



Presentation of "Women of Excellence Award" to Nancy McGregor by Grace Cameron (President Elgin County W.I)

Scarecrow Do-Si-Do!

The 155th annual Rodney-Aldbrough Agricultural Fair was held Sept. 18 - 20 at the Rodney Fair Grounds. Sunny skies were a blessing as fair-goers enjoyed farm games, tractor pulls, a demolition derby, and many rides and carnival games. The fair MC was Dale Peters, and the fair was opened Sept. 18 with some words from Steve Peters, MP, Graham Warwick, West Elgin Mayor and Elgin County Warden, and Duncan McPhail.

Many awards were presented: Grace Campbell, President of the Elgin County Women's District presented Nancy McGregor with the Women of Excellence Fair Award. Ebba Schmid won the Grand Champion Quilt prize, and the winner of the class nine in accumulating the most points was Mavis Bedford with over 66 entries in the craft division.

September, 2009

Crinan W.I. celebrates 90 years

—Submitted

2009

On Oct. 8, 16 ladies from the Crinan W.I. travelled to the Golden Gryphon Restaurant owned by Jeff and Angie Giles, for an evening of Medieval dining to celebrate the branch's 90th anniversary.

We were greeted by our hostess Angie ("Lady of the Manor") who presented our president Nancy McGregor with a crown and robe to at as Queen for the evening. We were then escorted to the large dining areas where we were seated on wooden benches at a long wooden table with the "Queen" at the head.

The room was traditionally atmospheric of medieval times in the 1500's with the decor consisting of a coat of arms, swords, suits of armor, etc. around the room.

The "Queen" bought the court to order and an In Memoriam reading and candle lighting was performed by Norma McGill and Sharon Gilchrist. We jointly sung the Institute Ode and repeated the Mary Stewart Collect before the "Lady of the Manor" gave a brief recitation and enlightened us with some "rules" of the manor.

After grace was read by Mary Howard, our meal

began with bowls of delicious leek and potato soup, followed by large platters being passed filled with roasted potatoes, chicken, beef, carrots and green beans.

While dining, we listened to medieval music and were favoured with a song performed by two children of the manor, ages 9 and 11, (daughters of the hostess) dressed in traditional fashion of the times which was a delight for all present. The hostess also favoured us with a selection. The meal concluded with coffee and tea, cheesecake and platters of fruit.

"Queen" Nancy thanked Angie for being a gracious hostess for our dinner before Lois Carroll read a poem about W.I. composed by the late Muriel Carroll. "Queen" Nancy read a summary of special anniversaries, and accomplishments over the years from 1919, including several letters received from soldiers overseas, thanking the Crinan W.I. for items sent to them during the war.

On behalf of the W.I., Annie Isobel Tait presented Norma McGill with a gift in honour of the recent move to Caledonia Gardens in Dutton before cards were signed by everyone to be sent to past members

who were unable to join us for the evening.

Our celebrations ended with individual photos being taken in the "Queen's" chair as well as a group photo bringing a very enjoyable evening to a close.



Crinan Women's Institute
1919 - 2009

July, 2009

Dear

It is 90 years since the inception of the Crinan Women's Institute, a branch of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. How exciting it would be for the four founding members to know that through their initiative the Crinan branch is still active today.

As a celebration for this anniversary the current members have made plans for members and former members to experience "Noble Style" dining at the Golden Gryphon Hall located on Tait's Rd. Glencoe, followed by entertainment. The date of this celebration is October 8th, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.

As a former member we wish to extend an invitation to you to attend this event with us. The cost per person will be \$10.00 plus \$3.00 for the gratuity, payable to our secretary by September 17th.

We do hope you will join us as we celebrate 90 years in Women's Institute. Please R.S.V.P to Sharon Gilchrist (Secretary) at 519-768-2501 (R. R. 1, West Lorne, NoL 2Po) by September 17; and if you plan to attend remit your payment (cheques payable to Crinan Women's Institute) to Sharon. Thanks!

Yours in W.I.

Nancy McGregor
President

CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 8, 2009

1. *In Memoriam Candle Lighting - Norma McGill & Sharon Gilchrist*
2. *Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect*
3. *Grace - Mary Howard*
4. *Dinner*
5. *Muriel's Poem - Lois Carroll*
6. *Sharing of Memory's - Nancy McGregor*



TOP TO BOTTOM: Mary Fluker, Annie Isobel Tait, Norma McGill, Jackie Leitch, Lois Carroll, Sharon Gilchrist, Nancy McGregor, Grace McGartland, Pam Stewart, Rose McMurchy, Catherine Hayward, Mary Howard, Jean Jamieson, Frances McCallum, Joanne Beer, Marie Bell.

THROUGH THE YEARS - CRINAN W.I.

By Nancy McGregor

October 8, 2009

In my reviewing of the history of our institute I would like to particularly bring to your attention the accomplishment of the members throughout the years. I am using for my information source the anniversary write ups that are stored in the Tweedsmuir History books.

In the 25th anniversary summary the writer speaks of the Red Cross work that the women of the community undertook during the First World War. At the conclusion of the war they decided not to disband but to continue on as a Women's Institute branch.

In the course of the first 25 years money earned was contributed to the church for linen covers on the Communion table (the old ones been made into bandages for the war), a baptismal bowl and coal oil stove were also purchased for the church. Also, money was raised to build a fence around the Simpson's cemetery.

The 40th celebration was held on April 16, 1959 with the installation of the officers for the year. The President for that year was Mrs. D.B. McCallum. The roll call was "Sing, say, do or pay". Lorne, Harold and George Carroll sang "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" and Mrs. J. Andrews told about Indians and displayed some Indian work. Birthday cake was served for lunch with Mrs. G. Carroll and Mrs. M.B. McColl pouring tea.

In June 1965 the rural schools were closed and the elementary age children were to be bus'd to a new central school. The W.I. was feeling the need for a community centre so kept an eye on the pending auctions of the local schools. Prior to the auctions a community auction was held in McLarty's field adjoining the church. A sum of approximately \$550 was

raised in preparation for the selling of a school. In Dec. 1965 the Union #3 Aldborough and Dunwich School was purchased for \$800. The piano was also purchased. President during that time was Mrs. Jean Jamieson. The 50th anniversary was held at the Community Centre on April 19, 1969. A short program followed a pot luck supper and social evening. The birthday cake was cut by Mrs. Grace McColl the only child of the first Crinan W.I. president – Mrs. J.C. McMillan. Laura McAlpine sang 2 solos and Stewart McIntyre played some violin numbers. A skit was performed by Mrs. Douglas McMurchy and Mrs. Harold Carroll. Gifts of jewellery were presented to 2 chartered members Mrs. George Carroll and Mrs. James Andrews. About 100 were in attendance.

Noted accomplishments in this write up were the making of Cancer pads for the cancer clinic in Dutton, active Red Cross work during W.W. 11, (22 solders and 1 nurse from this area were remembered with boxes during the war years). **Mention the letters** donations to the Memorial Hospital and St. TEGH, working in the Tuck Shop at Elgin Manor and Beattie Haven. Donations to many needy causes, bus trips and so on. . Also, noted was that the Tweedsmuir book was started in 1947,

The 70th Anniversary in 1989 makes note of other activities during the '80's including the wiener roast and fireworks displays on Victoria Day, the Halloween Party held near or on the 31st of October, card parties at the Community centre, the annual summer picnic and 4H clubs for young women sponsored by the W.I., sewing classes, exhibits at the local fairs etc. etc. We also sponsor a candidate each year for the Rodney fair and should note that Nicole Jamieson was winner of the contest in 1993 and Charlene Carroll as Ambassador of the fair in 1997 who went on to win the Miss CNE title in 1998.

2003 was a big year for the Community Centre Board and the Crinan W.I. That was the year that we received a Trillium grant that enabled us to renovate the building's electrical works, kitchen renovations, bathroom installation, building ramp and other smaller repairs while maintaining the school house ambiance. And then in 2008 we were able to connect the facility to the municipal water line that has made the building that much more pleasurable to use.

The 80th and 85th Anniversary celebrations were held on April 22, 1999 and April 21, 2004. These events were both held at the Community Centre with special guests from the district, the municipality and sister branches. The members provided the guests with a lively program. Georgina Livingstone had the pleasure of cutting the cake in 1999 as she was the oldest members present (65 years) DID YOU KNOW WE HAD A CHOIR BACK THEN?

And now another 10 years have passed and we are here celebrating our 90th. What an accomplishment? We presently have 12 paid members and several adherents who are so valuable to our existence. I have only touched on a few of the highlights over the years. I feel that those ladies that took the initiative in 1919 to form a Crinan W.I. would be impressed that through the years their vision has been maintained through the commitment, enjoyment and love of Women's Institute.

IN MEMORIAM – 90th ANNIVERSARY

The first regular meeting of the Crinan Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Maggie McEachran on May 19, 1919 with 17 ladies present. Mrs. John C. McMillan was president and Mrs. Greta Carroll, secretary treasurer. These 2 ladies along with Sarah McPherson and Mary Andrews were the ones noted as the Crinan W.I. founders.

As we think back 90 years and all those members that have gone on before us, let us pause and reflect in remembrance of them.

Lighting of Candle followed by a Moment of Silence

SHE IS GONE!

**You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.**

**You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.**

**Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.**

**You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.**

**You can remember her and only that she's gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.**

**You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back
or you can do what she'd want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.**

~ Author Unknown ~

We remember.....

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MARGARET KATHLEEN
McLARTY**

BORN

in Yarmouth Township
on February 23, 1919

DIED

in St. Thomas, Ontario
on December 29, 2006

FUNERAL SERVICE

Argyle Presbyterian Church, Crinan
Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 1 pm
Rev. H. Appel officiating

INTERMENT
Gillies Cemetery

*Arrangements entrusted to
Padfield Funeral Homes*

In Loving Memory Of

Muriel (McPherson) Carroll

Beloved Wife of the Late

Harold M. Carroll

Born

Tuesday, June 28, 1921
Aldborough Township, Ontario

Died

Friday, May 30, 2008
St. Thomas, Ontario

Funeral Service

Argyle Presbyterian Church, Crinan
Tuesday, June 03, 2008
1:30 pm

Officiating

Rev. Hugh Appel

Interment

Oakland Cemetery
Van Heck Funeral Home Limited

and

Audrey Merklinger (2007)

I would take another peek at it, first thing I knew my hand would be reaching for a knife, no, got to save you; and so late into the night. Finally I placed it away down deep in my kit bag and locked it fast my housing fingers concealed the urge.

And boy is the honey over a prize, for weeks I have been yearning for something really tasty; often one has the extra piece of bread and marmalade, or perhaps save out a slice each meal for a ten o'clock snack, if there is a fine party you toast it.

Time and of oil if you wish, for if there was only a bit of jam or honey to go with this; that honey was sure one small item.

It sure was a grand parcel and I can't thank all you

A44214.

22/11/44
 Pte Campbell R.P. 15th Lond. Field. Amb.
 B. A. O.

Cremona Veterans Institute

My dear friends:

Received your parcel yesterday, intact, every thing in the same order as when you packed it, and was I proud of it? Recaptured the boyhood thrills of the Christmas tree as each content was exposed, every item something cherished, every article a real prize. It would be difficult to choose which was the greater possession, that so tempting looking I was cake nearly got me down. You see upon discovery it was on honest to goodness I was cake come on immediate resolution to save it until I was cloy. The battle it out, that cake and, periodically

folk enough for your kindness,
generosity, the purchasing, packing
and shipping, may I say in return
it is my sincere hope that you
all have the privilege to, or to
have enjoyed a real happy & was
with all the very best of everything.

If Holland is rather a pathetic,
muddled, watery place just
now. It requires no enlightenment
from me to reveal what she is
and what, the entire civilized world
I am sure is aware of that. But
perhaps not all are aware of the
true re-action of these people who
endure beyond, of ten, even of one.
Little 'Yoka' a little Dutch girl
of 14 will illustrate how other
people re-act.

Four years of occupation, four
years of suppression. of it has long

the Allies must come. And when
they come someone must be prepared
to talk to them, be able to tell them
quickly all they wish to know. So
secretly, in a quiet, little of a
secret in a book of English and Dutch
translation, in the 'keller', in the
'ether', behind the old mill, any where
and whenever she could allude the
eyes of the intruder's she studied.
One day the advancing Allies
reached her with a group of crumpled
homes, of long low ruins overgrown,
yet ever joyful faces.

Darkness fell's early and swift;
countless things to be done, which
of the but partially changed houses
were occupied, which not, where
was the nearest source of water for
the camp, for that camp; there would
be the usual few school families

hiding here and there, they must be discovered, dealt with and — comes a flurry of pattering feet, his yoka, small, neat in her sombre black dress, wooden shoes, black stockings, the sincere joy and gladness shining in her now laughing brown eyes, "Oh me one so glad of you home come, oh so glad"; she grasps first one hand then another.

"Where is that house" someone begins to shout, hide a flock of yoka is by his side "Oh yes that house it is O.K., come"; and she takes him to the door, back she covers again, up and down the line, "no need to carry water from there, here, behind is a pump, come, I will show you, that house? there are fine people who have that two rooms, but this one it is O.K.," she stops beside a

couple of officers and vainly endeavoring to get a clear picture of what an excited gestalating resident is trying to say. She hushes a moment then with a gesture quells her eavesdropper, then turns to the officer's, "he says there are two Germans hiding in his cellar, come I will point out the house to you, and thus still darkness compels her to respect the curfew little yoka disappears home, labour and evildoers searching for those she comes in contact. One morning, comes little yoka — and a basket of delicious apples, someone has washed a couple of pair of socks, hung them in the shelter of a sheet to dry, they mysteriously disappear only to reappear a few hours later neatly folded, dry, and bless my soul every hole as neatly darned.

How did I find out about her?
 I was one of the boys in that
 lay. A something of the Spirit that
 animates her little soul was portayed
 in her answer to a remark I made
 as she caught up to me on the street
 on her way to get a little milk from
 a man by form. It was about dark
 and getting much colder. I remarked
 "Guess it's going to be pretty cold
 tonight 'yaka". She answered, "It
 matters not. It will be cold or
 warm whether we will it or not,
 we must do as we can with what we
 have." Then she revealed the depth
 of all those precious wishful dreams of
 by earth, subjected, nevertheless real,
 in her following remark. "Is Canada
 really like as we think, no war,
 no banks, just always nice things,
 plenty of every thing?"

"'yaka' lost her father two years
 ago, she has a brother a captain
 in of army, another who worked
 unceasingly during the Occupation with
 the Dutch underground, three sisters
 who although do not command the
 English language are as eager to help
 in every way! The named on again,
 little 'yaka' pointing cards. "I will
 pray for all your soldiers. There are
 many, many 'little' and 'big' 'yaka's' in
 of all and, undaunted in the face of
 the greatest tragedy of this war.

"A Conrade has fallen that we
 may gain.

"Yet for these, his sacrifice
 was not in vain.

Once of our folks many many thanks
 all the best to every body,

Yours sincerely
 Gordon Campbell

17 May 64

A. J. Pte Jan McLean
S.P. Coy. R.C. Co. 40

Dear friends I received smoke
 O.K. thank you very much. am fine
 so far hope you are all the same
 I have been going to write you
 for a long time now, but things
 have been moving a little fast
 lately, am just catching up
 with my writing. I have been
 sick bad for a while, wish I was
 back there again its a long time
 ago since I saw you all so am
 hoping it wont be long now I
 hear Kenneth McLean has been
 killed he was a quiet sort of a
 chap it dont seem possible I suppose
 things are going good around
 I remember everybody will be busy
 these days I think some of the
 my love

hope in O.K. now
 has quite a population now and some
 of the boys did in the army hope the
 young chaps like the old boys
 and some of the others dont get
 this far the weather here its very
 good now after what we had in the
 winter it sure is welcome, well
 I hardly know how to thank you
 all for what you have done for
 me since I left it will soon
 be over but Ill write and thank
 you all in person please give
 my best regards and wishes to
 the folks of Brimmar for they have
 been good friends to me I suppose
 your husband is pretty busy the
 days tell him am looking for him
 I expect your little girl will be
 going to school now I wont hardly
 know any of the younger ones

around there I hear Mother the
 Mrs Williams are dead now and
 Mr & Mrs John Gilchrist have
 now, there was a lot of news
 that I had a letter from Mother
 in California I got quite a shock
 when I heard her mother passed away
 how are you & your mother and Dad, I suppose you
 get all the news of what's going
 on here, I hope the weather
 will be a long time with a
 I see my sister is still working
 for George show she has been there
 for a long time, well I love you
 all very much you all again
 never getting all the love
 God bless and love you all
 yours Sincerely

BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED
 THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT
 BY ORDINARY MAIL.



M^{rs} Douglas Irving Don
 Corinn Institute
 R.R. West Lorne
 Ont. Canada.

Army Form W 3077

Second fold here

First fold here

To open out here

Sincerely yours

Sincerely yours

I have put on my pen name
 that the contents of this letter
 refer to nothing but private
 and family affairs

To open out here