

SEPTEMBER 1946

22 members present.

Mrs. Meek from Pt. Stanley gave a very interesting talk on Landscaping. Floral arrangements were judged and Grace McCormick won 1st prize, Mrs. W. Ross 2nd prize, Mrs. Baker 3rd prize.

OCTOBER 1946

Mrs. L. Baker and Mrs. E. Down were appointed delegates to London Convention.

During the programme music was provided by Joyce Stafford, Marjory Peck, Ted Prevett and David Birch.

NOVEMBER 1946

Donations made to Shedden Library and Children's Hospital. Rev. Thompson, Trinity Church, St. Thomas gave an inspiring address "Make Peace so that all can live together in Peace."

DECEMBER 1946

Mrs. Lynn Stafford presided and spoke of lack of interest in School Trustees Meeting and need of a First Aid Unit - Screen, Cot etc. The executive is to meet with School trustees to discuss a First Aid Unit.

JANUARY 1947

\$1.00 was donated to District Secretary for Winter Picnic. Moved by Mrs. Down, seconded by Mrs. G. O'Hara that a Trust Account be opened to commence a fund to be used solely in connection with a Shedden Hall, to be held in Trust by the Shedden Branch of Women's Institute.

Mrs. A. McIntyre, Convenor for Historical Research was in charge of the Programme. Historical Papers were read of the Village of Shedden which were compiled for the Tweedsmuir Book.

Miss Eva Morrison - History of the Women's Institute.

Mrs. Frank Trace - Village Industries.

Mrs. C. J. Orchard - School Section # 9.

Mrs. A. McIntyre - Library.

FEBRUARY 1947

This was a Family Night held in United Church school room. A motion was made that the Secretary write a letter to Reeve of Southwold saying that the Women's Institute would like to see County Council take some action in the matter of the Aid to Hospital Fund.

Miss Morrison mentioned that the 50th Anniversary of W.I. is coming up.

APRIL 3 1947

15 members present. A special meeting to decide to give .05 cents per member to Federated Women and .02 cents per member to Country Women of the World.

A decision was made to send something to Mrs. Clarence Moore each month while she is a patient in the Sanatorium. The Remembrance Convenor will take care of this.

JUNE 1947

The Institute has again been asked by Shedden Fair Board to serve meals at Shedden Fair.

Gerald Moore sang a solo "Mother take me to the Zoo" This was enjoyed by all.

JULY 1947

A pair of blankets was sent to Mrs. Lunn at Frome. Most of her furnishings had been lost in a fire. Cost \$4.75.

AUGUST 1947

Fair Day meals cleared \$35.00

Each member is to bring something to pack in a box for overseas.

OCTOBER 1947

Roll Call: A donation to be sent overseas. Response was so great that 2 boxes were packed and sent.

NOVEMBER 1947

27 members and 26 visitors present. Kensington Club and Iona Sta. were guests.

Plans were made to make quilts to send to Britain.

A choral group was organized and had a concert and cleared \$41.00. \$5.00 was given to the church and \$36.00 was put in Community Hall Fund.

MAY 1948

A motion was passed for the Secretary to write to Minister of Highways to look into installing a caution light in village of Shedden.

On this day we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of our Institute and Paynes Mills and Talbotville members were our guests.

JUNE 1948

A letter from Dept of Highways resulted in signs being placed at either end of the village.

\$25.00 was voted to St. Thomas-Elgin Memorial Arena.

AUGUST 1948

Price of Fair Day meals raised to .70 cents.

NOVEMBER 1948

A report on a Community Hall project was given by Mrs. Stewart Brown. Mr. F.S. Thomas is to be a speaker at an open meeting in I.O.O.F. Hall on Dec. 2.

FEBRUARY 1949

Roll Call: "How to Forestall Old Age"

A child is to be adopted through Unitarian Service Committee of Canada at a cost of \$45.00.

APRIL 1949

Membership fee is .50 cents.

SEPTEMBER 1949

Institute had a draw on four articles: A tri-light lamp, radio table, electric iron, wool blanket. \$94.24 was cleared.

JANUARY 1950

Family Night. Roll Call: A quotation with the word "Home"

Musical numbers by Nora, Bob and Matthew A'Hara. Piano and violin numbers by Dorothy & Clarence Palmer. Solo by Harley Koyl and accordion solo by Pauline Silcox. Men's quartette consisting of Harley Koyle, Jeston Moore, Jim Orchard and Bob A'Hara.

FEBRUARY 1950

Motion passed that the Institute subscribe \$1,000.00 to St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital Fund, to be paid in the next 3 years.

MARCH 1950

Mrs. Ed Down and Mrs. L. Atkinson is the committee to canvas the village of Shedden for the Hospital Fund.

New slate of Officers: Pres. Mrs. E.S. Down: 1st Vice Pres. Mrs. Ernie McCall: 2nd Vice Pres. Mrs. Herb Parks: Sec. Treas. Grace McCormick.

Years 1951 - 1954 Reviewed by Dora McArthur

APRIL 25, 1951

A trip through Kellogg's plant in London. Lunch and meeting at Hook's Restaurant. End of year balance \$45.86.

Short course taken "Your food and your figure".

MAY 23, 1951

38 members & 7 visitors.

4 Life Memberships presented: Mrs. A.E. Orchard, Mrs. Frank Trace, Miss Eva Morrison, Mrs. Lloyd Atkinson.

SEPT. 26, 1951

Meeting at the School. Subject "Hobbies"

Gladys Johnson gave an interesting talk on oil painting and displayed several of her paintings.

OCT. 15, 1951

A committee was named to make arrangements to rent the Oddfellow's Hall for their meetings.

JAN. 23, 1952

Meeting at United Church. A fund raising project- W.I. divided into 2 groups- East & West of Union Road.

FEB. 26, 1952

Family night at the church - 29 members & 70 guests present.

MARCH 26, 1952

First meeting in I.O.O.F. Hall. Rent- \$7.50 for 6 months.

MAY 28, 1952

Motion made to serve 1 thing only with Tea @ meetings.

Shedden W.I. and Paynes Mills W.I. are to be in the Institute Booth at Athletic Park, St. Thomas 5 P.M. - 1 A.M. on Aug 8, 1952 and on Thursday Aug 5 2.30 - 5.30- for Institute Tea at Anderson's Ltd. Funds for W.I. Centennial Scholarship Fund. (Elgin County Centennial)

SEPT 2, 1952

Special meeting to discuss Fair Board proposition. Fair Board offered to erect a building adjoining the present drill shed. If the W.I. would pay for the material used they would also put down a cement floor. App. Cost \$400.00 - \$500.00.

SEPT. 23, 1952

Bus trip to Heinz Canning Factory, Leamington. Dinner was at Blue Bell Restaurant where Mrs. Strange (the former Millie Clements) greeted and welcomed each person as they entered.

OCT. 22, 1952

Toured the Agricultural Experimental Farm at Ridgetown.

FEB. 25, 1953

From the Girl's project "Sleeping Garments", Pyjamas & Coolie Coats were modelled by Mary Orchard, Carolyn Brown and Isobel Campbell.

Donald Small the Nuffield's Scholarship winner spoke on his visit to the British Isles.

APRIL 28, 1953

It was decided to hold 12 meeting during the year.

MAY 21, 1953

Plans were made to present Life Membership Certificates and Pins to Mrs. Arthur McIntyre, Mrs. Leonard Moore, Miss Elsie Hamilton. They joined W.I. during the first year 1913.

At this meeting it was decided to meet with United Church W.A. with regards to jointly serving meals at Shedden Fair. It was suggested that the judges go to Mrs. Milan Atkinson's and Mrs. Jack Schram's for dinner and all others patronize a booth on the Fair Grounds.

JUNE 24, 1953

The Life Memberships were presented and Nancy Carr sang 2 solos.

JULY 24, 1953

\$500.00 was to be given to the Fair Board for the new building to be paid within 3 years.

SEPT. 28, 1953

Bus trip to Wallaceburg Glass Factory. Meeting was held in the lounge of the Wallaceburg Hotel & Dinner was in the Hotel Dining Room.

At the end of the tour each lady was presented with a booklet on glass making & 2 glasses.

NOV. 25, 1953

A letter was received from Mrs. Betty Hartley, Public Health Nurse regarding the establishment of a Well-Baby Clinic or Child Health Conference in Southwold Twp. This clinic, if established would be held once a month and need the support of the W.I.

The members are sewing baby garments for the hospital.

Dec. 30, 1953

Mrs. A. McIntyre moved that we sponsor a Well Baby Clinic and that Mrs. E. Down and Mrs. E. Baker be a committee to look after it. Carried.

Mrs. J. R. Fatcher, Past Pres. of F.W.I.O. gave a wonderful address on Resolutions. A resolution is a resolve to improve a bad situation. Always keep trying." Never underestimate the power of a woman, especially a W.I. member.

Some suggestions for resolution was the Roll Call.

1. Every woman out to vote - a project for the W.I. to carry out.
2. Shorts banned on the streets for girls and women age 14 & up.
3. Bus service for the Village of Shedden.
4. A stop light at the 4 corners of the Village.
5. Parking problem - Cars parked too close to the 4 corners obstruct vision.

#s 1, 2, & 4 were later passed by the members. In # 2 the age was raised to 15.

JAN. 27, 1954

The W.I. contribution of \$1,000.00 to St. Thomas Elgin Gen. Hospital entitled this organization to a plaque on one of the doors. It will read "Shedden Women's Institute".

The Tweedsmuir History is to be entered in a contest at the District Annual.

The Blue Cross Hospitalization plan for groups is being discontinued and each member will be billed every 3 months and pay directly to the Blue Cross.

Mrs. E.S. Down moved that the Well Baby Clinic be held the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2-4 P.M. starting Tuesday April 20, 1954. APRIL 21, 1954

First Well Baby Clinic held in the United Church, Tuesday April 21, 1954 from 2 - 5 P.M.

25 mothers and 37 children visited the clinic. Each child was registered, weighed and examined by Dr. C. Hoffman. 6 nurses were in attendance.

The years 1954 - 1970 were reviewed by Jean Palmer

RESOLUTIONS - MAY 26, 1954

It was moved that we withdraw our resolution banning shorts in public places

JUNE, 1954

Donation to Public School: \$5.00 for prizes, Freshie & Ice cream for last day of school.

INTERESTING TIDBITS 1954

Good will Committee sent a letter to W.I. recommending:

1. Families reside in village or community 5 years before presentation of a farewell gift.
2. Farewell parties be discontinued- a letter & gift to be presented by Committee.
3. Parties for newly married couples of village & community at which gifts are presented.

Letter received stating Home Making Clubs have been renamed 4-H Clubs.

Letter received regarding a radio evaluation survey.

JANUARY, 1956

All encouraged to try to get new members and make meetings more interesting and educational.

FEBRUARY, 1956

Encourage students to write an essay on Prevention of Blindness. Prizes \$3, 2, 1.00.

SEPTEMBER, 1956

The caretaker at the Museum in St. Thomas is to receive \$1,000.00

per year.

AUGUST, 1957

Dinners at Shedden Fair are to be \$1.25. Menu is to be ham, scalloped potatoes, cabbage salad, sliced tomatoes, celery, carrot sticks, pie and Ice-Cream.

FEBRUARY, 1958

Members were asked to be considering a resolution to be sent to the Bell Telephone and Hydro to have workers stop mutilating the trees.

APRIL, 1958

A Quilt Block Book made by Shedden W.I. They received 1st prize for the district and London Area. Red Circle Cleaners of London donated plastic garment bags to cover the pages of the Quilt Book. NOTE: In 1993 this book is still in the St. Thomas Museum. The plastic was removed as it is not advisable to cover the pages.

JUNE, 1958

Teachers and pupils of S.S. # 9 and # 10 were guests to hear a speaker about the Post Office.

APRIL, 1960

It was moved that a closed box be passed at each meeting for a free will offering - the contents of which are to be used for flowers for:

1. A paid up member who is definitely very ill either in Hospital or at home from an ailment other than a cold or epidemic.
2. A Golden Wedding Anniversary - Anyone in the Community.

OCTOBER, 1961

\$15.00 donated to Home & School Club for picnic.

OTHER DONATIONS

1. \$5.00 for Girl's Club Work - June 23, 1954
2. \$15.00 for a T.V. at Elgin Manor - June 23, 1954.
3. Elgin County started a Museum Fund 1954. Shedden canvassed & raised \$89.75.
4. Wool carpet rags sent to Museum to be made into floor covering - Sept, 1955.
5. St. Thomas Memorial Hosp. had a Samaritan Cupboard. Clothing, Jams & Jelly donated.
6. Provided program & lunch for White Cane Club in St. Thomas. Begun in Nov. 1956 and continued for several years.
7. \$50.00 to Shedden Fair Board to remodel the Booth - Nov. 1967.
8. \$25.00 to Dr. Snell Nursing School - Oct. 1958.
9. Donated a plant when Post Office opened. - April, 1959.
10. Collected for Red Feather Campaign (Later United Way) \$36.00
11. Fair Board is building shelves in Fair Booth for Choc. bars, pies etc. W.I. & UCW paying half the cost of lumber and Fair Board paying other half. Assistance was given in a cement floor and for walls of the Booth. - Aug, 1960.
12. Applied for a Foster Child through Foster Parent Plan - Cost \$60.00. Adoptee Lee Fung-lan from Hong Kong. - October, 1961.
13. Donated wrapped gifts for Phsyiatric Hosp. at Christmas.
14. Planted flowers to beautify the Library.
15. Continued to support the Museum - a barn was moved from McKay farm @ Paynes Mills. Total Cost \$3500.00.

APRIL, 1966

Donated Freshie and paid for invitations to be sent out by the School for the School Centennial.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1967

For Institute day at EXPO 67 Tickets from London to Montreal with reclining seats return for full day \$18.80.

During 1967 - Centennial Year, a Province was studied each month.

The years 1971 - 1986 were reviewed by Dora McArthur.
The Barn at the Museum was built in 1971.

JUNE 1971

13 new signs have been erected throughout St. Thomas with directions to the Museum.

MARCH, 1972

A play giving information on the work of Municipal Officials was presented with:

Marion Orchard representing A.A. Silcox, Notary Public since 1945.

Marion McIntyre representing her husband, Southwold Twp. Reeve Laurence McIntyre.

Wm. Blewett representing himself the Clerk Treasurer of Southwold Township.

APRIL, 1972

21 4H girls from Shedden & Lawrence Sta., put on an amusing skit "What Milk did for Miranda"

JUNE, 1972

Mrs. M. McArthur, Mrs. C. Silcox and Mrs. A. Turner taped an original commercial for radio sponsored by "Silcox Spanish Onions"

Program was History of McCormick's Biscuit Factory founded in London in 1958. McCormick's Biscuits and cookies were served for lunch.

FOR 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHEDDEN W.I. Area Institutes were guests.

Mrs. G. Ayling had a memorial service for 12 members.

JULY, 1973

Life Membership and Badge was presented to Madeline Parks by Margaret Turner.

SEPTEMBER, 1974

Well Baby clinic closed because OHIP taking charge of immuniation.

MARCH, 1975

Well Baby Clinic Re-opened by Dr. Mary Webster.

NOVEMBER, 1975

The Oddfellows and Rebekahs are sponsoring a Senior Citizen's project and have obtained a grant of \$9,000.00. President: Frank Martin, Sec. Mrs. Arthur Carder, Treas. Charles Jackson.

1976-1977 there are 24 members with average attendance 17.3.

Mrs. Clayton Silcox was presented with a Life Membership and badge by her family, Christmas 1976.

SEPTEMBER 1977

84 people helped in the Shedden Fair Booth during the 3 days of Shedden Fair.

APRIL 1978

A \$3.00 contribution will be asked for from all W.I. Groups as usual, but dispensed with volunteer help at the Baby Clinic. A tea tray will be prepared and left for the Clinic Staff.

"INDEPENDENCE & PLENTY" - A History of Fingal, Shedden and surrounding area written by Alison Vicary & Michael Clark sponsored by Shedden W.I. was published in 1979.

MARCH 28, 1984

Shedden W.I. met with Southwold Township Council to petition for better Library Accommodation.

NOTE: April 16, 1984 new premises were opened.

APRIL 1, 1985

A Committee from Shedden presented a brief to Southwold Township Council looking into the possibility of a Medical Building in Shedden.

NOTE: New "Dr. D. A. Monteith Medical Centre" officially opened December 20, 1986. - W.I. & U.C.W. catered lunch in the firehall.

APRIL 24, 1985

A Neighborhood Watch Committee has been formed.

77

A Welcoming Committee has been formed by Shedden W.I.
Note: Both Committees were implemented in 1985, 1986
In 1985 work was begun on preserving the "Janet" columns.
Secretary Barbara Botden reviewed the books presently being used to record the Minutes and beginning at September 23, 1987 the following highlights are recorded.

President Pat Palmer, Secretary, Connie Silcox.

We provided 2 volunteers (Mrs. Carol Gordon, & Mrs. Cheryl Garvin) to help with Mall Display at Elgin Mall, St. Thomas to mark 30th Anniversary of Museum - Nov 6, 1987, 7 - 10 P.M.

Another successful Shedden Fair Booth reported - \$698.94 profit. More pies needed next year.

4H Club Leader Cheryl Garvin sponsored. "Ontario Fruits and Vegetables" is the Topic.

Speaker: Mrs. Pam Wise, just returned from 1 year in Bangladesh (poorest Country in the World).

Start discussing role of W.I. in Olympic Torch Relay through Shedden December 29, 1987.

OCTOBER 28, 1987

Some members attended County Caravan Tour in Elgin East. Sunday Oct. 18, 1987.

Report on London Area Convention, to be a 2 day event for 1988.

Beth Vicary & Kay Chamberlain played piano duet "Donkey Serenade"

Guest Speaker - Margie Carroll - Gr. 4 Southwold Lynhurst teach who spoke on Agricultural Education in the classroom.

NOVEMBER 25, 1987

90th Anniversary of Ontario W.I. in Stoney Creek - Program was a play with Barbara Frum played by Beth Vicary & Adelaide Hoodless played by Brenda Silcox; musical repertoire of the 40's and 50's; a look into the W.I. future in a skit - complete with guest registry.

DECEMBER 15, 1987

Vote to Continue to sponsor Save the Children in Haiti;

Various Christmas skits, poems, carols by members,

Wood Carving display by Jack Boughner

FEBRUARY 24, 1988

Family night (43 in attendance). Skit by members titled "Shedden Olympics". Talk by Steve Garvin who participated in Olympic Run and talk by Fish Family of Lawrence Station "Old Barn Crafts".

FWIO theme 1988 "Waste Management".

\$25.00 donation towards playground equipment at Southwold School.

MARCH 23, 1988

Announce that Shedden W.I. to do skit on "Waste Management" at area Convention Oct., 13 & 14, 1988 in St. Thomas. Skit entitled "The Von Trash Family".

Year's summary for 1987-88 indicates 28 members, 9 of whom are Life Members.

W.I. served at 2 Birthday celebrations for members. - 75th for Madeline Parks and 90th for Vera Ballam

1988 - 1989

President - Brenda Silcox- Sec: Connie Silcox.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1988

Shedden W.I. celebrates 75th Anniversary with lunch at Talbot Trail Tearoom and tour of Elgin Military Museum and Mary Rose Sanderson's Studio.

Anniversary Cake cut by Mrs. Ina Ross (1930), Mrs. Maxine Silcox (1935) and Mrs. Madeline Parks (1936) our 3 oldest life members.

Members are working on their Geneological records and House Logs.

To raise money for the museum, members of the Museum are starting to run Bingos at the Bingo Halls.

FEBRUARY 1989

Members did walking tour of Ford Talbotville to see making of Crown Victoria or Grand Marquis from start to finish.

MARCH 1989

Of 95 charter members of Elgin Manor Auxiliary, only 6 are still active - 3 from Shedden W.I.: Vera Ballam, Margaret Turner & Madeline Parks.

A Court Whist Party was held at Pat Palmer's home. \$84.00 was donated to Museum.

1989-1990

President - Brenda Silcox, Sec. Connie Silcox. 32 members (9 Life Members).

An institute from Yorkshire England will be touring the area in June 1990, 33 ladies coming. Jean Palmer and Pat Palmer are hostesses to 3 ladies.

JUNE 28, 1989

Tour of Casco Inc. London (Corn Wet-Miller) 25 members and husbands attended.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1989

Tour of Glass Menagerie in Shedden Plaza.

Another successful Shedden Fair Food Booth. Profit \$771.33.

NOVEMBER 22, 1989

Tour of Cargill Grains in Talbotville.

DECEMBER 20, 1989

We honoured Margaret Turner our 18th Life Member for her achievements and contributions throughout the years. President 1970 - 1972, 1978 - 1981.

Certificate of Merit to Jean Palmer for her contribution to W.I. at all levels.

FEBRUARY 28, 1990

Family Night - 60 in attendance. Murray & Currie Silcox spoke on their experience in Jamaica.

4H Newsletter indicates that 4H is 75 years old & still going strong.

MARCH 28, 1990

Vol I of Tweedsmuir History has been copied and placed in Shedden Library. Vol II should be copied and placed there by May 1, 1990.

MAY 16, 1990

Shedden W.I. hosted District Annual in the evening. 19 Shedden members present.

1990 - 1991

President - Cheryl Garvin; Sec. Connie Silcox.

JUNE 1, 1990

Official opening of St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital's new wing.

JULY 10, 1990

200 copies of the "Janet" Columns were assembled in the School Room of Bethany United Church. Mrs. Mary Jane (Arthur) McIntyre was a W.I. member from its first year of organization. For 40 years she contributed a weekly column to the St. Thomas Times Journal Saturday Edition. 100 of these columns were chosen and along with the 1st and last columns were published in a book by Shedden W.I. to be sold at \$15.00 per copy. Mrs. McIntyre was the first Tweedsmuir Curator for Shedden W.I.

SEPT. 26, 1990

Nutrition tour of Palmers Red & White Store.

Announcement that OMAF is phasing out its publications of Home & Country as of Mar. 31, 1992. Questionnaire circulated to decide direction of W.I. at this point.

\$100.00 donated to Southwold Tornado Relief Fund. Tornado occurred August 28, 1990.

Butler Project of Animal Prints has go ahead to go to print.

OCTOBER 24, 1990

Preparations for FWIO Centennial in 1997 well underway. Moved \$10.00 donation to help with Centennial Plate Competition Committee. Logo for event already underway also.

As of Jan. 1, 1991 4H entry age lowered to 10 years. New leaders requested to help with the anticipated influx of new members.
DECEMBER 1990,

Second 4H to start in Shedden to handle load of 10 year olds. Leaders - Pat Palmer (W.I. member) and Karen Lynch.

MARCH 27, 1991

A new Doctor sets up practice with Dr. Monteith at the D.A. Monteith Medical Centre. Dr. Connie Robinson.

Decision to present County Council with 36 W.I. mugs to replace styrofoam cups - proposal from Elgin West and Elgin East. - funded by Farm Safety.

A new handbook is being printed.

30 members through the year - 9 of them are life members.

Average attendance 20 members.

1991-1992

President Cheryl Garvin. Secretary - Barbara Bodden.

FWIO Theme for 91-92 "Trees" - Find a spot, plant a tree.

MAY 22, 1991

Constable Art Maninger reviewed Tornado awareness on how they come to be and what to do if these 210 mile per hour winds touch down.

Members still have the previous summers' tornado in their minds.

OCTOBER 23, 1991

Pat Palmer and Brenda Silcox selected to attend "Baking Bread Workshop" & then come back to branch and teach members.

Speaker was member Beth Vicary explaining her job with Ontario Dairy Herd Improvement Corp. as our local milk tester.

Members decided upon who should have new designation of Honorary Life Member which was available Jan. 1, 1991. We now have 3 Honorary Life Members:

Effie Silcox, Helen Hepburn, Vera Ballam and 5 Life members, total 28 members.

Members overwhelmingly voted in favor of starting the meetings at 7.30 P.M. instead of 8.00 P.M. beginning Jan 1992.

JANUARY 22, 1992

Old and stately trees to be cut down in village - members concerned - ended in tree being planted at fair grounds in special ceremony Sat. Oct. 10, 1992 at 10.00 A.M. (our Canada 125 WI project.

Maxine Silcox attended finals of Quilt Judging Competition in Toronto, formerly Canada Packers Competition, and although she did not win the one prize available, members were proud of her efforts.

1992 - 1993

President - Lois Oldham, Secretary - Barbara Bodden.

FWIO Theme for the year "I'm Proud to be a Canadian".

APRIL 22, 1992

Beth Vicary presented 25 year life membership.

June 24, 1992

Our meeting to celebrate Canada's 125th Birthday, we learned about avenues to Canadian Citizenship and sang songs of past eras by Canadian composers. Kay Chamberlain at the piano, Jean Palmer directing.

1993

Start fundraising for Guelph office fund as OMAF is withdrawing funding & FWIO must fund own office - our kick-off to Loonie fund was a Pot Luck supper with Touch & Take Table.

2 skits prepared for Rosy Rhubarb Days fundraiser on Sat. Feb. 20, 1993 - the days are June 11 - 13. "The Rosy Rhubarb Pig" and "Burglar Bold"

92-93 average attendance 16 members per meeting. Passing of one

honorary life member Helen Hepburn.
1993-1994

President Lois Oldham, Secretary Barbara Botden.

MAY 26 1993

Shedden W.I. celebrated 80th Anniversary with a dinner meeting at The Old School House Restaurant where the very first meeting took place. A review of the Institute's activities over the 80 years provided the programme. This review is contained in these 13 pages to be filed in the Tweedsmuir History .

TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY
SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 1994

ONTARIO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MINUTE BOOK

Name of Branch..... *Shedden*

Date of Organization..... *May 31 A: 1913*

THE Women's Institutes of Ontario are under the direction of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Toronto. Communications should be addressed to The Superintendent of Women's Institutes, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

Minutes of Monthly, Executive and Directors' Meetings.

Shedden May 31st.

A meeting of the ladies of Shedden and vicinity was held in the school house on the afternoon of May 31st. at three o'clock.

Mrs. Wray District Pres. presided.

The meeting opened by singing "The Maple Leaf" after which Dr. Annie Bachus Ayler gave an address on "The Benefits of The Institute."

The organization of the Shedden Branch of West Elgin Women's Institute followed with the following as officers

Pres. Mrs. Gresh.

Vice Pres. Mrs. J. A. Orchard

Sec. Treas. Mrs. St. Trace

Auditors Mrs. B. Fussell, Mrs. White

Directors - Mrs. Chas. Pettit, Mrs. Sam Hamil.
and Miss Mackenzie.

Moved and sec. that the meetings be held on Fourth Wed. of each month at 3 P. M. She Miss Hughes Toronto then gave a short address on Inst. work and more especially on the demonstration courses.

The meeting then closed by singing of the "Gothic Anthem" after which Miss Mackenzie served refreshments and all enjoyed a most pleasant and profitable afternoon.

Shedden June 26/13

The regular monthly meeting of the Shedden Branch of West Elgin's Women's Institute was held in the school house on the afternoon of June 21st with the Pres. in the chair.

The meeting opened by singing "O. Canada" after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and adopted.

Moved and sec. that Mrs. J. W. Brown be elected as Press correspondent.

Moved and sec. that Mrs. A. Richard be elected as Musical Director.

Moved and sec. that Mrs. White and Mrs. S. Russell be Auditors.

Moved and sec. that Mrs. Mary McArthur and Mrs. W. Horton be a committee to wait on the Village Council to arrange for the cutting of grass and weeds along the streets.

A paper was then given by Mrs. Guest on "How to get rid of the house-fly, mosquitoes, moths etc."

Mrs. Mackenzie then gave an address on the "Ideal Country School." Both addresses being

much enjoyed by all being very instructive.

The question ^{love} was then passed and a number of queries which were answered by the Pres.

The meeting was closed by singing the "National Anthem". Two new members having been added to the roll.

E. A. Guest Pres.

W.I. SURVEY

GENERAL INFORMATION FROM EACH BRANCH:

Branch Contact Person:

Name *Mrs Barbara Bolden*
Address *R.R. # 3, Sheddsville, Ont*
Postal Code *N0L 2E0*
Telephone No. *(519) 764-2829*

When was your branch established? *May 31 - 1913* How do you know this year is accurate? *from our minute book*

Where does your branch hold its meetings? What time of the day? *Beekun United Church & in members homes 7:30 p.m. - 4th Wednesday of each month*

no
Do you have a WI hall in your community? Do you own or lease it?

How long have you owned it? Do have any early photographs of the interior or exterior (please describe them)?

How many members do you currently have in each of these age groups:

30s and under *6*

40-49 *1*

50-59 *1*

60-69 *5*

70-79 *5*

80 and over *9*

I. BRANCH RECORDS

Minute Books

Do you have a collection of these for your branch? For what years? Be specific. *yes*

*Missing 1926-1928
1934-1942*

1913-1993

Do they go back to the founding of your branch? *yes* If so, could you send a photocopy of the minutes of the first meeting and of the inception?

Where are these books located? Who has possession of them?

Name: *Township of Southwell Hall*

Address: *Fingert, Ont.*

Postal Code: *N0L*

Telephone No: *769-2010*

What condition are they in? Very frail (falling to bits) _____

Fragile ☒ _____

Good Condition _____

Could the researcher have a look at them? *- yes*

Could she borrow them? *yes*

Could portions of them be photocopied by the branch to be donated for research purposes? If so, please select portions which represent various periods and mail the photocopies to Linda Ambrose.

Choose a few pages from each of the founding years, the depression, the World Wars, the 1950s, or some other time which was especially important in your branch's history.

PLEASE MARK EVERYTHING CLEARLY WITH DATE AND BRANCH NAME. This is very important!!

II. BRANCH MEMBERS TO INTERVIEW

I want to contact as many women as possible, of a variety of different ages and experiences in the Women's Institute. I want to talk to members who have been active at the branch level, even if they have never served at other levels such as district, area or provincial committees. I need your help to find out who is willing to talk with the researcher.

Who are the oldest surviving members of your branch? Are they willing and able to be interviewed? Which other members would also be willing to answer questions in an interview with the researcher? Please make a list below and on the back of this page.

Name: *Mrs. Madeline Parks.*

Address: *Shedden. Ont*

Postal Code *NOL 2E0*

Telephone No: *(519) 764-2463*

(attach a list if you need more space)

Joined 1936

Mrs. Ina Ross

Shedden. Ont

NOL 2E0

(519) 764-2525

Joined about 1926

Dora M. Arthur

Tweedsmuir Court

R.R. #1,

Southwold. Ont

NOL 2G0

(519) 764-2583

Joined 1976

HERE ARE SOME OF THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS THE RESEARCHER MIGHT WANT TO ASK YOUR MEMBERS IN AN INTERVIEW:

Do you recall your WI activities during either of the World Wars or the Depression?

What did your branch do during the 1950s? Did your WI celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth in any special way?

Did your branch take on any special projects for the Canadian centennial in 1967? - *centennial*

Lawson Parks
Branch

What kinds of activities do you recall that your branch did in the 1970s, 80s, 90s.

Are you planning any special local events to celebrate the 1997 centennial of the WI movement?

How has your branch raised money over the years?

Rummage Sales

Brick & Shedden Fair

IF YOUR MEMBERS WOULD PREFER TO WRITE OUT THEIR RECOLLECTIONS INSTEAD OF BEING INTERVIEWED, THAT WOULD BE FINE TOO! WE WOULD CHEERFULLY ACCEPT ANYTHING YOU SEND IN. SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE IDEAS ON QUESTIONS YOU COULD ANSWER.

PERHAPS SOME OF THE YOUNGER MEMBERS WOULD LIKE TO INTERVIEW THEIR MOTHERS, GRANDMAS, AUNTS, NEIGHBOURS, ETC. AND SEND IN THEIR FINDINGS.

WE ARE MOST INTERESTED IN HEARING STORIES FROM BRANCH MEMBERS. DO NOT HESITATE TO BE PART OF THIS BECAUSE YOU THINK YOUR EXPERIENCE WAS "TOO ORDINARY". IT'S THE ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE YOU THAT WE WANT TO HEAR FROM.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE QUESTIONS YOU COULD ANSWER IN WRITING AND SEND IN TO US:

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER DOING THIS AS A GROUP ACTIVITY AT ONE OF YOUR MEETINGS. PERHAPS IT COULD BE LIKE AN EXTENDED ROLL CALL EXERCISE. EVERYBODY COULD WRITE DOWN THEIR STORIES AND SEND THEM IN AS A GROUP.

Your Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone No:

Which age group do you belong to?

under 30 ___ 30-39 ___ 40-49 ___ 50-59 ___ 60-69 ___ 70-79 ___ over 80 ☒

When did you become a WI member? 1936

How did you first get involved in WI? Who got you involved?

Why has the WI been important to you personally? What do you enjoy about it?

How has the WI contributed to the life of your community over the years? Be specific if you can.

When was your WI branch the most active? Or what was your favourite time period in your branch's history? What was that time like? What kinds of things did you do at your meetings? When was this? What special projects did the WI take on then?

well baby clinic 1954-78

What will the future of the WI movement be like. Why do you think so? *Immigration*

involving W.I. & clubs in Britain

W.I. Survey

PHOTOGRAPHS

I am looking for clear, well focused, good quality photographs that might be included in the book. I am particularly interested in pictures which show the branches at work. These might be photos of war activities like canning or Red Cross work. They might be pictures of educational activities like demonstrations or short courses. They might include community activities like plays, floats in parades, quilting, tree planting, opening community facilities, etc.

Does any member of your branch have photographs of branch activities which she would be willing to loan for possible inclusion in the book?

Approximately what date are the pictures?

We have a variety of pictures in the Tweedsmuir History

1920s or earlier

1930s

1940s

1950s & 60s

1970s & 80s or later

Are they colour or Black and White?

Both

Please describe the pictures to me and be as specific as you can. What are the pictures about?

It would be very helpful if you could include a **PHOTOCOPY** of the photographs themselves. Be sure to identify the date, location, and branch on each photo.

DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPHS AT THIS TIME.

Who in your branch can I contact for further information on this?

Name: *Dora McArthur, Tweedsmuir History Curator*
 Address: *R.R. #1, Southwold, Ont*
 Postal Code: *N0L 2G0*
 Telephone No.: *(519) 764-2583*

OTHER SOURCES

Do you know of any county or district collections of papers or items in your area pertaining to Women's Institutes that you think would be worthwhile for the researcher to look at? Can you describe these: *NONE*

Who can Linda Ambrose contact to learn more about this source?

Name:

Address:

Postal Code:

Telephone No:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!

I would like to thank you in advance for taking the time to work through these questions. It will be a big help to me and it will ensure that the centennial book really does tell the story of what WI means to you. I look forward to receiving lots of mail from you.

My address again, is:

**DR. LINDA AMBROSE
309 B MAYVIEW CRES.
WATERLOO, ONTARIO
N2V 1P6**

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION BY JUNE 30, 1993

Shedden Institute marks 85th anniversary

BY PAT PALMER
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute celebrated their organization's 85th anniversary with a trip May 30 to Park's Blueberries near Bothwell, Ont.

They began their visit by enjoying a cafe-style luncheon with a large variety of food to choose from, including blueberries in assorted menus.

The motto for the meeting was "Looking for greener pastures, why not cultivate your own?" The motto "A happy memory of a past member who used to attend Shedden W.I." was answered by all in attendance and brought back many memories of members who have been involved with their group.

Jean Palmer reported on the District Annual and Carol Gordon reported for the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Brenda Silcox asked for volunteers to complete the list of people who wished to help with the information booth for Rosy Rhubarb and also reminded mem-



Shedden W.I. marked its 85th anniversary with a trip to Park's Blueberries near Bothwell. Making the trip were Beth Vicary, left, Pat Palmer, Pauline Silcox, Carol Gordon, Maxine Silcox, Ruth Hunter, Jean Palmer, Connie Silcox, Dorothy McLaughlin, Dora McArthur and Brenda Silcox. (Contributed) May 30, 1999.

bers about the rhubarb jam that will be sold by the members.

Dorothy McLaughlin introduced the guest speaker, the owner of Park's Blueberries.

Diane Parks, her husband Bill and their four children began the family business in 1978.

Blueberries are labour-intensive plants that take many years to reach maturity. The business began small with about 10 acres and the product was sold by the roadside. In 1990, a store was built to offer the sale of jams, pies, etc. A tornado touched down on the farm in 1994 destroying the store, but the following year the store was rebuilt, bigger and better. It now features a restau-

rant, gift shop, bakery and a place to relax and enjoy your visit.

Blueberries don't ripen all at once. In an average season the same blueberry bush is picked three or four times. The berries do not ripen once picked. Blueberries should not be washed before freezing. The natural bloom prevents the berries from sticking together. Simply rinse your berries just before use. An important part of the process is the pollinating. On the farm, there are 20 hives of honey bees and seven hives of bumblebees.

The members enjoyed a wagon ride through the fields of different varieties of blueberries and it was a great learning experience.