

and around the world. During the afternoon the radio broadcast commemorating the founding of the Women's Institute at Stoney Creek was heard with Mrs. Cameron Down, then National President, as guest speaker.

On August 20, 1947, at a regular meeting, this branch was very happy to present Life Membership pins to two of our charter members, Mrs. W.H. Sutton and Mrs. E.C. Gilbert. Mrs. W. Kelly presented the pins and Mrs. R. Berdan read the address. Mrs. Sutton was the first president twenty years before, and Mrs. Gilbert was first vice-president and later became president, remaining in office for six years. These ladies have shown great ability through the years in leadership and in every phase of Institute work. They remained steadfast and loyal and contributed so willingly to the welfare of the organization and the community as well. In April, 1956, at the annual meeting in the hall, Mrs. Florence Dawdy was presented with a Life Membership certificate and pin in recognition of her long and faithful service to this branch of the Women's Institute. Mrs. G. Lyle read the address and Mrs. W. Meek made the presentation. In November, 1956, a similar honor was bestowed on Mrs. Anna Kelly with Mrs. Morley^{ADAMS} reading the address and Mrs. W. Meek making the presentation. On December 5, 1957, at the Christmas meeting another charter member was granted Life Membership - Mrs. Morley Adams was the recipient and Mrs. Anna Kelly read the Address with Mrs. G. Lyle making the presentation.

At one of the regular meetings it was decided by motion to change the regular opening to the Mary Stewart Collect, to be repeated in unison. In 1948 the membership fee was raised to 50¢ per year.

In 1952 this branch celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and a pleasant afternoon was enjoyed at the W.I. Hall. Talbotville W.I., Shedden W.I. and the Kensington Club were special guests and were welcomed by Mrs. Morley Adams, the president. During the afternoon a musical program was enjoyed. Just previous to the tea hour Mrs. Sutton, the first president, cut the three-tiered anniversary cake which centred the tea table. Mrs. Anna Kelly and Mrs. E.C. Gilbert, both past presidents, presided at the tea table and a social hour was enjoyed.

The programme committee each year tries to arrange interesting and informative meetings and almost one hundred per cent take part in the roll call. Many of the meetings are now held in the hall. As many members as possible, with delegates appointed, try to attend the District Convention in London, the District Annual Meeting, and the Winter Picnic each year. Each year the committee arranges to have the District Executive as guests at a regular meeting and one meeting is devoted to entertaining the grandmothers of the community. Of late years, when newcomers from lands across the seas are settling amongst us, this branch tries to make them very welcome at our meetings and sometimes call on them to bring news and customs of their land to us.

At the end of each school year the W.I. helps the school board and the teacher with a

community picnic especially for the school age and pre-school children. When the Public Speaking competition was started in the schools this branch recognized all for their efforts and the winner is sent forth with all good wishes to challenge contestants from other schools. Each year the Women's Institute arranges a Family Night at the hall. This includes the entire community and begins with a pot luck supper followed by a program.

We sponsor a 4H Homemaking Club twice each year for girls between the ages of 12 and 20 and they have the use of the hall for their meetings if they want it. Bus trips are much enjoyed and we have attended the Canadian National Exhibition, Royal Winter Fair, McConnel's Nursery, Pinecroft at Aylmer, McCormick's Biscuit Factory in London, the Dominion Sugar Factory as well as the Glass Works at Wallaceburg. In 1953 we went by train to Toronto to celebrate Canada Day in honor of the Triennial Coference of the A.C.W.W., in August. We had the privilege of seeing and hearing those delegates from countries around the world and seeing that great pageant "Dominion of Destiny". We have been to the Ice Capades in Detroit and the Shakespearean Festival in Stratford.

In 1959 the Hall and land were sold to the Dept. of Highways in connection with the widening and paving of #3 highway. In 1961 and 1962 a new and modern hall was built on land purchased next door from Mr. A. Williams. This new hall was opened on March 14, 1962 with Roy Jewell as chairman and Mrs. J.R. Fatcher as guest speaker. Greetings were brought by representatives of the Dominion and Provincial governments, County Council, Womenen's Institute officers from the Provincial Bd. the London Area and all local areas. This hall is used for many of the Institute meetings; Community card parties and dances; the school picnics and parties, and the Christmas concert; for the regular meetings and entertainment of the Junior Farmers and Junior Institute in the last two years; and by the 4H Homemaking Clubs if they so desire. It is available for rent to people of our own community for private parties. Our big money-making project is catering when we need a large amount of money, as we did to equip the kitchen in the new hall.

The Institute has taken many short courses through the Dept. of Agriculture on sewing, cooking, home decorating, millinery, glove and slipper making, and copper tooling. All of these are open to the ladies of the community as well as members of the W.I.

At present there are twenty-two members on the roll with Mrs. Tom Blackman as President, and Mrs. Albert Auckland the secretary-treasurer. We hope to continue to work in unison to make for a stronger and even better branch of this great world-wide organization - the A.C.W.W., of which, though small, we are a part.

TYRCONNEL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

During the second World War a Red Cross Society was organized in Tyrconnel. When peace was proclaimed the members decided to become a Women's Institute and continue community work. A number of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Wm. Cyster, and Mrs. Harvey Miller of Rodney, came to help organize the Tyrconnel Women's Institute.

On April 25th, 1947, sixteen ladies met at the home of Mrs. John S. Pearce for the annual meeting and officers elected were; - President, Mrs. Wm. Cyster, Vice-Pres. Mrs. Harold Evans; Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Florence Moore; Asst. Sec-Treas. Mrs. Tom Page; District Director, Mrs. Miller Page; Branch Directors, Mrs. Wm. Griffiths, and Mrs. Harold Hansford. The membership grew until it reached twenty-five, but more recently has been in the neighborhood of fifteen.

Many worth-while projects were carried out to serve the community and school. Some items purchased for the school were - a radio, drinking fountain, baseball and bats, and a bicycle rack; also prize money was given for public speaking held in the school.

We have sponsored several courses from the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture Home Economics Services, namely: Dressmaking, Canning Fruits & Vegetables; Tailored Slip Covers; Hats; How to Save Dollars and make Sense; Home Nursing, Artificial Respiration, and a Workshop at Iona.

Money is raised in many ways, such as catering to weddings, serving lunch at dances, and selling food on Fair Day.

The meetings are held in homes throughout the year, but we use the Wallacetown Hall for special courses and wedding dinners. For this reason we have done a great deal for the Hall. We donated \$50, gave the stage curtains, stair treads, basement curtains, and articles for the kitchen. Cash contributions have been made to the C.N.I.B.; The Community Chest; Red Cross, and Cancer Society; European Relief, Manitoba Flood Relief; War Memorial Children's Hospital; the Bobier Home; Elgin Girls' Camp, and the Child Health Association. Our Institute has participated in three radio broadcasts, a panel discussion on Education, a history of Tyrconnel, and one pupil gave his prize winning speech for an oratorical contest.

At our meetings we have special addresses on Cancer Research, Education, reforestation, plastic demonstrations and salad and cookie demonstrations.

WALLACETOWN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On July 3rd, 1912, Mrs. W. J. Hunter of the Department of Agriculture addressed a meeting of the ladies of Wallacetown and vicinity, her topic being "Ways to make a home happy or otherwise." After her address she explained the aims and objectives of the Women's Institute. Miss Minnie Gow, District Secretary, presided over this meeting which opened with the singing of The Maple Leaf.

After some discussion a motion was made and carried "to duly organize a branch of the Women's Institute in Wallacetown." Mrs. D.W. Graham was elected President, and Miss Maud M. Cameron, Secretary Treasurer. The regular meeting day was to be the first Thursday of each month.

Many projects and achievements have been accomplished through the years, and many real contributions and sacrifices have been made by the officers and members in arranging and attending meetings and in carrying out the various activities. Advantage was taken of the short courses and leadership training provided by the Department of Agriculture.

During the first and second World Wars our efforts were devoted to war and Red Cross work. Donations were sent to varied War Commissions and Committees, as were food and clothing sent to all local service boys and girls; many members knitted and sewed incessantly to fill these needs.

After the second World War a modern Community Hall was built and the Women's Institute contributed greatly to its furnishings.

Assistance has been given in organizing and conducting T.B. surveys, Cancer Clinics, Baby Clinics, Radio Broadcasts, and Public Speaking contests.

The Bobier Convalescent Home in Dutton is a recipient of cash and material gifts to assist in adding to the comfort of patients and personnel. The Elgin General Hospital was given \$500 to endow a bed in the Children's ward. This was later applied on a room dedicated by the community in memory of our beloved Dr. Glanfield.

This branch entered into the spirit of the pageant held in St. George's Park, St. Thomas, in the summer of 1952, depicting the centennial of the County of Elgin, and gave valuable support. Also for the Centennial of Wallacetown Fair in 1960, a prize winning float portraying an early Women's Institute meeting was entered.

A triple-trio, under the direction of Mrs. C.C. Small, with Mrs. E. Lamb as accompanist, and comprised of Institute members, has made valuable contributions to our musical entertainment.

Sick, shut-in's, and bereaved members are remembered throughout the year, and at Christmas time this remembrance is extended throughout the community.

This branch is entering its fifty second year and is still an interesting and active organization. Our fiftieth birthday was celebrated in a fitting manner with an "At Home" for past and present members and friends.

WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The West Lorne Women's Institute was organized January 29, 1913. The District Officers who were present for the Institution and Installation of officers included the President, Mrs. C.A. Wray, and Secretary, Mrs. Lillian McLevey, both of Rodney also Mrs. Stinson and Mrs. Eggert, branch officers of Rodney.

Sixteen West Lorne ladies formed the first group of members and they appointed as their first President, Mrs. T.W. Sims, and as the first Sec.-Treasurer, Mrs. H.C. McKillop. The membership fee was twenty-five cents.

Courses were taken on "Meat and Vegetable Cookery", Buymanship, Sewing, Nutrition, Renovation of Clothing, Rug Making, Weaving, etc.". To show that progress was being made, the members themselves put on demonstrations to which the public was invited. One demonstration during the war years was "Preparation of a Wartime Supper" and another on "Sugarless Cooking."

An important part of the early programs was well prepared papers or talks on such topics as "The Kingship of Self Control," "Gracious Living", "The Value of Work", "Canadian Poetry" etc. Special speakers were often invited to speak and some of our New Canadians were glad to speak on their appreciation of "Life in Canada".

In 1914 and the following war years, the Institute was very active in raising money to buy yarn, bolts of towelling, sheeting, flannelette, etc. They canvassed monthly from house to house. Forty-eight pairs of socks were knitted during the first month and hundreds throughout the years. Money was often raised by putting on banquets, plays, concerts, etc. By the end of 1917 \$1,128.10 had been raised. A special banquet was served for the returned men in 1910.

The next project was to help build a "Memorial Hall " as a tribute to the men and women who had served their country so nobly. By 1929 the Women's Institute had given \$3000.00 toward the Hall. The Provincial Government contributed \$2000, and so the Corner Stone was laid and the Hall was officially opened on June 3, 1930. The village council assumed the balance of indebtedness.

During the second World War the Institute stood loyally behind the Red Cross which had taken over the responsibility.

Projects of a later date have been the promotion of Public Speaking in the public schools, assisting with the Tuberculosis and Cancer clinics, Unitarian Service, and appeals for the Sick Children's Hospital, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and the United Welfare appeal. West Lorne W.I., in co-operation with other branches in the District, shares in the support of a child in Korea through the Save the Children Fund. All these require considerable money which has been raised through the efforts of the women by service projects and donations. Institute members enjoy the opportunities for service, mutual help, education, and fun which membership in such an organization can and does supply.

Our fiftieth Anniversary was celebrated January 29, 1963, and we were proud to have both our first President and first Secretary present, as well as our organist, Mrs. W.T. Merrett who has served us for fifty years continuously.

Following is a list of Life Members:

- Mrs. Malcolm McKillop
- Mrs. John A. McKillop
- Mrs. J. B. Ferguson
- Mrs. Philip Schleihauf
- Mrs. W. T. Merrett
- Mrs. Neil Nickleson
- Mrs. V. E. Lemon
- Mrs. T. F. Ripley
- Mrs. R. E. Evans
- Miss Mima Currie
- Miss Tena McKillop

Miss Tena McKillop
Tweedsmuir Historian



AT THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY - WEST LORNE W.I.

l. to r. - Mrs. Chas. Cooper, Mrs. T. F. Ripley,
Mrs. T. W. Sim, Mrs. W. T. Merrett, and Mrs.
W. Becker.