

BIOGRAPHY

OF

MARLANE CONNORS

On September 26, 1949 Marlane Marie was born to Thomas and Gertrude Grouchy (pronounced – “Grewchy”) in St. John’s, Newfoundland. Marlane grew up with 4 brothers and was the only girl in the family and she acquired the nickname “Tootie”.

Marlane didn’t finish her schooling but married at the young age of 16 and she became the mother of 3 boys and 3 girls. Later divorcing her abusive husband Marlane starting working in a workshop for the handicap in the mornings and in the afternoons for the nursery school children with cancer and fire victims etc. This gave Marlane a feeling of being needed and the strength to go on with her future.

Marlane moved to Toronto in the 80’s to be with her oldest daughter and first grandchild. She became a young Grandmother in her early 30’s.

Not knowing what she wanted to do Marlane travelled Ontario doing different jobs such as picking apples in Picton, babysitting in Beachburg and working for an heiress for a period of 3 months and not getting paid. Back to Toronto and scouring the ads for jobs. Several resumes were sent to Health Care Centres and Marlane took the first call from Com Care and worked there for 8 months. While there she was sent to George Brown College for training courses. Then she started working for Olsten Kimberly Quality Care and stayed there for 5 years and took several courses at the George Brown College through this company.

Then in 1988, Marlane married Charley Gothereau and sadly he passed away one year later with a heart condition.

To get Marlane out of the house neighbours started taking her to talent shows – singing country and western songs. She did earn \$500.00 at one performance.

At one particular event, not a talent show, her friends enticed her to sing with Brock Wallenius’ band. He played the steel guitar and the romance began. Brock gave Marlane a crystal heart on a chain stating “I want to give you my heart” and asked her to marry him. They lived in Toronto for a year and moved to St. Thomas where Marlane’s brother lived.

Marlane worked with the Red Cross for about 6 years. Since she doesn’t drive she walked from job to job meaning from one end of town to the other. Brock figured out she walked 10 miles a day. Through the Red Cross she took Palliative Care and Health Care Courses at Fanshawe College. The highlight of receiving her diploma came when Peter North presented it to her.

On April 1st, 2000 Marlane, Brock and their 2 dogs – Topper and Samatha came to live in Shedden across from the Bethany United Church. Unfortunately, 2 weeks later Marlane became sick with ecoli poisoning from the well water. St. Thomas hospital thought she had the flu and was treated for this. Marlane had plans to see her daughter in Toronto so she went and was hospitalized, instead. Frantically, she called home to inform Brock about the poisoning and found out he was sick and so were the dogs. They now have city water and Marlane is still having some health problems.

Marlane has 5 Grandchildren now and one is on the way.

On September 27th Marlane attended her first Women’s Institute meeting at the Appletree Wood & Candle Co. and she loves joining our rowdy group of ladies.

BIOGRAPHY OF

CHERYL GARVIN

Cheryl was born on May 3rd, 1955 to Jim and Vivian Cairns at Humber Memorial Hospital, Toronto, Ontario. Her brother, Bob, is 8 years older.

Cheryl went to Highview Public School in North York than moved to Etobicoke, Dixon Grove Junior High – grades 7 & 8. After High School Cheryl went to Kipling College for a business course. One of Cheryl's first jobs was a Chambermaid at the Howard Johnson...this was only long enough to raise money for a trip to Europe with a girlfriend.

Then she was hired as a secretary for Dental Co. of Canada and in 1976 Cheryl met Steve Garvin at the Dental Co. of Canada and she could not stand this arrogant man. They dated for a couple of months and Steve was transferred to Winnipeg, Manitoba. They were married on September, 1977 in Toronto and moved to Winnipeg until 1983. Cheryl worked as an Assistant Office Manager for the New York Life Insurance Co.

On October 17, 1983 Stephanie Anne was born in London, Ontario where the Garvin's lived behind White Oaks Mall." It was time to move to a small village and forget the city life. After losing out on a house in Frome they purchased a house in the village of Shedden in June of 1984.

To stay at home with her daughter, Cheryl, started babysitting in 1984 and a nice surprise..her Mom and Dad moved to Shedden. They rented the apartment above Harold and Margaret Campbell's home.

On January 23, 1989 James Victor was born in London, Ontario. Cheryl continued babysitting for a long time. Because she enjoys working with "Little People" and seeing the world through their eyes, Cheryl, works as a Teacher's Assistant and Yard Supervisor for Southwold Public School off and on since 1991. She's, also, a Casual Clerk at the Shedden Post Office when needed.

Cheryl quickly became involved in Brownies as a leader and is a District Guider on loan to other branches in our District. Also, Cheryl is a Badge Tester at least six times a year.

For the 4-H in Shedden Cheryl led 3 clubs. And at the Bethany United Church she organized the Nursery and is Treasurer of the Sunday School.

On May 1, 1985 Cheryl joined the Shedden Women's Institute and became President from 1990 to 1992. She has held other positions, as well.

Cheryl's hobbies are reading, word searches, cooking shows, travel and spending time with family and friends. She likes being active in baseball and skating.

The kids are very active in sports and school activities and Cheryl is now known as "Mom's Taxi Service".

WRITTEN BY

BIOGRAPHY OF

Carol Ann Jones (Gordon) was born on April 26, 1948, at the St. Thomas General Hospital.

First born to proud parents David and Betty Jones.

Carol has 2 sisters, Bonnie and Pam, and 1 brother, Robert.

Carol lived all her life in the Frome area as a child. She went to the old Frome school for grades 1 through 8. She then attended Arthur Voaden Secondary School where she met Ron Gordon. The two high school sweethearts were married on June 21, 1969. After they were married they moved to Shedden in 1972, to an apartment above Margaret and Harold Campbell. They then moved to Orchard Street where they lived for 9 years. In 1983 they moved to their current home on Horton Street.

Carol and Ron were blessed with 2 sons, Jeff and Mike.

They have 2 grandsons, Tyler and Brady, and 1 granddaughter, Kailee.

Carol's first job was with the St. Thomas Coin Sales working for Vince Barry, who was the mayor of St. Thomas at the time. She also worked for Zellers, in St. Thomas, for 2 years. Carol is currently employed with Canada Post and has been there for 21 years.

Her favorite hobbies include: her water garden, crafts, traveling, eating, writing letters to her pen-pals in Japan, Cuba and England, and playing with her grandchildren. Carol's favorite color is burgandy.

One of her pet peeves is "when people speed past [her]."

Carol has been a President of the Women's Institute, a Village Trustee for 3 years, a Youth Group Leader, a Treasurer for Bethany United Church Women, and a Sunday School Superintendant.

Carol has been a member of the Shedden Women's Institute since April 25, 1979. She joined because "Jean Palmer asked [her] to." Madeline Park was secretary at that time.

Carol states that the Women's Institute has taught her how to prepare meetings, how to be kind and patient and how to act like a lady.

By: Cheryl Garvin

Lorrie Ellen Jones

The second eldest child in a family of five, Lorrie is the daughter of Norma and Robert John Keith of Iona. She was born on October 4, 1955 in St. Thomas, Ontario.

Growing up in Iona, she attended the nearest Public School which was S.S. # 10 (Brown's School) up to grade 5. This school closed and Lorrie then attended Fingal Public School for grades 6, 7 and 8. Highschool years were spent at Parkside Collegiate Institute in St. Thomas. At the "tender age" of 45, Lorrie went back to the Adult Education Centre in St. Thomas to complete her grade 12.

In 1982, Robert (Bob) Jones and Lorrie moved to John Street in Shedden. They still live at this location and have renovated and improved their property and home as the years have gone by. Lorrie is the mother of Richard (Rick) and Jennifer.

She is the "silent partner" of J.S.R. (Jones Salvage & Resale). This is a scrap metal recycling business she operates with her husband, Bob.
Previous Employment: 1979 –1985 Times Journal in St. Thomas

1985 – 1999 Babysat Children at her home
1999 – 2001 Appletree Wood & Candle Co. Shedden

Hobbies:

Lorrie likes to do many crafts but her main hobby is counted cross-stitch. She enjoys knitting crocheting and quilting and has made many sweaters, mittens, scarves, dolls and afghans. She likes to enter the Rosy Rhubarb cooking contests too.

Groups:

Lorrie belongs to the Shedden Women's Institute having previously belonged to the Iona Women's Institute (disbanded). She belongs to the Bethany United Church in Shedden and helps with U.C.W. and the Youth Group whenever she can.

Lorrie's interest in her community is a real asset and we look forward to many years of working together in the Shedden Women's Institute.

*Brenda Silcox
(Aug. 2001)*

BIOGRAPHY
OF
NORMA RUTH HUNTER

Norma RUTH Brown was born August 19, 1921 to Chester and Ina (Heidt) Brown. Her siblings are Ada (Mrs. Clarence Morrow), Mark and Floyd. Their home was at Lot 3, Concession 4, Southwold Twp.

She attended school at S. S. # 3, Southwold, where she took 1st and 2nd Form High School. In to-day's language that is Grades 9 & 10.

On Oct. 21, 1944 she married Clarence Hunter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Hunter. They lived on their farm at Lot 5, Con. 3, Southwold, where they raised their family: Bruce who lives in Collingwood and teaches at Wasaga Beach and Beth who lives in Shelbyville, Tennessee where they have a horse farm. Bruce's daughter Jennifer is their only grandchild.

Ruth held offices in McBrides United Church in WMS and UCW.

On December 31, 1974 Ruth and Clarence moved to their new home on the east edge of Shedden, and Ruth enjoys belonging to the Kensington Club and Shedden W.I. which she joined about 1975.

Interviewed by Dora McArthur
January 18, 2001.

Biography of Shirley Denise Maton (Johnson)

Shirley Denise Maton(Johnson) was born May 5, 1970 and resides at 35898 Orchard St in Sheddron, Ontario.

- Parents - Maxine and Allen Johnson

- Sister - Joy Bowman

- Sister -Kathy Beattie

- married to Bill Maton of Lambeth

- sons Allen William - December 9, 1997

Travis Adrian - August 17, 1999

Her parents lived in Mapleton when Denise was born in Victoria Hospital.

She moved to Goderich once her sister Joy was born and later to a house outside of Goderich after the birth of her 2nd sister. Her parents still live there.

Education: Holmesville Public School, Goderich District High School, Fanshawe College to train for a legal secretary and then to Marvel Beauty School for hairdressing

Many Jobs - milking cows and other farm work, haying, splitting wood and orchard work.

MacDonalds Hostess, Champion Road Machinery, Culligan Water, Tim Hortons, Lawyers Office in London, Moda Fina Hair Salon and Opus Hair Studio.

Milestones: - married June 22, 1996

- Allen born Dec. 9, 1997

- bought 1st home in Sheddron Oct.'98

- Travis born Aug 17, 1999

-Joined Women's Institute 2000

Interests and Hobbies

- volunteer with handicap adults in Goderich

- participated in fastball and karate

- teaches tole painting and crafts

WRITTEN BY

BIOGRAPHY OF

Dora McArthur

Dora McArthur, Tweedsmuir History Curator, joined Shedden Women's Institute October 20, 1975. She is wife of Malcolm McArthur, R.R. 1 Southwold. Mother of Marilee Annett, Jamie McArthur and Janet Spicer. Daughter of Lena (Mifflin) and Roy Chamberlain and second eldest of siblings Clayton, Murray (deceased 1946) Carl and Jean.

Dora was born November 14, 1923 at her grandparents home near Merlin where her mother was visiting from their home at Littlewood (Lambeth). The family later moved to R.R. 1 Southwold in 1927.

Education: Lawrence Station - S.S. # 17 Public School
Glencoe High School
Arthur Voden Vocational School, St. Thomas

Occupation: Canadian Bank of Commerce - Chatham
Canadian Bank of Commerce - Shedden
Telephone Operator in Shedden for Southwold Exchange
Assistant Librarian at Shedden Library for 22 years

Church Affiliation: Member of Woodview United Church at Lawrence Station, McBrides United Church and Bethany United Church in Shedden.

Interests - Past and Present: Photography, speaking, genealogy, being involved with several family histories, playing piano and organ, traveling, computer, knitting and an avid reader.

Dora had been convenor for several planning convenorships, and Tweedsmuir History Curator for more than 6 years. She has served her term longer than the W.I. states in the hand book, but why have a tweedsmuir curator who doesn't have the interest, ability and enthusiasm to hold that position? The tweedsmuir book has photos of every residence in Shedden with names of past and present owners. Newspaper clippings, W.I. monthly meetings, photos and information plus. The books are indeed an encyclopedia of Shedden.

Years come and years go,
History is a subject interesting to know
In Southwold township there's happening plus
Data, photos to be saved and recorded are a must
We are fortunate to have you record all the above
Thanks from Shedden W.I. for your labour of love.

WRITTEN BY
BRENDA SILCOX

BIOGRAPHY OF

Dorothy McLaughlin

Grandparents of Dorothy McLaughlin came from Ireland and first settled on the Buchan farm on the Lawrence Road.

Their son Matthew and wife Agnes (Reid) were the parents of Dorothy, who was born in St. Thomas Memorial Hospital, and three years later brother Kenneth arrived. Their home was situated on the 2nd line near Southwold Station.

- Education:
1. Attended Public School S.S. # 3 – Grades 1 to 10
 2. St. Thomas Collegiate Institute Grade 11
 3. Arthur Voaden Vocational School – Grade 12 – taking Business

Employment:

London Life Insurance in London and St. Thomas.

In 1948 Dorothy married Duncan McLaughlin who farmed at R.R. 1 Southwold on Magdala Road, where she still resides. Duncan died in December 1990.

In 1953 Dorothy was secretary of Indian Affairs in the hamlet of Muncey and commuted to Maraviantown two days a week. This office was later moved to London.

Church was an important part of her life and was a member of Southwold United, McBrides United, and Knox Presbyterian in St. Thomas.

Community Involvement:

- Collected for several years for the Canadian Cancer Society
- Member of Golden Acres Eastern Star
- Secretary of McArthur Cemetery
- Member of Shedd Women's Institute since 1981 and was a convenor of several committees and secretary for four years.

Hobbies:

Gardening and embroidering; working outside was a priority.

Dorothy is generous and goes the extra mile, and excels in being a faithful and special friend.

(January 2001)

BIOGRAPHY
OF
ILENE (GILBERT) ORCHARD

Born Ilene Gilbert on May 25, 1911 to Ernest and Fannie Gilbert in Payne's Mills, Ontario, Ilene's roots run very deep in the soil of Southwold Township. Her maternal great-grandfather was Captain Neil "Storm" McAlpine, who, after settling on his farm at what is now known as 37632 Fingal Line, from Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1830, with his generous action after the Black Frost of June 25, 1859, provided seed wheat from his granary, at no cost, to save the settlement from famine and poverty.

Ilene lived in Payne's Mills all of her single life. Upon her marriage to Sydney Orchard on February 5, 1937, she moved to Shedden and resides in the village to this day.

While living in Payne's Mills, Ilene worked in St.Thomas for Steele's Optometrists for 8 years. At 18, she joined the Payne's Mills/Talbotville Women's Institute. Wednesday was her day off work, which allowed her to attend the meetings with her mother.

She continued to work at Steele's until the September following her wedding, when she decided to stay at home to look after her husband and begin her family. After their seven children - Mary, Hugh, Glen, Keith, Neil, Roy and Dana were "pretty well" grown, Ilene joined the Shedden Women's Institute and remains a member in good standing. Ilene also joined the Rebekah Lodge in 1957.

She now has a large family of 24 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Married at the end of the depression and living on a shoestring, her philosophy for life has served her well - "Live each day as it comes and do your best"

Written by

Sharon Welch

BIOGRAPHY OF

Jean Palmer

Jean was born April 11, 1930 and lived with her parents Lena and Roy Chamberlain on the 4th Line of Southwold (R.R. 1 Southwold). She is the youngest of five children - Clayton, Dora, Murray (deceased 1946), and Carl.

Jean attended Public School at Lawrence Station (S.S. #17) and then went to A.V.V.S. (Arthur Voden Vocational School) in St. Thomas. She then trained as a nurse at the Public General Hospital in Chatham. She worked at the Memorial Hospital in St. Thomas and "specialled" (private nursing care).

Jean married Ralph Palmer and they have four children, Brenda, Leonard, Peggy and Murray.

She attended the Woodview United Church in Lawrence Station in earlier years and now the Iona Station Baptist Church.

Mrs. Milan (Sarah) Atkinson first invited her to attend the Women's Institute in Sheddron. She joined in 1955 and Mrs. Herb (Madeline) Parks was the secretary and guided her along as President. She received her Life Membership in 1980. Jean has been active at the branch level as convenor, museum representative and president. She has been District President, Chairman of the Rally, and sat on the 4-H Scholarship Committee. She has been a 4-H Club leader and lead many Short Courses sponsored by the W.I. The Sheddron Women's Institute spear-headed the D.A. Monteith Medical Centre in Sheddron and Jean served on the Medical Centre Committee. She was presented a Certificate of Merit for her W.I. work through the museum.

In her community involvement, Jean has been captain of the Heart fund, Cancer Society, and March of Dimes. She was president of the Cancer Society for Elgin West and Elgin County. She was a member of the Southwold Tornado Committee. She has been president of the Ladies Aid at her church, teaches Sunday School, and provides fresh flowers each Sunday. She is a member of the Rosy Rhubarb Committee.

Jean's loves to knit and garden. Recently, she has taken up quilting. Over the years she has cared for many seniors in our community by visiting, getting their mail or using her nursing skills allowing them to remain in their own homes for a longer time.

On a personal note:

Mom has always enjoyed the Women's Institute and would never miss a meeting. Naturally energetic, she serves her community in any way she can. There were so many things I could write but dared not as she thought this was already too much.

(Daughter: Brenda Silcox)

BIOGRAPHY
OF
MARY PATRICIA (BLEWETT) PALMER

On a cold day of February 25, 1956, a little girl named Mary Patricia Blewett came into the world. Born at Elgin General Hospital in St.Thomas to Morley and Grace (McCormick) Blewett. Patricia's family consists of 2 brothers and 1 sister (all live in the area). Patricia attended AVSS in St.Thomas and enjoyed playing baseball for many of those years.

Pat Palmer, as we all know her today, married June 17, 1977 to Leonard Ralph Palmer of Shedden. Len and Pat are very proud of the three children they have. Kelly, born Dec. 18, 1979, Christopher, October 30, 1981 and Michael born June 7, 1984.

Before Pat was married she worked at Brown Fintube, St.Thomas as secretary for six years. Now she greets us all at Palmer's Supermarket where she works part-time.

Pat volunteers much of her time to her community through many activities. She is a 4H leader, works at the community centre, involved at Southwold Public School and the Port Stanley Minor Hockey. Pat attends Iona Station Baptist Church. She enjoys crafts, quilting and community, not to mention thoroughly enjoying her involvement with Shedden Women's Institute.

Written by

Denise Maton

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BIOGRAPHY
OF
Madeline (Fulton) Parks

Madeline Fulton was born in Southwold Township, May 8, 1912. At the age of 3 years her mother died and she and her sister went to live with their Aunt and Uncle, William and Hannah Turner.

She attended Southwold S. S. # 3 School. At age 11 she and her Aunt Hannah moved to Shedden, where her Aunt had built a new house on Orchard Street.

Madeline attended McDonald College at Guelph, Ontario. She graduated as a dietician and worked in a hospital in Toronto.

In 1938 she married Herbert Parks and lived on a farm between Shedden and Fingal. In 1941 a son Bill was born and in 1944, a daughter, Louise was born.

Madeline was a great cook and hostess. She loved to entertain. She enjoyed the arts. She was always very interested in her community. In 1936 she joined the Shedden Women's Institute. She was Secretary for many years and was a very active member. She was also very active in the Elgin Manor Auxilliary.

In August 1981, Herbert Parks passed away. In November 1982 Madeline sold the farm and moved back to her former home in Shedden. She lived there until she passed away August 23, 1995.

I have a great many fond memories of Madeline and her family.

Written by
Dorothy McLaughlin

BIOGRAPHY

OF

INA ROSS

On a farm north of Shedden, On November 22, 1907, a girl was born to Wilbert and Annie Atkinson.

Growing up, Ina May Atkinson lived in a number of places in and around Shedden. Wib, (her dad) and Annie (her mom) moved from the farm where Ina was born to lot 20, north of the North Talbot Road. From there they moved to the main corner of Shedden, (now the library) was where Wib owned and operated a butcher shop.

Ina went to school at S.S #9 Southwold for her elementary education, then on to middle school in Fingal - High school at S.T.C.I. (St Thomas Collegiate Institute} where she enjoyed her maths like algebra and geometry. Ina's education was cut short in grade 12, when she had to quit. Her brothers went on in school but Annie gave birth to Ina's sister "Lillian", when Annie was 45 years old and had appendicitis shortly after. Ina was needed at home. She had wanted to work in a bank because she loved her maths so much and continued to solve equations and puzzles as a hobby, all her life.

On Aug. 6, 1932 , Ina May Atkinson married George Wesley Ross. Their wedding had been planned for 1931 but an aunt died and the wedding was postponed for a year.

George and Ina rented a house near the tracks on John St. in Shedden, to begin their life together and moved their few belongings and pieces of furniture in. Then they went on their honeymoon to Bracebridge. Upon return, the house had been sold and was being moved. They put everything into the house at the corner of Union Road and Waugh Street. Ina was convinced there was only one place in Shedden that she could not live in. That run down, ugly ramshackle place that used to be a carriage repair shop.

When George came with the news that he'd bought their new home, it was one and the same. Ina and George lived the rest of their lives in the same house at 35854. Waugh St, One of the oldest buildings in Shedden.

Ina had joined the Women's Institute in 1930. She and her mom would walk to the meetings from the farm at Lot 20. She enjoyed her mother-in-law Ross' and Madeline Park's devotionals , but admitted that she was never very comfortable when she had to present her own meeting.

From the time that Ina quit school, she was a caregiver and nurturer. Not only did she raise her little sister Lillian, she also looked after her Dad and Mom ,who had eventually moved into the little house that George Ross built next to their own, until their deaths in 1959 and 1979 respectively. There

was also her own family to be cared for, George and their daughter Bonnie Jean, born in April of 1945. Ina would cook meals for George and Bonnie at home. When George was ill Ina took over his daily routine, delivering dairy products door to door in a panel truck.

Ina loved to read - the newspaper, Rosamunde Pilcher books and biographies. She decided at one time to read the Bible cover-to-cover. Bonnie remembers asking how far she had gotten with that project and Ina replied she was "reading the Book of Numbers but kept falling asleep there were so many 'begats.'"

She enjoyed knitting and quilting , baking and card games. She loved to play Euchre and always let on she was going to get "euchred" and ended up euchring everyone else, much to her son-in-law David's chagrin. (Rumor has it Ina beat David at Chinese Checkers too).

Ina had some favorite hymns and Psalms. She especially enjoyed hearing her mom singing hymns in the little house next door as she did her housework. She often repeated this adage. "If you have your health and strength you have everything you need." Her Zest for Life is summed up in a little poem she had framed.

"As you climb the hill
of coming years,
may you travel in high
and never shift gears
with plenty of spark
and never a knock and
a joy-filling station
in every block."

When asked , her daughter Bonnie gave this loving tribute to her mom.

"I loved my mom's honesty and integrity, her sparkling blue eyes, her quick wit , good sense of humour, delightful laugh and her gritty spunk. I miss her- I always will".

Ina passed away December 19, 1997 while living with her daughter and family in Burlington, Ontario.

Ina had been a member of the Women's Institute for 64 years.

*Compiled by
Sharon Welch April 2000*

Wilbert James Atkinson
Born-1881
Died-1959
\\
Ina May James John Lillian
Born-Nov. 22,1907 Born-Oct.26,1908Born-Nov. 22,1910 Born-Nov.17,1924
Died-Dec. 19,1994
\\
Married-George Wesley Ross
Married-Aug. 6,1932
\\ /
Together they had one daughter
-Bonnie Jean
-Born-April 1945
\\ /
Married-David Melville Waddell
/ /
Together they had one son
-George (Geordie) Diteman
\\ /
Married-Katheryn Hope Phillips
\\ /
Together they had two children
| |
Courtenay Mae Alex James
Born-July 20,1995 Born-Jan. 29,1998