



**Tweedsmuir
History**

**CRINAN
Women's
Institute**

**Volume 3
1999
to
2009**

Tweedsmuir Book Curators

- 1947 – Miss Bessie Stalker – Convener
- Mrs. Neil McEachren & Mrs. Jim McPherson (Assistants)
- 1950 – Mrs. Arthur Johnston – Convenor
- Miss flora McPherson & Miss Carrie McLean (Assistants)
- 1952 – Mrs. James Andrews – Convenor
- Miss Frances Simpson & Mrs. Grace McPherson (Assistants)
- 1959 – Mrs John McEachren
- 1961 – Mrs. D. B. McCallum
- 1962 – Mrs. Philip McRae
- 1964 – Mrs. Minnie Livingstone
to Mrs. Aleta McCallum
- 1989 Mrs. Norma McGill
Mrs. Frances McCallum
- 1989 to 2005 – Mrs. Minnie Livingstone
- 2005 – Mrs. Nancy McGregor

CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY

VOLUME 3 CONTENT

80th Anniversary Celebration
Muriel Carroll's Poem
Grandmother's Legacy by Georgina Livingstone
Elgin County Pioneer Museum Fire
Historians Corner
Argyle Pipe Band
Stories about Col. Talbot
Tryconnell Heritage Days
Crinan W.I. at the fair, meetings, tours, etc
Scadding Award of Excellence
Distinctive Women
Crinan Community Centre Renovations
Crinan Community Centre Official Re-Opening
85th Anniversary Celebration
History Summary of West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary Cancer Fund
Arts & Cookery Bank
Oldest Building in Crinan by Harold Carroll
Barn Photo Collection
Argyle Presbyterian Church 145th Anniversary
Women of Excellence Award – 2009
90th Anniversary Celebration
Letters Crinan W.I. received during W.W.11

CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

80th Anniversary Celebration Program April 22, 1999

PRE - DINNER

1. Institute Ode
2. Mary Stewart Collect
3. Candle Lighting and Memorial to Past Members - Jean McRae
4. Institute Grace

PROGRAM

1. Introduction - Nancy McGregor
2. History of the Institute and Recognition of Past Members - Minnie Livingstone
3. Singing - "Hymn of All Nations"
4. Poem by Muriel Carroll in Honour of the Anniversary - Lois Carroll
5. "Remember When" by Institute Members - Introduced by Jean Jamieson
 - Sharon Gilchrist - "How are You Going to Keep Them Down on the Farm?"
and "An Old Fashioned Garden"
 - Sandra Payne - "Peggy O'Neil" (tune #10 on song sheet)
 - Macsine Boyd - "Cruising Down the River"
 - Kathleen McLarty - "Somewhere My Love"
 - Minnie Livingstone - "Something to Sing About"
 - Irene Johnston - "Let There Be Peace on Earth"
6. Institute Choir
7. Announcements -
 - CNE Ambassador's Display
 - Tweedsmuir Display
 - Quilt Display and Tickets
 - Appreciations

HISTORY OF THE CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

as compiled by Minnie Livingstone

and read at the 80th Anniversary

April 22, 1999

1919 - 1999

I take great pleasure in writing some of the events of the history of the Crinan Women's Institute from its formation on April 24, 1919, to the present day. At a meeting held in the classroom of Argyle Presbyterian Church on the above date, the Crinan Women's Institute was organized.

The first regular meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Neil McEachran on May 19, 1919, with seventeen ladies present. Mrs. John C. McMillan was president. (She later became the Provincial President of the Women's Institute of Ontario.) Mrs. George Carroll was Secretary Treasurer; Mrs. Sarah (McColl) McPherson later took her place.

During the past eighty years, the W.I. has engaged in various activities. Meetings have had very interesting mottoes and themes such as: "He who forgets the past, loses the key to the future", "A smile is a passport that will take you anywhere", "A merry heart kills more germs than medicine", "Life is like a seed. It grows according to care", and Roll Calls such as "Laws that have recently been changed".

We have two volumes of Tweedsmuir History. Volume I is in the West Lorne Library and is also on microfilm. Volume II is in my home. Anything of historical interest can be submitted to the curator. People tracing their family histories find these volumes useful.

Guest speakers have included: Sue Arblaster, a worker from the women's shelter at Strathroy; Ann Lilley, a nurse from Four Counties Health Services on diabetes symptoms and care; and Pam Stewart on the Bobier Home past, present and future.

Crinan Women's institute sponsors card parties, bake sales, etc., the revenue from which has been used to make donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cancer Society, the Tryconnell Heritage Society, the Daffodil Auxiliary, the Crinan community Centre hall board and many others.

Many events are sponsored by the Women's Institute such as the Annual Cancer Tea. Crinan W. I. has displays at Rodney and Wallacetown Fairs.

On February 19, 1997 about twenty-two people gathered to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute of Ontario.

We have been honoured to have Nicole Jamieson become Ambassador for Rodney Aldborough Agriculture Fair in 1993, and Charlene Carroll as Ambassador of the fair in 1997 went on to win Miss CNE Ambassador (Toronto) in 1998.

Over the past five years we have visited many interesting places such as Uncle Tom's Cabin at Dresden and a trip to Grand Bend to see "Bye Bye Birdie".

As a special project this year, we have quilted a quilt top donated by Anne Nethercott and a baby quilt donated by Anna McCallum.

I have told you of various events over the past five years. We hope that the enthusiasm of the previous years carries into the future, and the Institute members always bear in mind our motto "For Home and Country".

Crinan Women's Institute 80th Anniversary



Nancy Mc Gregor presiding
for the program, April 22, 1999.

80th. Anniversary



Lois Carroll reading Mariel Carroll's Poem.



65
year
member

Georgina Livingstone cutting cake



"Remember When," by "W. I. Members"
 Sharon Gilchrist, Sandra Payne, Maccsine Boyd
 Kathleen Mc Larty, Minnie Livingstone, Irene Johnston.



"Institute Choir" - Maccsine Boyd, Sandra Payne,
 Sharon Gilchrist, Laura Kieraszewicz,
 Annie Isobel Tait.

**This poem was written by Muriel Carroll on the occasion of the
Crinan Women's Institute 80th Anniversary**

Way back eighty long years ago
With for Home and Country as the motto,
Four ladies decided they'd do their part
And a Women's Institute they would start.
And soon the number began to grow
And lots of ladies began to go.
Weren't we lucky we got it going
We learned paper tolling and dresses to sew
Made hats and new tips for a garden to grow.
Some of our ladies do great quilting
And never once do they think of quitting.
Till they are finished and it looks so grand
No better seen anyplace in the land.
When came the war we went right to work,
To help the soldiers we sure didn't shirk.
Learned lots about international affairs,
Have exhibits made for local fairs.
We made sure to help those in need,
And sponsored a girl for Ambassador queen.
Mind you we even bought the hall,
Had card parties, dances, sure had a ball.
Picnics always have been fun
With lots of races for kids to run.
On bus trips we like to go,
And even sometimes to a show.
There is always kept a history
Of long ago times, no more a mystery.
We've done a lot to fight dreaded cancer;
We'll keep on trying until there is an answer.
But now in the year nineteen hundred, ninety-nine
Let us all with grateful hearts remember
Sarah McColl, Mrs. J.C. McMillan, Mary Andrews, Gretta Carroll
The four ladies who really started it all,
And keep on shouting loud and long,
"Stand Up! Speak Out! Be Proud!
To be a Women's Institute member."

Guest Book

- 1 Minnie Livingstone
- 2 Anne Nethercott
- 3 Irene Johnston
- 4 Lois Carroll
- 5 Marian Gilchrist
- 6 Donald Johnston
- 7 Sharon Gilchrist
- 8 Tom, June & Nolan McLarty.
- 9 Jean McRae
- 10 Harold & Mervel Carroll
- 11 Pam, Scott & Michael Stewart
- 12 Marion Blake
- 13 Ellen Edgar.
- 14 Mary Lison
- 15 Duncan Laird
- 16 Nora Fisher
- 17 Sue Schneider