## Women of Distinction Awards

1996



Lois Carroll

- Crinan Women's Institute member
- West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary
- Cancer Society
- Church Work

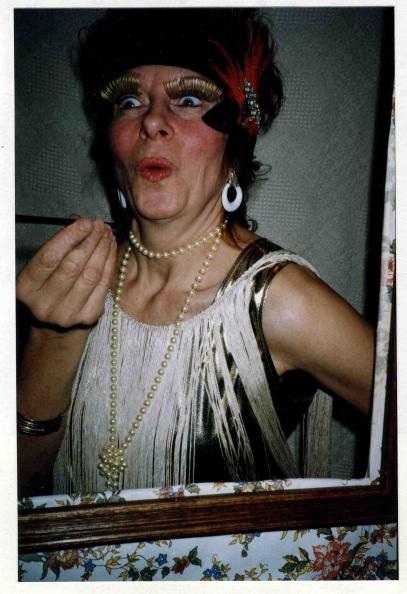
- Women's Institute Quilt Draw convener
- Canadian Cancer Society patient services chairperson
- · W.M.S.
- Dutton/Dunwich community volunteer



Norma McMillan

Winter Picnic Skit? by Crinan W.1. Feb. 20, 1996. 17
Sharon Gilchrist, Joyce Brown - actors.
Nancy Mc Gregor, Jean Jamieson - narrators.







M.A.L

## W.I. Centennial Song

words and music by Marie Harris. A.R.C.T.



## Crinan W.I. Celebrates 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute

On February 19th, 1997, about twenty-two people gathered at 12:30 p.m. to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute. At this hour, everyone enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner beginning with the W.I. grace. A beautifully decorated anniversary cake made by Lois Carroll was served at the close of the meal.

Irene Johnston welcomed everyone followed by the singing of the Ode and repeating the Mary Stewart Collect by all.

A candle was lit by Jean Jamieson in celebration of 100 years of Women's Institute and a minute's silence was observed in memory of departed members.

The W.I. Centennial Song was sung. It tells the story of the W.I. founding, past and future accomplishments.

The original minutes of the Stoney Creek meeting on Feb. 19, 1897 were read by our Branch Secretary.

Our president read the purpose of the W.I. relating that it is an educational organization with valuable assets locally, provincially, nationally and world wide. Several accomplishments and on-going activities were read by Minnie Livingstone.

The Roll Call - "Name an important historical site in Elgin County" - proved very interesting. Georgina Livingstone, a member of Crinan W.I. for 65 years was presented with a gift.

The history of Crinan W.I., organized on April 24, 1919, was related and reference to its first president, Mrs. J.C. McMillan was noted. Her granddaughters, Mary Riedl and Mabel Wistow were present. Everyone was encouraged to look at the Tweedsmuir history books.

Annie Isobel Tait commented on efforts of the Crinan W.I. during the war years. Her display contained boxes of goodies sent to the armed forces as well as pictures, quilts and knitting.

Alice Paterson. from the TryconnellHeritage society of Elgin County, told of its establishment to restore and preserve the Backus-Page house and grounds situated in the heart of the Talbot Settlement.

Our president thanked and presented her with a gift of \$15 from the Crinan W.I. for which she granted them a membership to the Tryconnell Historical Society.

The meeting closed with the singing of O Canada.

A hearty time of renewed friendships was enjoyed by all.

## History of the Crinan W.I.

as compiled by Minnie Livingstone
and read at the 75th anniversary
1919 - 1994

It is with great pleasure that I write some of the events of the history of 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 McEachren (where Lorne McLeod and family now reside) on May 19, 1919 with seventeen ladies present. Mrs. John C. McMillan was president. She was Bill McColl's grandmother. She later became the Provincial President of the Women's Institute of Ontario. Mrs. George Carroll, (Lorne and Harold's mother), was Secretary Treasurer. Mrs. Sarah (McColl) McPherson later took her place.

During the past seventy five years, the W.I. has engaged in various activities. In reviewing the minutes of the past five years, I find that meetings have had very interesting mottoes and themes, such as: "Reach Out to the Future", "If You are Dog Tired at Night You May have Growled all Day", "The Goal of a Good Woman is not to Think Alike, But to Think Together", and "Roll Calls - such Examples are (tizenship or Changes in Our Community".

We have two volumes of our Tweedsmuir History. Volume I is in the West Lorne Public Library, and is also on microfilm. Volume II is in my home. Anything of historical interest can be submitted to the curator. These volumes are very useful now to people tracing their family histories.

Programs are varied and are always interesting. Some examples include: A Display and History of Hats, by Betty Simpson of Glencoe, Paper Tole Craft Making, by Jean McRae and Joyce Brown, A Trip to the Ukraine, and Palliative Care at Four Counties General Hospital, by Nancy McGregor.

Guest speakers have included Anne Nethercott, Betty King, Darlene Chelmark (from Four Counties General Hospital), Rosalie Krebs, Peter Jocius, Eric McFadden (an O.P.P. officer), Jane McGregor (from the Women's Abuse Centre in St. Thomas), Florence McCollum (who displayed examples of her stained glass work), and Betty Johnson (who spoke on stress and the importance of exercise).

Crinan W.I. sponsors card parties, bake sales, etc.; the revenue from which has been used to make donations to the Heart and Stroke Fund, the Cancer Society, the Daffodil Society, the Elgin County Museum, the Quad County Hospital, the Clover Leaf Nursery, the St. Thomas General Hospital, and many others.

There are many events sponsored by the W.I., such as: the Annual Cancer Tea, the Fire Works, the Hollowe'en Party, the Winter Picnic, and the Birthday Party for Continuing Care Patients at St. Thomas Hospital.

Crinan W.I. has displays at Rodney and Wallacetown Fairs, as well as at the Annual Community Picnic at the Crinan Community Centre.

We also have the annual Christmas Dinner, and Secret Sister recognition and gift exchanges. We have organized car trips to the Ford Plant, Emblematic in Rodney, the Glass Factory in Wallaceburg, Moore Water Gardens, and the Kettle Creek Canvas Factory. This year we visited a mushroom farm, had dinner in Leamington where we were able to purchase spring bedding plants, visited Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary in Kingsville, Pelee Island Winery, and also participated in some bird watching and a walk through the marsh on the board walk.

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

A Visit to Brantford



in 1996.

Bell Homestead



Bedroom



Bell's Study



Living-Dining Room

Parlour

(M. A.L.)