

Crinan Woman's Institute 70th Anniversary

1919 - 1989

It was during the First World War, while the women of the Crinan community were doing Red Cross work, that the Women's Institute movement was first discussed. When the wartime work ended, a group of enthusiastic ladies decided that a local Institute group should be formed.

The Crinan W.I. was organized on April 24th, 1919, at a meeting held in Argyle Presbyterian Church. As we look back over the past 70 years we feel a deep sense of pride in the accomplishments of our organization.

The first regular meeting was held on May 19, 1919, at the home of Mrs. Neil McEachren. Mrs. John C. McMillon was chosen as president, and the first secretary-treasurer was Mrs. George Carroll. Mrs. James Andrews, also acted as a secretary-treasurer shortly after Mrs. Carroll.

During the past 70 years, the Crinan W.I. has contributed greatly to church and community activities. The very first money earned was spent for linen covers for the communion table, plus the purchase of a baptismal bowl and coal-oil stove for the church. A fence was built around Simpson's cemetery, which has been repaired and repainted since its erection.

Our Institute has always been most generous in its donations to many charitable organizations. Our members have always been willing to offer their services in assisting local senior citizens' homes, the county museum, the Cancer Society and the Heart and Stoke Foundation.

During the Second World War, the W.I. was active in Red Cross work and in sending boxes to district soldiers overseas.

Through the years, the W.I. has sponsored courses in sewing, cooking, interior decorating, etc. What happy times have been shared at sewing and quilting bees! Frequently our organization has presented exhibits at local fairs.

In 1947, a Tweedsmuir Book was started to record the history of the community. In 1966 Crinan's book won a prize at the District Annual meeting. In 1974 the second edition of the History was begun. We are still awaiting an appointment to have the first volume microfilmed.

A highlight of each August was the annual Grandmother's meeting and past history was relived. However the past few years this event was not held.

Many happy social events have been enjoyed during the years. Bus trips have been sponsored on several occasions to visit many places of interest. In recent years carloads of ladies have visited places of interest in our own county. Each year the Institute plans a Halloween costume party for both young and old. Also the W.I. has held a weiner roast and fireworks on an evening near Victoria Day. Many family night gatherings have been enjoyed-also the annual summer picnic held in recent years on the grounds of our community centre. During the winter, card parties have been held. 4H groups for young women have been organized under the sponsorship of our Institute.

In December 1965, the W.I. Purchased the building of U.S.S.#3 Aldborough and Dunwich, to be used as a community centre. A sign was placed over the entrance.

At Christmas for a number of years now our members have enjoyed a pot-luck Christmas dinner early in December. At this meeting it was revealed who our secret sister has been all year as well as gifts exchanged.

Couples in our community celebrating 50th anniversaries are remembered with a gift from the W.I. We have sponsored local girls as fair queens for Rodney Fair. Two of our local boys were able to go to the Boy Scout Jamborie in Alberta when aided by our organization. In 1985 the W.I. sold many cook books for the Elgin County ploughing match. Going to meetings at our Twin Sister Institutes and entertaining them too has been a very enjoyable event.

Crinan Women's Institute has been an asset to our community for over seventy years. Let us hope that as future years roll by that our W.I. will continue to keep up its good work.

By: Minnie Livingstone

Minnie Livingstone

Daffodil Tea - Crinan Community
Centre - August 25 - 1982

7



Marion Forsythe in
Back ground



Tea pourers -
Dora McArthur - back to
camera
Clara Ashmore - facing
camera

Minnie A. Livingstone

Crinan W.I. Displays at
Wallace town Fair



1980



1986





Group Display^{co} - "Life on the Ranch"
 Rodney Fair - Sept. 14-15, 1990
 1st. prize



W.I. Display - Wallacetown Fair
 1985.



A Visit to "The Blooming Bog"
An Orchid Display
near West Lorne - 1986

Owner, - Georgina Livingstone, Anna
McCallum, Mary Belle Cook, Sarah McAlpine,
Kathleen McLarty, Mildred McCallum,
Muriel Carroll, Minnie Livingstone, Vera
Neil, Grace McPherson, Dora Fisher,
Jean McRae, Lois Carroll, Jean
Jamieson.



Crinan W.I. Display at Elgin Rally. An International Night. Topic - "Mauritius"



St. Patrick's Table Display by Crinan W.I. at Rodney Fair.