

In the heart of the golden acres,  
Not far from old Erie's shore,  
Lies the Central section of Yarmouth  
It was settled in days of yore.

They came from Plymouth and Devon,  
From Cornwall, Argyle and Dundee,  
To settle the virgin forest,  
For homes inland from the sea.

It took courage and strength and heartache,  
It was theirs to do or to die,  
But the spirit of co-operation was the  
answer--the reason why.

They have founded for us, a country,  
A heritage, rich and great,  
And we have a challenge to keep it  
Productive, and up to date.

Composed by Mrs. Angus (Clara) McKenzie

## CENTRAL YARMOUTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

-By Mrs. Angus McKenzie-

The homemakers in our fair township (Yarmouth) had long been an enterprising group of Red Cross workers. We believed there was a vast amount of satisfaction in a job well don. We failed to see, where life could bestow a finer gift, than loving toil, so throughout the long war years, we worked diligently for the welfare of our boys, across the seas; and the comfort of their dear ones left behind.

At our June meeting, 1948, the possibility of forming a W. I. Branch was discussed and on September 1, 1948, the Central Yarmouth Women's Institute branch was born.

Our Red Cross president, Mrs. Charles McLean was prevailed upon to be our first president and with the able assistance of Mrs. W. E. Walters, secretary and Mrs. George Flintoft, treasurer, carried us very successfully on our new voyage. Our 1949-1950 year ending April 1st, showed our receipts to be \$505.95, expenditures \$315.50 with a balance of \$190.40.

In the five and one-half years that have followed our inception, we feel that we have much to be proud of. Until 1952, we were the baby Institute of the East Elgin area.

A few of our highlights in these few short years have been as follows: A devotional period at each meeting; hot lunches for the school children; showers for the newlyweds; flowers for the ill and bereaved; sponsoring of girls' clubs; bales of clothing sent overseas and to the tornado victims in the Parkhill area; layette and bathinette to polio victim's new baby; quilts for

sick children in London hospital; white gifts for the Salvation Army at Christmas each year. On May 3, 1950, we voted \$200. to the new St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital, also small donations to all the worthy funds from time to time.

We enjoyed many splendid department speakers, also some trips through fine Canadian industries.

We have played host to the East Elgin District in First United Church in 1951. In 1952 we made an original souvenir quilt, called the "Pride of Elgin" and presented it to Lady Elgin, when she and Lord Elgin visited our county for the Centennial celebrations.

Talent money, food sales, teas, quilting and social card games have been among our mediums for raising funds and at the present time our most important project is making linens and garments for our new hospital. Our members, numbering 28 have turned in several hundred articles at time of writing.

We began our new year 1954-1955 under the capable leadership of Mrs. George Flintoft, president; Mrs. Gowan Young, secretary; and Mrs. Marshall Field, treasurer, and we are looking forward to a most successful and happy year.

May we always cherish the friendships

We have made in this little band.

And for our blessed "Home and Country"

Work together hand in hand.



CENTRAL YARMOUTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

25th ANNIVERSARY

1948 - 1973

Central Yarmouth Women's Institute celebrated 25 years as a Branch of the Elgin East District on September 5, 1973, in St. Andrew's United Church hall, St. Thomas, Ontario.

The banquet was served by the UCW of the church which began by the members and guests singing the Institute Ode followed by a toast to the Queen. Thanks to the UCW, a word of welcome and introduction of the head table was looked after by Mrs. Marguerite Weir, president.

The head table guests were: Mrs. Douglas Lumley, retiring Women's Editor of the Times-Journal, guest speaker; Mrs. Gordon Gow, Federated Board member; Mrs. Cyril Williams, who installed the officers in 1948 and was the president of the Elgin East District at that time; Mrs. Joe Bechard, president of the District; Mrs. R. J. Ferguson, secretary-treasurer of the District; Mrs. Harold Smith, who was pianist at the inaugural meeting; Mrs. Marguerite Weir, president of Central Yarmouth; Mrs. Gowan Young, past president of the Branch; Mrs. William McCaw, secretary-treasurer of the Branch; Mrs. Don McKenzie who took part in the program; and Mrs. Marshall Field, chairman of the anniversary committee and for the evening.

Greetings were extended by Mrs. Gow, Mrs. Bechard, Mrs. Williams after which Mrs. McKenzie read the poem "Our New Institute" which had been composed by her mother, Mrs. Clara (McKenzie) Axford for the inaugural meeting.



Mrs. Harold (Anne Walters) Smith gave a piano solo and played the hymn "Count Your Blessings" which had been sung 25 years ago.

The guest speaker, Mrs. Mary Ann Lumley paid tribute to the work of the Institute saying it has done much in needed and diverse areas. She took the members back to her childhood when life was so full of a number of things. Idle moments were unknown in her family as the days were filled with reading, family associations, household chores, planning and planting a garden, and just loving life.

Mrs. Gordon (Catherine) Lemon expressed the appreciation of the members to Mrs. Lumley.

A special presentation of a spoon with the Institute crest on it was made to Mrs. Gowan (Marguerite) Young for her many years of work in the Branch, District, Area and Provincial level and she served four years consecutively as president of the Branch. Mrs. Robert Axford was also presented with a spoon for her many years of devotion as a 4-H club leader.

The first president, Mrs. Charles (Luella) McLean, and the first treasurer, Mrs. George (Alma) Flintoft were present as well as Mrs. Margaret McKenzie who had served twice as president, 1950-52 and 1960-62. Of the charter members, eleven have passed away, two members transferred to other Branches, fourteen did not continue their membership, so there are only three charter members: Mrs. George (Alma) Flintoft, Mrs. Gowan (Marguerite) Young and Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field.

A history booklet had been compiled and written by Mrs. Marshall Field with the assistance of Mrs. Leonard (Irene) Norman, Mrs. Dougald (Leona) Lindsay, Mrs. Robert (Helen) Axford, and Mrs. William (Vivian) McCaw doing some of the research and reading of old minutes.

An impressive memorial service conducted by Mrs. Gowan Young paid tribute to the members who had passed away.

The Mary Stewart Collect was repeated followed by the singing of the hymn, Blest Be The Tie That Binds, thus closing a very important celebration for the Central Yarmouth Women's Institute.

Written by Mrs. Marshall (Dolly) Field

October 1977.

Central Yarmouth Women's Institute  
requests the pleasure of your presence  
at their

**25th Anniversary Dinner**

September 5, 1973 – 6:30 p.m.

at

**St. Andrew's United Church**

60 West Avenue

St. Thomas, Ontario

Please reserve by August 22, 1973

Phone 631-4861 or 631-8752

Tickets – \$2.50





25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY HEAD TABLE



GUEST SPEAKER - MRS DOUGLAS LUMLEY





MRS MARSHALL FIELD , CHAIRLADY



MRS GOWAN YOUNG

## Sketch of

### CENTRAL YARMOUTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1948 - 1973

Do you remember one September afternoon? We gathered together and listened to an inaugural tune!

Yes, it was on Wednesday afternoon, September 1, 1948, that fourteen women gathered at the home of Mrs. R. E. Walters, 6th Concession of Yarmouth Township, to form an Institute. Those present were: Mrs. R. E. Walters, Mrs. Alice Bagley, Miss Frances Ryckman, Mrs. Delbert Lale, Mrs. Gowan Young, Mrs. S. B. (Agnes) Cook Mrs. Gordon Agar, Mrs. J. O. (Florence) Dunning, Mrs. Charles McLean, Mrs. W. E. (Bessie) Walters, Mrs. Jack (Margaret) McKenzie, Mrs. Angus (Clara) McKenzie, Mrs. George Wolff and Mrs. Marshall Field.

Mrs. C. M. Williams, East Elgin District President installed the officers, Mrs. Charles McLean, president; Mrs. W. E. Walters, secretary; Mrs. George Flintoft, treasurer; and District Director, Mrs. S. B. (Agnes) Cook. Mrs. C. M. Williams then spoke to the group about Institute work and procedures. The name CENTRAL YARMOUTH was suggested by Mrs. Angus McKenzie.

Mrs. Williams read the Mary Stewart Collect then Mrs. Angus McKenzie read a poem, Our New Institute, which she had composed in memory of the pioneer ancestors of Central Yarmouth. Miss Claire Young and Miss Anne Walters favored with piano solos and Mrs. G. E. Agar conducted a humorous contest finishing with an amusing puzzle on relationships. Lunch was served by Mrs. R. E. Walters, Mrs. Alice Bagley, Mrs. Gowan Young, Mrs. Delbert Lale, Mrs. S. B. Cook. And this was the first meeting.