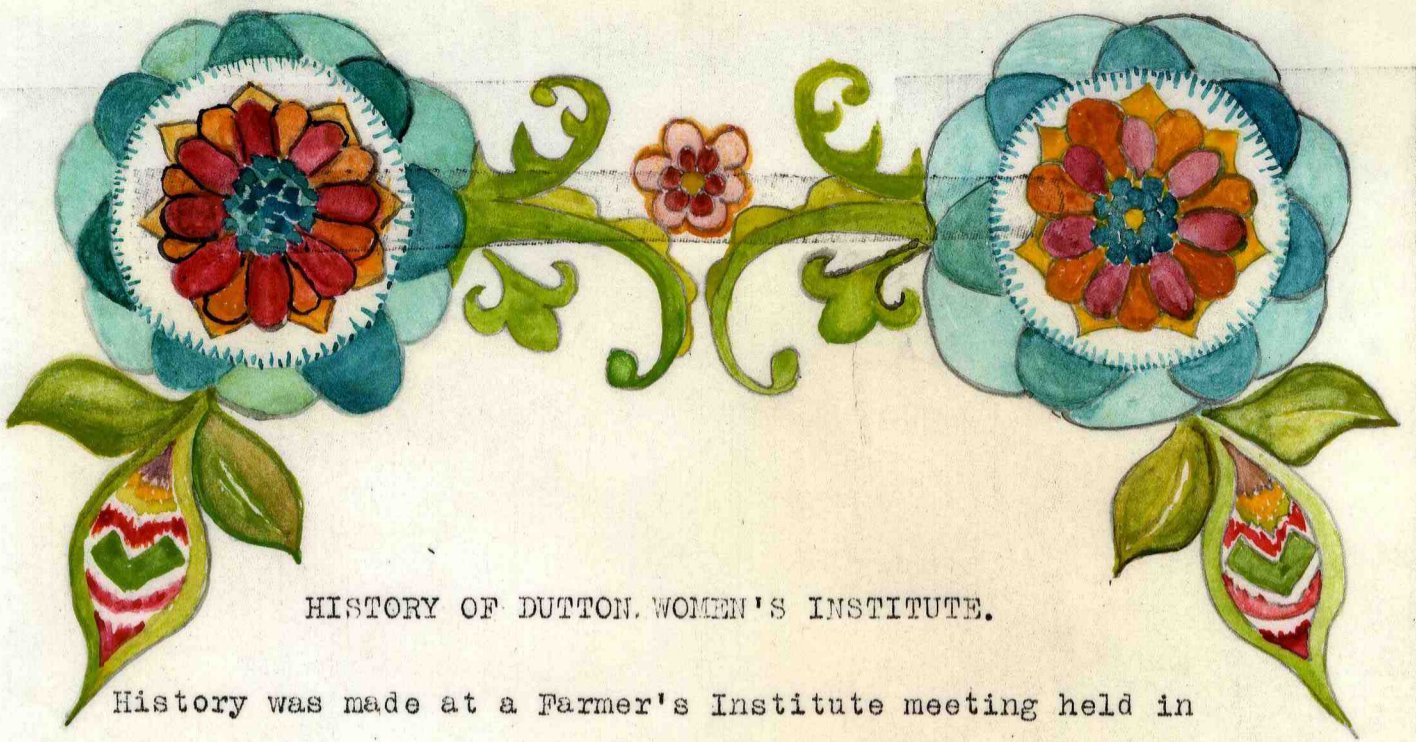




Dutton Flour Mills year - owner - Mr John Davies



HISTORY OF DUTTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

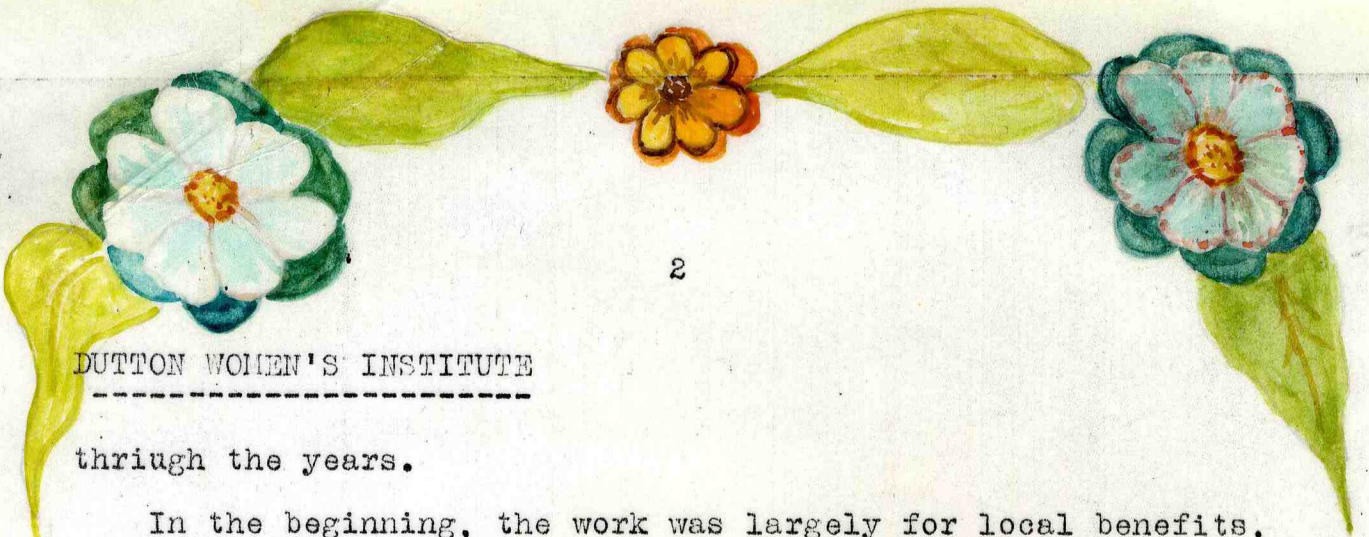
History was made at a Farmer's Institute meeting held in the little village of Stoney Creek, Ontario, February 19th 1897. Here, due to the initiative of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, the first Women's Institute in the world was organized and took as ~~their~~ ^{its} motto the now familiar maxim, "For Home and Country."

Eight years later, February 10th, 1905, through the far-sighted efforts of the late Mr. Archie McColl, then secretary of the West Elgin Farmer's Institute, the first Women's Institute in West Elgin was organized in Dutton by Miss Blanche Maddock of the Department of Agriculture. Miss Flora McLean was the first president, and Miss Effie Graham the first secretary-treasurer.

Associated with these officers at that first meeting were; Mrs. Ed. Docker, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. William Kendall, Mrs. Jas. Pool, Mrs. Lanning, Mrs. Duncan Graham, Mrs. Nancy Kerr, Mrs. Alex. McWilliam, Mrs. Dan Graham, Mrs. Archie McWilliam, Mrs. McCallum, and Mrs. Salmon.

It took courage in those days to launch a new venture, but co-operation and support was freely given by the Department, and extension services in Home Economics have been provided all





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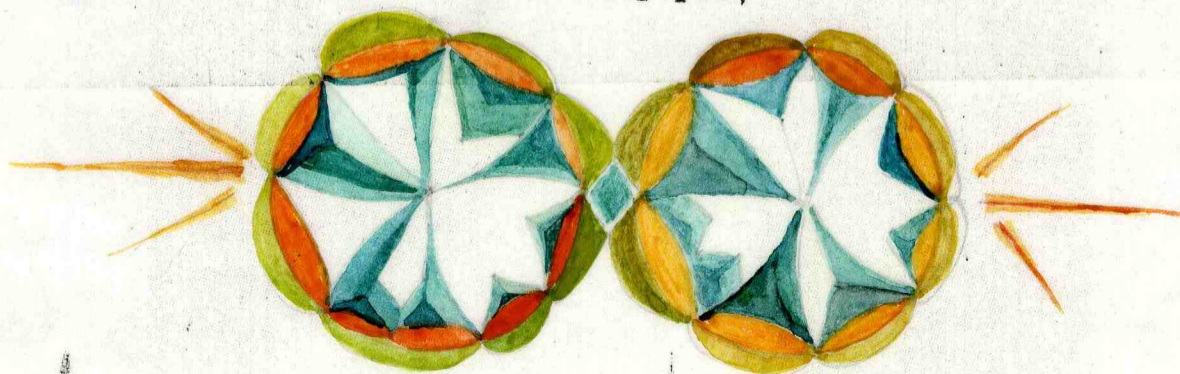
through the years.

In the beginning, the work was largely for local benefits, and citizens in need, and the members labored diligently. When War I broke out, the Institute members affiliated themselves with the Daughters Of The Empire, thus making a very strong organization which carried out war-work on a large scale.

In 1925 the Dutton Women's Institute was re-organized with Miss Minnie Gow as president and Mrs. Stuart Kirkland as secretary-treasurer.

While methods have changed, as professional training and scientific knowledge have advanced, the five major objectives of the institute have remained basically the same to this day. They are, first, to help women acquire sound and improved practices for greater home efficiency; second, to discover, stimulate, and train leadership; third, to develop a more abundant life in the community, and a deeper appreciation of things near at hand; fourth, to develop better and more useful citizens; fifth, to hold the respect of the entire community by serving faithfully and responding to every appeal for help.

Publicity is very important to an institute in making the public aware of its accomplishments and thus its value to the community. One excellent medium for this purpose has been the radio. From the studio of radio station CHLO, St. Thomas, splendid programmes have gone out produced and conducted by members of the Dutton Institute. However, our chief channel for publicity has been our own local paper, "THE DUTTON ADVANCE."





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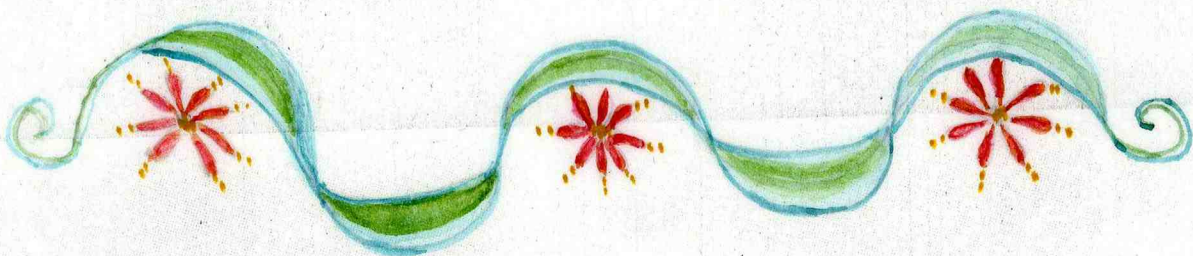
Here, through the years, have been recorded accounts of our many activities appearing under the crest of our own Women's Institute.

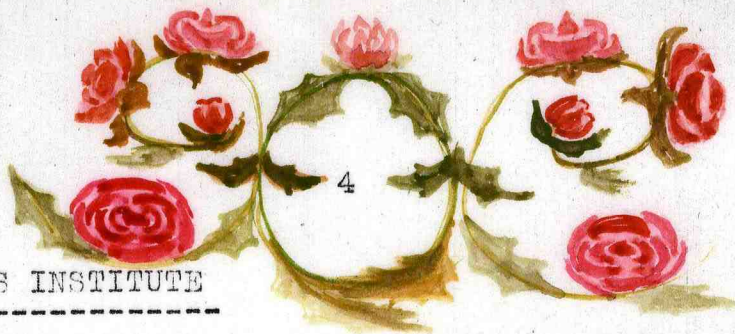
Many and varied have been the ways by which we have raised money to carry on our various activities. We have gathered newspapers, magazines and salvage, held teas, card parties, and food sales, given plays and done many other things including catering. For example, ours was one of ~~eight~~ ^{nine} institutes catering for the crowds attending the Caledonian Games when Lord and Lady Elgin were special guests.

Glowing accounts have been published of the contributions from the Dutton Institute to the "Welcome Home Fund" for our soldier boys, Central Women's Institute Fund, Children's Aid, Blood Donor Clinic, War Memorial Children's Hospital, St. Thomas Memorial Hospital, Greek Relief, Red Cross, Children's Shelter, Mobile Kitchen, Canadian Legion Cigarette Fund, Canadian Appeal For Children, Tag Day For The Blind, and the Navy League.

Contributions have also been given to local benefits such as funds for the rink, a drum for the band, a radio for the school, a wheel-chair for the Bobier home, one for a local resident, and many others. Shut-ins have been remembered and help given to the Chamber of Commerce in preparing treats for the kiddies at Christmas time.

Reports of our War II activities are outstanding. Our slogan, "One Box a Month for every Dutton Boy Overseas," re-





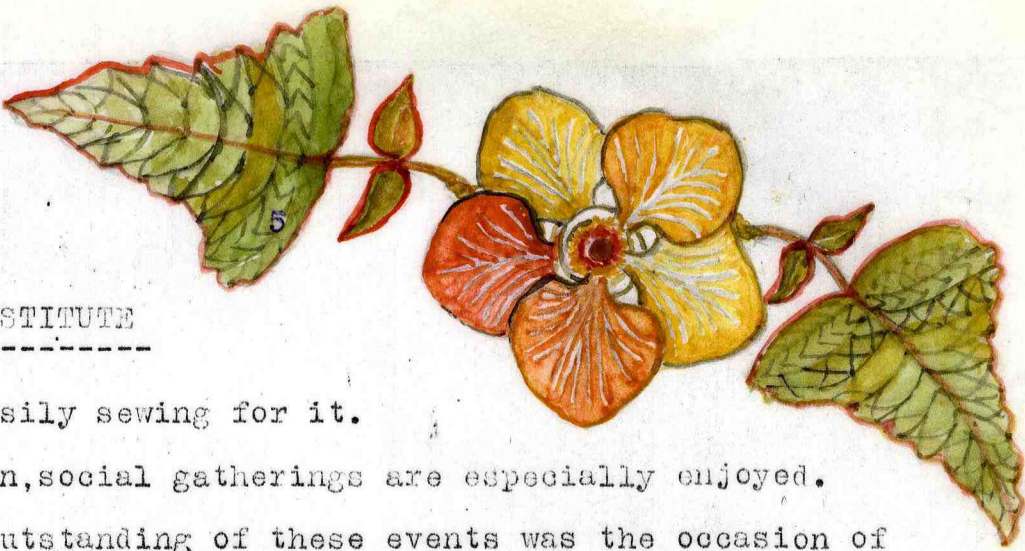
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sulted in 1322 boxes, valued at \$2,818.95 being sent during the war period. The Institute collected 147,706 pounds of salvage, or over 74 tons which realized \$789.23. When hostilities ended, fifty-three boys each received \$15.00 worth of War Saving Certificates, and in memory of those who did not return, a plaque, bearing their names, and suitably engraved, was placed in the school.

Our press reporter keeps pace with accounts of programmes arranged at the beginning of each institute year, in which each member has a part to play. Outside speakers bring added interest to our programmes. These include clergymen, doctors, lawyers, business people, Department Speakers, and others. A cup of tea and some light refreshments bring our meetings to a close.

With the ending of hostilities, our members have turned to peace-time pursuits. Post-war conditions have offered a challenge to all Canadian women and our Institute will not pass up the opportunity to serve "For Home And Country." Blue Cross Hospitalization plans were approved and a sufficient number indicated their desire to join, thus providing effective help to many in times of illness. A quilt was made, exhibited, and sold in aid of the West Elgin Centennial Fund. Public speaking contests for school-children are sponsored, and the fourth class of the Homemaking Club is in full swing. The new Elgin Hospital is much to them fore these days and the institute





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ladies are now busily sewing for it.

For recreation, social gatherings are especially enjoyed. one of the most outstanding of these events was the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Dutton Institute, which took the form of a picnic on the lawn of Mrs. J.T. Johnston. The members of Cowal, Iona, And Iona Station Institutes were invited guests.

Bus trips to points of interest have been extremely popular, most enjoyable of which was the one to the Women's Institute Jubilee in Guelph, June 18, 1947. Twenty members took advantage of this wonderful outing. Representatives journeyed to Toronto this year to attend the A.C.W.W. gathering held there in August and to which came institute members from all over the world.

The following are the names of those who have through the years served as presidents; Miss Flora McLean, Mrs. Dan Graham, Miss Minnie Gow, Mrs. K. Panter, Mrs. Alfred Cantelon, Mrs. D.J. Galbraith, Mrs. James Gahan, Mrs. H.C. Graham, Miss Jessie McColl, Mrs. Stanley Tripp, Mrs. J.D. McCallum, Mrs. Herbert Green and Mrs. Roy McNeil.

The following have acted as secretary-treasurers; Miss Effie Graham, Miss Minnie Gow, Mrs. Stewart Kirkland, Mrs. Thomas Elliot, Mrs. D. Duncanson, Mrs. James Gahan, Mrs. J.T. Johnston, Mrs. Jack McNeil, Miss Jessie McColl, Mrs. Roy McNeil and Mrs. Othetto Partridge.



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Two of our members have been District Presidents;
Miss Minnie Gow and Mrs. H.G. Graham, and Mrs. Roy McNeil
is at present first vice-president of the West Elgin District.

True, not all are capable of filling the president's chair,
but each can help in ~~their~~^{her} own small way, for, in the last ana-
lysis, the success or failure of an institute depends entirely
on the efforts of each individual member. Mistakes are bound
to be made and small discords creep into the work, but if we
keep our faces to the sun, the shadows will fall behind.

The Dutton Women's Institute is indebted to Mrs. Garfield Ross
for the research, assembling and writing of this article.



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