordon

Remembrance - Ilene Orchard

- Ina Ross

Pianist - Beth Vicary

Tweedsmuir History Curator - Dora McArthur

Museum & Rally Rep. - Jean Palmer

Elgin Manor Rep. - Madeline Parks

Asst. Manor Rep. - Margaret Turner

Program Co-Ordinator - Brenda Silcox

Welcoming Committee - Pat Palmer

Auditors - Dorothy McLaughlin

- Margaret Turner

Shedden WI discusses three levels of listening

The April meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute was held at Shedden Bethany United Church on Wednesday, April 28th at 7:30 p.m. with Lois Oldham as President and Barbara Botden, secretary.

Members sang the Institute Ode and repeated the Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call, A time when what you said was not what someone else heard, was answered along with a payment of dues.

The District Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 19 at Crinan.

For the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute of Ontario, a collectors plate was designed by Vera Knolwes of the Langton Branch in the Hamilton area. A limited number of plates are

available so avoid disappointment, order now.

On June 2 at Huron Park a seminar Call to Order is open to all presidents and any members interested.

Several members volunteered to staff the tuck shop at Elgin Manor for May 10. Dora MacArthur gave a Tweedsmuir Report informing members all books are up to date including the library addition.

Eileen Orchard reported sending four cards in April.

The Installation of Officers was officiated by Madeline Parks for 1993-94. She welcomed the members and with added humour she made a comment of the president leading with inspiration and the secretary with perspiration.

Barbara Botden introduced her husband Matt, the speaker for the evening. Mrs. Botden works at Casco, London and one of his duties is training employees across Ontario for Listening Skills. The dictionary meaning of listening is "to apply oneself to hearing something."

There are three levels of listening: 1) tuned in, 2) tuning in and out, 3) tuned out. To build a rapport demonstrate that you are listening by clarifying and confirming, acknowledging and giving non-verbal signals of attention.

Mrs. Botden showed a video tape illustrating several different listening skills good and bad.

Sharon Welch and Brenda Silcox gave an unrehearsed demon-

stration of following direction and listening. With their chairs back to back Sharon guided Brenda to produce the same picture of triangles she had. They did an excellent job.

Kay Chamberlain thanked the speaker and presented him with a gift of appreciation.

A cake inscribed She Who Listens Understands, was served for lunch by Mrs. Botden and Kay Chamberlain. Connie Silcox assisted in serving.

The next meeting is May 26, 6:30 p.m. at the Old Schoolhouse Tea Room. The roll call, Bring something 80 years old or an antique. For the program several ladies are each presenting a 15 minute highlight of the past for Shedden WI.

april 1993

May, 1993

In appropriate setting

Shedden W.I. recalls its past

The Old School House Tea Room in Shedden provided the nostalgic atmosphere for the 80th anniversary of the Shedden Women's Institute.

Lois Oldham and Pauline Silcox greeted members and guests at the door.

A delicious meal was prepared and served by Nancy Smith and Kim McIntyre. Of course, a delicious rhubarb pie finished the meal reminding us of the upcoming Shedden Rosy Rhubarb Days from June 11 to 13.

President Lois Oldham assisted by secretary Barb Botden opened the May meeting with the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call, bring something 80 years old or an antique, was answered with articles from an egg scale to dishes.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

- Elgin County Rally Meeting, Tuesday, June 15, 11 a.m. at the OMAF board room.
- Museum Strawberry Social, Wednesday, June 23, 1:30 - 4 p.m. Tickets are \$3.
- District Fall Board Meeting, Thursday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. South Dunwich Community Hall, Wallacetown.

Jean Palmer reported on the Kensington Tea. Carol Gordon gave a brief report on a meeting for the P.R.O.'s in this district. Carol, also, reported on the Elgin West District W.I. 85th annual meeting held in Crinan.

Brenda Silcox remarked on the success of Pitch-In Week with members using the recycle bins, composters, etc. Some members and 4-H groups were involved with a program at Southwold School picking up garbage in the surrounding area.

Lois thanked Sharon Welch for helping with the programs.

Brenda led everyone in a "numbers" exercise which caused a lot of laughter and groans.

For our program, Brenda introduced four members who spent several hours reading and preparing a 15-minute report on the past 80 years of our Institute. Ina Ross joined in 1930, Madeline Parks, 1936, Jean Palmer, 1955 and Dora McArthur, 1976.

Here's a brief history of the Shedden W.I.

Our institute was formed on

MAY 31, 1913. FORTY-SEVEN LADIES

joined at an annual fee of 25 cents and met at members homes every fourth Wednesday at 3 p.m. This Institute was affectionately known as the "Country Women's University".

The Institute Ode was used for the first time in June, 1915.

Many contributions were made to the Red Cross in the war years. They, also, helped the cemetery board, school and library.

In 1928, they paid for an operation of a little girl in St. Thomas costing \$175.

The W.I. became associated with the Branch of Agriculture in 1934 to assist setting up short courses on Nutrition and dress making.

Between 1942 and 1950 several quilts were made and the total cost of five quilts was \$8.62.

Several resolutions were made at this time. The Institute approached the township to collect cans and garbage in the spring. Needed were lights for the village and signs at the village entrances.

In the middle 1950's a resolution to ban women wearing shorts in public places was brought forth.

In 1954, a baby clinic was sponsored every third Tuesday at the Bethany United Church. The highest number of babies attending was 80.

Meals at the Shedden Fair cost 35 cents when first started and in 1953 the UCA and W.I. joined and by 1957 the meals cost \$1.55.

Signs were erected in St. Thomas by 1971 showing the directions to the museum.

In the 1980's our Institute was active in petitioning for a new library, medical centre and forming a welcoming committee for newcomers.

A phrase from the minutes in 1954 still reflects on our work today, "Never estimate the power of a woman especially an Institute Woman."

Connie Silcox thanked the ladies for their excellent reports and presented each with a beautiful potted plant.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 23 at the Bethany United Church at 7:30 p.m.

Cindy Thwaites of Loralin Flowers, St. Thomas is the guest speaker.

All ladies are welcome to at-