

ELGIN WEST DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ANNUAL MEETING



Elgin West W. I. Officers - (from the left) Jeannie Leitch, 2nd vice-president, Willa Johnston, secretary; Sally McIntyre, president; Eleanor McMillan, 1st vice-president; Shirley Johnston, public relations officer, and Pat Palmer, program co-ordinator.

For the first time ever, the Elgin West District Women's Institute Annual meeting was held in the evening. The turnout indicated that perhaps today's busy women find this more convenient than the former day-long format. The meeting was on Wednesday, May 17th, 1989, at Wallacetown Hall, with Cowal branch as hostess. Officers were installed as follows:

Past president, Mrs. Ivan Beecroft; president, Mrs. John McIntyre; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Bruce McMillan; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Ron Leitch; secretary, Mrs. Nelson Johnston; treasurer, Mrs. Horace Jewell; Public Relations Officer, Mrs. John Hauser; Program Co-ordinator, Mrs. Leonard Palmer; Resolutions Convener, Mrs. Dorothy Robson; Pioneer Museum delegate, Mrs. Garnett Cowell; Farm Safety delegate, Mrs. Ivan Beecroft; auditors, Mrs. Gordon Attridge and Mrs. James Lawrence; Nominating Committee, Mrs. Winfrid Liepmann, Mrs. Gordon Gow and Mrs. Ralph Auckland. Tweedsmuir Curator, Mrs. Albert Auckland.

In her address, President Sally McIntyre referred to the meeting's theme, "Women on the Move". she mentioned Elgin County's own Mrs. Fitcher, as well as, Adelaide Hoodless, as influential women of the past; Queen Elizabeth and Margaret Thatcher as women of the present, and predicted women of the future will have a significant role to play.

Betty Walther, Provincial Board Director, by flip chart and printed report, brought everyone up-to-date on happenings at the provincial level.

Valerie Clark, Rural Organization Specialist, by adding an "N" to the letters "W.I.", brought all to a "win" situation, Pat Palmer, Program Co-ordinator, and her committee, presented a humorous skit. A photo of the W.I. founder, Adelaide Hoodless, was presented to the district by Middlemarch branch, and will be displayed in the Wallacetown Hall.

The meeting adjourned in good time, showing that a successful evening annual meeting is possible.



June 7, 1989- Bertha Vickerman, on left, representing I.O.D.E. and Willa Johnson representing Women's Institute share responsibilities at the Strawberry Social held annually at the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.



June 7, 1989 - Miss Stephanie Jenkins of R.R. # 1, Belmont, is pictured receiving a \$250.00 scholarship at the Elgin County W.I. Rally from the rally president, Mrs. Frances McCallum. Miss Jenkins will enter the University of Guelph in the fall. She is the daughter of Ernest and Madeline Jenkins and attended East Elgin schools. She has also completed many 4-H clubs and is active in her church and the community.



Paynes Mills Womens Institue hall came into being in 1944 when they assumed responsibility for a one time church and later a community hall. When the Ontario Highway Department widened the road in the 1960's the Institute Hall had to destroyed and a new one was erected in 1962 (pictured above) with monies from the sale of the old hall.

With the changing of community lifestyles the responsibilities of the hall became more of a burden to the members of the Institute. The hall was sold by the W.I. in the spring of 1989. A public auction was held to dispose of the contents.



October 26, 1989 - The Paynes's Mills Women's Institute donated \$6,000.00 which was raised from the sale of the organization's former meeting hall, to the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital Foundation. Adelaide Ahara, left, and Lily Larson, President of the Payne's Mills Women's Institute, right, presented the cheque to Sharon Little, Treasurer of the Hospital Foundation.



September 7, 1989 - Mrs. Elinor McMillan is pictured signing the guest book and left to right is Mrs. Shirley Longhurst, president Kensington Club, Mrs. Norma McMillan, patient services co-ordinator, and Mrs. Sally McIntyre, president of Elgin West W.I.

Daffodil Auxiliary Annual Coffee Break - The Kensington Club hosted the Annual Tea and Coffee Break for the Daffodil Auxilliary at the Lawrence Station Hall, on September 7th, 1989.

Elgin West District Women's Institues sponsored this event. Mrs. Sally McIntyre, Mrs. Shirley Longhurst and Mrs. Olga Brown received the guests and attended the register.

Pouring tea were, Mrs. Helen Beecroft, Mrs. Lois Carroll, Mrs. Marion Forsyth, Mrs. Jean Palmer and Mrs. Helen Saunders.

Members of the district institutes assisted with the serving and convened the various Bake, Book, Craft and Miscellaneous tables.

Mrs. Norma McMillan was in charge of the draws and winners were: Mrs. Irene Sherin, Mrs. Bernice Montieth, Mrs. Clara Ahsmore, and Mrs. Dorothy Robson.



Nov. 22, 1989 - Fund Raising Event - On November 22, 1989 the Elgin West District held a noon luncheon. Various Institutes were involved in the planning. Tryconnell W.I. convened the kitchen and prepared the food for the buffet style meal.

Top Picture- Tryconnell members shown at the kitchen counter include Rosyln Page, Violet Jacques, Irene Johnston, Marion Pearce, Mary Gow, Jean Walters, Jeannie Leitch, Elizabeth Becker, Grace Ford and Annie Brown.

Bottom Picture- A corner of the dining room where Marion Pearce and Mary Gow conducted draws for the African Violets which were used as table centrepieces.



August 8, 1989 - Curators Workshop - Representaives from ElginWest Tweedsmuir history convenors attended a workshop held at Straffordville in Bayham Township hall with East Elgin W.I.s as hostess. Women's Institues Curator Convenors were present from London Area.

Mrs. Jean Ratcliffe, president of London Area Curators was convenor for the day with Mrs. Gertrude Sloan as secretary. Local respresentative Miss Catherine McDowell called all to order by blowing a coachman's horn and related to its use in pioner days. Roll call was answered by 88 people.

Speakers for the day included: Mrs. Pat Zimmer, Director of the Aylmer and District Museum; Mrs. Jean Bircham of the Elgin County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society; Mr. Kirk Barons, a East Elgin High School teacher and author of loacl history books.

Members brought a bag lunch for the noon meal. Many Tweedsmuir histories, House Logs as well as genealogical articles were on display.

1990 Twvesmuir workshop will be hosted by Middlesex East at Thorndale Community Centre on August 14th.

January 8, 1990 - View of audience at the Winter Picnic held at the Wallacetown Hall. Various W.I.s gave readings or presented skits or musical numbers. Included is a picture of one of the numbers, "Paynes Mills Porkers".



