

# Industry and hospital tours fill day out for Shedden WI

Members and friends of the Shedden Women's Institute enjoyed a day out recently when the group of 18 visited the Braam Woodcraft Industry on Edward Street, St. Thomas.

This is a recently established industry having its origin at Lawrence Station for some years before relocating in St. Thomas. An enterprise operated by a family unit — father, mother and two sons — the plant specializes in custom built kitchen cabinets.

The wood used is primarily walnut, maple and oak, and the cabinets are all made exactly to specification. The company employs 10 full-time workers and some part-time help.

Following the morning tour of this plant a luncheon was served by the Hill-Top Motel. A short business meeting was then held.

Mrs. Ronald Gordon presided at the meeting and heard reports. Mrs. H. Parks announced that the next Elgin Manor Auxiliary meeting will be held on April 13 starting with a 1 p.m. luncheon. Mrs. Ralph Palmer reported from a recent Elgin West District executive meeting that the annual meeting will be held in the Women's Institute Hall at Paynes Mills May 13 with registration at 9 a.m. Mrs. Palmer said new loose-leaf handbooks will soon be available and 1987 is to be known as "The year of the homeless."

The new Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario president is Mrs. Margaret Munro of Carp, Ont. and 14 presidents-elect will be elected for a two-year term, from each of the areas, to help cope with the long distances our president would have to travel. These presidents-elect will be voted on at the London area convention in the fall.

*March 1987*  
A coordinator for each branch will send one report only to the district coordinator combining the reports from the Canadian industries and agriculture, citizenship and legislation, education, family and consumer affairs, international affairs, Tweedsmuir History, resolutions and public relations committees. Next year a workshop on farm safety will be held at the Agri-mart in Fingal on April 11. More details may be obtained from Mrs. J. Bechard, or from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food office.

Mrs. William Pennings reported from the 4-H Club "surviving with style" program, outlining the material that had been taught to the members. The achievement day will be April 1 at the Southwold Elementary school at 7:30 p.m. and a cordial invitation was extended to all to attend.

Mrs. Gordon asked the convenors of the standing committees to bring their reports of the April meeting to be forwarded to the district convenor. A nominating committee Mrs. Currie Silcox, Mrs. Herbert Parks and Mrs. Palmer will bring a slate of officers to the next meeting.

Following the noon meal the members toured the new chemotherapy unit at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. This has just recently opened and at present can treat four patients at one time. There are two doctors and two nurses always present and the patient is never left alone.

This facility has been set up for people in this area who have had to go to London, Ont. for treatment. Sue Marchand explained the set-up of the unit and said that families are welcome to be with the patients during treatment. Those in charge of the informative day out included Mrs. Murray Silcox, Mrs. Currie Silcox, Mrs. William Brown and Mrs. Ted Silcox.

Mrs. Currie Oldham announced that her committee on education will conduct the program at the meeting April 22 at Bethany United Church, 8 p.m. and Mr. Paul Bottineau, special education consultant for Elgin County Board of Education will be the guest speaker.

# Special education has many facets, education

The focus of education should be on what a child can do, not on what they cannot do, Paul Bottineau, special education consultant for the Elgin County Board of Education, told the April meeting of Shedden Women's Institute.

Mr. Bottineau, guest speaker for the meeting, said that attitude should produce more productive community citizens.

He said special education deals with many areas of the child's development.

The physical development involves health and mobility and causes problems; intellectual development includes a range of intelligence from gifted (an IQ of 140) to average (IQ 100) to learning disabled.

The communications area is the most difficult, since it involves reading, writing and spelling learning disabilities, Mr. Bottineau said. He said a child may be brilliant but unable to communicate by writing although verbal communication could be very good.

Mr. Bottineau answered many questions from the audience and was given an appreciation gift.

The program was planned and supervised by Mrs. Lois Oldham, Miss Margaret Campbell and Mrs. Mary Ayling.

Mrs. Pat Palmer presided for the business meeting.

Mrs. Beth Vicary reported from the Elgin County Pioneer Museum that the cook book committee is still looking for recipes and old sayings for the book and that the next meeting will be June 10 at the museum at 9 a.m.

Mrs. Jean Palmer announced that the next Elgin County Rally meeting will be June 10 at the museum starting at 11:15 a.m.

The strawberry social will be held at the museum June 17th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the county WI scholarship will be presented at that time.

Subjects for the poster contest were chosen during the last rally meeting and a car rally of Elgin County is again planned with Mrs. Sylvia Cerna as the institute committee member, Shedden members were told. New officers were chosen for the ensuing year.

Reports from all the standing committee conveners were read and handed to the secretary and several invitations were accepted to events including the May 13 dessert tea at the Lawrence

Hall at 7:30 p.m. hosted by the Ingham Club.

The annual meeting of Elgin District will be held in the Mills Hall on May 13 with registration at 9 a.m. Delegates from Shedden are Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Pat Palmer, Mrs. Brenda Silcox and Mrs. Palmer. Mrs. Silcox will be in charge of the memorial service and Mrs. Vine will provide the craft for sale.

Remembrance convener, Mrs. Orchard reported that several remembrances had been taken at East shut-ins and that she had sent se cards during the month.

The nominating committee convenor, Mrs. Connie Silcox, read slate of officers for 1987-1988. The officers who were installed by Palmer are Mrs. Pat Palmer, president; Mrs. Brenda Silcox, first president; Mrs. Cheryl Garvin, vice-president; Mrs. Connie Silcox, secretary; Mrs. Vicary, treasurer. Mrs. Gordon district director; Beth directors are Mrs. Ruth Hunter, Maxine Silcox and Mrs. Vine. Public relations officer is Mrs. Mac Parks. Remembrance convener, Mrs. Ilene Orchard and Mrs. Ina

Tweedsmuir History convener is Dora McArthur; representative to museum is Mrs. Margaret Turner. program co-ordinator is Mrs. Palmer.

At the close of the meeting Palmer read an article on volunteering.

A social hour was held refreshments by the committee.

# Shedden women tour local industry

Canadian Industries was the theme of the May meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute branch and a group of members and friends visited three local industries starting with the Southwestern Ontario Livestock Sales arena at Melbourne, Ont. owned and operated by the Stewart Brown family.

They went to the Old School House Tea Room for lunch and later to the post office in Shedden.

The committee in charge of the arrangements included Mrs. Carol Gordon, Mrs. Dora McArthur, Mrs. Dorothy McLaughlin and Mrs. Mary Ayling.

During the visit to the sales barn Mr. Brown explained that it is a family business and has sales every Wednesday and Friday. He gave an outline of the operation of the sales room and members were able to see some cattle auctioned.

Mrs. Maggie Moore, postmistress, explained the operation of the post office and showed the many different forms available to facilitate contacting government offices for information. Members were shown how the mail is sorted for distribution.

Following the luncheon, served by the staff of the Tea Room, Mrs. Pat Palmer, president, conducted a business meeting assisted by the secretary, Mrs. Connie Silcox and the treasurer Mrs. Beth Vicary. Reports were given by Mrs. Kay Chamberlain on a visit to the Aughton WI branch and an evening with the Kensington Club, and Mrs. Madeline Parks on the Elgin Manor Auxiliary. She noted that the next meeting will be a picnic with the auxiliaries from Valleyview and Terrace Lodge as guests on June 8 at 12:30 p.m.

The annual picnic for the residents of the manor and their families will be held July 5, on the rear lawn and there will be strawberry short cake, hot dogs and hamburgers for sale.

Mrs. Jean Palmer reported on the district annual meeting of the Elgin West WI. The Erland Lee Homestead will have special events June 2, 3, and 4 and August 1 and 2 will be Heritage days at the homestead, she said.

The London area convention will be held in St. Mary's October 15 and 16 and the Elgin County Rally WI will host a bus trip to see Brigadoon at Grand Bend August 20. Buses will leave Paynes Mills Community Hall at 12:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to go should contact Mrs. Mary Gow at Wallacetown, not later than July 20th for tickets.

Pennies for Friendship is in need of money and each branch is asked to be generous. Mrs. Margaret Turner reported that she had taken a birthday gift to the institute's resident at the manor.

Mrs. Palmer made several announcements of several upcoming events. June 3 Shedden's twin Elgin East branch is entertaining the group in St. Andrews church, St. Thomas starting at 8:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to go is to meet at the Red and White parking lot at 7:30 p.m. June 10th is the anniversary tea at Bethany United

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Church, starting at 7:45 p.m. June 17 the Strawberry Social at the Museum will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. with Mrs. Jean Palmer helping from 2:45 to 4 p.m. September 9 the annual daffodil coffee break and tea will be hosted by Wallacetown branch in the community hall from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Silcox has books of tickets on a draw for a quilt, afghan and lawn chair and members are asked to get tickets from her and sell as many as they can. The branch is going to take part in the competition from her and sell as many as they can. The branch is going to take part in the competition for groups at Shedden Fair, being held August 21 and 22. Volunteers were obtained to make the articles required. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Palmer June 24 at 8 p.m. with the committee on resolutions in charge.

# Conditions of Shanghai 877 June stated to Shedden WI

Resolutions was the theme for Shedden WI as they met at the home of Jean Palmer for their June meeting. Mrs. Palmer, Laurie Bathurst and Margaret Carter were in charge of the program.

Members were divided into four groups to consider changes in the role of father, mother, children and changes in ethics and entertainment through the years. A summary of the discussion groups revealed that even though there have been many changes, for better or worse, things remain essentially similar.

Mrs. Andy Staddard told about the living conditions in Shanghai where her family has been living for the past eight months. She and her two daughters Beverly and Kimberly are visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Carl Chamberlain of Shedden, but will be returning to Shanghai in September.

She told of the short supply of fresh vegetables, fruit, meat and milk, and how water must be boiled before using. Buildings are not heated, and patients in hospital must supply their own food. The most popular mode of transportation is bicycle with a few taxis and private cars. She also reported that anything worthwhile is exported and products in stores are of inferior quality.

Pat Palmer presided for the business, assisted by Connie Silcox, secretary, and Beth Vicary, treasurer.

Contributions were made to the Unitarian Relief Fund and the prize list for the Shedden Fair.

Volunteers were obtained to staff the Elgin Manor tuck shop on July 13, as was a committee to plan the booth at Shedden Fair Aug. 21-22 in cooperation with the Bethany UCW. The committee consists of Jean Palmer, Carol Gordon, Brenda Silcox, and Pat Palmer.

Mrs. Vicary reported that the strawberry social was very successful, including the presentation of Elgin County scholarships to Julie VanGurp and Rhonda Brouwer from Elgin County Rally WI.

Madeline Parks reported from Elgin Manor Auxiliary that there will be no meeting during July and August and the next meeting will be Sept. 15 starting with a luncheon at 1 p.m.

The annual Elgin Manor picnic will be July 5, starting at 1 p.m. There will be food concessions, crafts for sale and a program provided. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Mrs. Palmer announced the annual coffee break and tea in aid of the Daffodil Auxiliary to the Cancer Society will be held in Wallacetown Community Hall, hosted by the Wallacetown branch on Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers from the branch will work from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Following the meeting, a social time with refreshments was enjoyed and courtesies expressed by Dora McArthur.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 23 at 8 p.m. at Bethany United Church with Lois Oldham and her International Affairs committee in charge of the program.

# Some women have no rights WI told

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## Lifestyles

International affairs was the theme of the September meeting of the Shedden branch Women's Institute, held recently in the schoolroom of Bethany United Church, Shedden. Lois Oldham, Ilene Orchard and Dorothy Coutts were in charge of the program and Pamela Wise, a registered nurse from the Psychiatric Hospital, St. Thomas, was the speaker for the meeting.

Mrs. Wise, who with her husband and three small children, spent a year in Bangladesh, told of living conditions in that country, illustrating her talk with a slide presentation. She stated that this country is the poorest of all third world countries and has a history of cyclones and flooding. The country is 86 percent Moslem and 14 percent Hindu.

The climate is very hot and humid, and housing is primitive. Women are held in low regard and have no rights.

The RN worked in a hospital and the family lived in a compound connected to the hospital where they had good accommodations and were able to cultivate a large garden. The Wise family was partially sponsored by a church group and hopes to return to this country if possible.

The beautiful embroidery work which Mrs. Wise had on display is done by hand; only widows have access to machines.

Mrs. Coutts presented the speaker with a gift and Mrs. Orchard read a poem entitled "Harvest Home" to complete the program.

Pat Palmer presided for the business, assisted by Connie Silcox, secretary. Beth Vicary, treasurer, reported that the booth at Shedden had been very successful and that the branch had catered to a 90th birthday dinner recently. Mrs. Vicary also reported that the museum is putting up a display at Elgin Mall, Nov. 5, 6 and 7, to celebrate the 30th birthday of its beginning. Mrs. Vicary, Cheryl Gavin and Carol Gordon will be in charge of the display Nov. 6 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mrs. Garvin and Holly Oldham are the leaders for the new 4H project, fruits and vegetables, and a contribution was made for the expenses of the course.

Jean Palmer reported that the an-

nual Daffodil Auxiliary tea in aid of the cancer cupboard had been financially and socially successful. Madeline Parks reported from the Elgin Manor Auxiliary that 20 new residents had been honored with a welcoming party and that the auxiliary will host a luncheon for the volunteers who staff the tuck shop at the Manor on Oct. 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tuck shop committee is in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Palmer announced that the London Area WI convention will be held in the community center, St. Mary's, on Oct. 15 and Oct. 16. Brenda Silcox is the delegate and Mrs. Palmer, the alternate.

The social evening for the Elgin County WI Rally will be held in the Southwold Elementary School on Oct. 20, beginning with a dessert tea

at 7:30 p.m. Reports will be heard from the WI 90th birthday celebration which was held in North Bay in July. The winners of the safety poster contest will be presented with their prizes at the meeting of the Elgin County WI Rally which will be held in the Museum on Nov. 7, at 1:30 p.m. Presentation of awards is 2:30 p.m.

A social time with refreshments followed the meeting and the next meeting was announced. Agriculture is the theme and Margaret Carroll will speak on agriculture in the classroom. The meeting will be held in Bethany Church on Oct. 28 at 8 p.m. with Mrs. Vicary, Ina Ross, Margaret Turner and Effie Silcox in charge. Special guests will be district officers and members of twin branch, Elgin East WI.



# Agriculture program explained at meeting of Shedden WI *Oct/87*

Grade 4 teacher Mrs. Margaret Carroll recently told the Shedden Women's Institute of the many facets of farm life and education programs designed to teach the differences between urban and rural lifestyles.

A teacher at Southwold Elementary School and a member of the committee that outlined the program for teaching agriculture in the schools, Mrs. Carroll used a slide presentation to illustrate her talk.

While 90 percent of the agriculture program is dictated by the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Carroll explained that the remainder of the program is established by the advisory committee. Pupils in the program visit rural and urban areas to gain first hand knowledge of the differences in lifestyles.

The meeting held in Bethany United Church, Shedden was hosted by the committee for agriculture; Mrs. Beth Vicary, Mrs. Margaret Turner, Mrs. Ina Ross and Mrs. Ted Silcox.

Mrs. Vicary and Mrs. Kay Chamberlain played a piano duet Donkey serenade and Mrs. Turner conducted and apple contest in which apples were the prize.

Mrs. Pat Palmer presided over the business portion of the meeting assisted by secretary Mrs. Connie Silcox and treasurer Mrs. Vicary.

Mrs. Silcox from the County caravan reported that an interesting tour of Elgin County featuring a dairy farm, a mennonite farm and a goat farm was arranged by the county committee.

Mrs. Madeline Parks, from the Elgin Manor Auxiliary, reported that a large crowd had attended the luncheon for volunteers in the Tuck Shop at the Manor. She also gave a brief report from a recent meeting of Elgin West District WI.

The winter picnic will be held in the Iona Hall on Jan. 11 at 6:30 p.m. with Iona Station branch hosting the pot luck dinner. The program theme will be Winter Olympics.

An invitation to a coffee break on Nov. 10 at the home of Mrs. Velma Campbell was accepted. The annual

coffee break at the Museum will be held on Dec. 4 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. with Elgin East District in charge.

Refreshments were served and a social hour followed.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. in Bethany United Church and will include a 90th birthday celebration of the WI.

## Shedden WI entertain their guests with comical skits *Dec/87*

The 90th anniversary of the first Ontario Women's Institute in Stoney Creek provided the theme for the program at a recent meeting of the Shedden WI.

Guests from Aughrum WI, Kensington Club and the Women of Bethany United Church in Shedden were present.

Three skits were presented by the members. Mrs. Beth Vicary acted as Barbara Frum and interviewed Mrs. Brenda Silcox who acted as Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless about her life and work. Mrs. Connie Silcox, Mrs. Carol Gordon, Mrs. Cheryl Garvin, Mrs. Kay Chamberlain, Mrs. Laurie Bathurst and Mrs. Pat Palmer presented a skit about the new Hand Book which will be used in 2090. Dressed as teeny-boppers, Jean Palmer, Dora McArthur and their adopted sister Lois Oldham sang several songs of the '40s and '50s.

Mrs. Margaret Turner and Mrs. Madeline Parks presented a resume of the life and work of the Shedden WI.

A display of the Tweedsmuir History book and record books from the current 4H project were shown.

Mrs. Pat Palmer presided for the business portion of the meeting assisted by Mrs. Connie Silcox.

A work shop entitled 'A time for You' will be held at the Southwold Elementary School in February, 1988 put on the OMAF. Registration is to be made by January 20.

Contributions were made to the Daffodil Auxiliary, Children's Hospital and the Elgin County Museum.

Reports were given of the Museum exhibition held at the Elgin Mall attended by Mrs. Vicary, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Garvin.

Mrs. Parks reported that the Elgin Manor Auxiliary is hosting a Christmas Party for the residents on Dec. 8.

The winter picnic will be held on Jan. 11, 1988 at the Iona Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments were served by the committee. Register was attended by Mrs. Ina Ross and Mrs. Vera Ballam.

Several plants were awarded as door prizes at the conclusion of the meeting.

The next meeting will be held in the home of Mrs. Murray Silcox on Dec. 16 at 8 p.m. Mrs. Silcox, Mrs. Jean Vine and Miss Margaret Campbell will be in charge. Members are reminded to bring white gifts for the Christmas Care baskets.



# WI views woodcarving

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Silcox hosted the December meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute in their home which was decorated for the Christmas season.

White gifts for Christmas Care in St. Thomas and surrounding area were brought by the members for roll call.

Mrs. Silcox, Mrs. Jean Vine and Miss Margaret Campbell were in charge of the program on the theme of cultural affairs.

The WI members admired an exhibit of some carvings by Jack Boughner of Southwold. He has been carving wood for over 30 years and works mainly with pine and willow. Jack carves farm animals, machinery, covered wagons and stage coaches all to scale and all are working models.

Mrs. Jean Palmer read the story The Gift of the Magi.

Mrs. Brenda Silcox and Mrs. Connie Silcox sang Silent Night using sign language, a skill which they are learning.

Included in the program were two contests and carol singing.

The business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Pat Palmer and assisted by Mrs. Connie Silcox.

Announcements of upcoming events were made.

The Olympic Torch will be passing through Shedden at 3:27 p.m. on Dec. 29. A program of awards starting at 2:30 p.m. will take place on the parking lot of the Medical Centre. Coffee and chocolate will be available in the hall.

The winter picnic will be hosted by the Iona Station branch on Jan. 11 at the Iona Hall starting with a pot-luck supper. A program on the Olympic

theme will follow the supper.

Registration for the seminar A Time for You to be held at the Southwold Elementary School and sponsored by the OMAF is Jan. 20. There will be an information meeting in the Paynes Mills WI Hall Jan. 19 starting at 1:30 p.m. and snow date is Jan. 28.

A session on parliamentary procedure will be chaired by Mrs. Hilda Morden, secretary-treasurer work will be chaired by Mrs. Grace Campbell and Valerie Clarke, the new Rural Organization Specialist, who will be present to meet the participants.

The name of the next 4-H club will be Personal Finance. The training school will be held in the Elgin Labour Centre.

The annual contribution to the Save the Children Fund was made to support a school in a Third World country.

Volunteers were obtained to staff the Tuck shop at Elgin Manor on Jan. 11.

The next meeting will be held in Bethany United Church, Shedden on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. with Mrs. Maxine Silcox, Mrs. Connie Silcox and Mrs. Vera Ballam in charge of the program on family and consumer affairs.

The Christmas meeting committee was thanked by Mrs. Lois Oldham and refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

## Scrambled word contest held at WI Christmas meeting 1987

Fellowship prevailed when the North Yarmouth Women's Institute entertained the Boxall Women's Institute and guests from the Shedden Women's Institute at a pot-luck lunch at the Townline United Church.

Convenors of the event were Mrs. Gilbert Locke, Mrs. Morley Blewett, Mrs. Thomas Campbell, Mrs. G.D. Lindsay and Mrs. O.H. Underhill.

Mrs. Blewett, president of the North Yarmouth WI, presided over the short business portion of the meeting.

A Christmas sing-song with Mrs. John Penhale at the piano was enjoyed. Roll call was answered with a family Christmas tradition.

A letter of good wishes and a donation were received from member Miss Eva Dennis, now at Terrace Lodge in Aylmer.

Mrs. Lindsay and Mrs. R.J. Ferguson volunteered to staff the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop on Dec. 29th.

Chocolate Christmas-tree table centres and favours were made by Mrs. Lindsay.

The president of the branch, Mrs. Blewett and the Elgin East president, Mrs. Lindsay welcomed the

Boxall and Shedden guests.

Mrs. Lindsay urged the members to keep the Women's Institute to the forefront and project a good image in the communities.

On Feb. 20 a workshop will be held at the Southwold School with the theme "A time for you." Snow date for the event is Feb. 27. Pat Ferraro will be the key note speaker. Registration deadline is Jan. 20.

Special entertainment provided by members of the Shedden branch was enjoyed with Mrs. ~~Beth~~ Vicary acting as Barbara Frum, Mrs. Brenda Silcox as Adelaide Hoodless and the three singing sisters; Mrs. Dora McArthur, Mrs. Jean Palmer and Mrs. Lois Oldham.

"Barbara Frum" interviewed Mrs. Anne McLean, Mrs. Blewett and Mrs. Lindsay on what the Institute meant to them.

Winners of a scrambled Christmas word contest arranged by Mrs. M. Blewett were Mrs. Sadie Burgar and Mrs. Betty Rogers.

There will be no meeting of the North Yarmouth WI in January.

## Health Unit discussed at Shedden WI meeting

Joan Fernandez, public health nurse with the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit, was guest speaker recently at the Shedden Women's Institute.

She said the goal of the Health Unit is to provide quality health care to the residents of Elgin County. The medical officer of health, Dr. V. Mai, oversees five areas of the Health Unit: nutrition, nursing, inspection, mental and home care. Mrs. Fernandez works with the nursing section of the program and is public health nurse at Southwold Central School. The Health Unit is 75 per cent provincially funded and 25 per cent locally funded.

President Pat Palmer conducted the business portion of the meeting. Members and friends answered the roll call by naming the doctor who delivered them.

The new Women's Institute Handbooks are \$5 each. Anyone interested in obtaining one should let the secretary know.

Those who are interested in Junior Farmers and are between ages 16 and 29, please contact Ed Donkers.

The F.W.I.C. Convention will be held in June, 1988, in Newfoundland.

A leadership development conference will be held in Kingston on May 14, 15. The theme will be Educate and Initiate with recycling as the focus. Jim Bradley, minister of environment will be the guest speaker.

*Jan/88*  
Olympic Torch Day pictures taken by Peter Lemon are on display at a library in Shedden. Orders are being taken for any prints you may be interested in.

Dora McArthur, Tweedsmuir Centre, has compiled a log of previous and current residents of our community. Assistance in keeping this information up to date would be appreciated.

The next meeting will be Family Night Feb. 24 at Bethany United Church. It will begin with pot-luck supper at 6 p.m. with the program to follow.



# Shedden WI holds Olympics 326/88

If you have family, home and friends — you have wealth on which all life depends. This was the motto for the Shedden Women's Institute family night held at Bethany United Church.

A potluck supper preceded the program; a skit about the Winter Olympics was brought to the members live by broadcaster Katie Chamberlain from SHED broadcasting.

Presenting the Olympic medals was the "old grey mayor" of Southwold, Dora MacArthur. Recipients of gold and silver medals were as follows: ladies figure skating, Jean Elizabeth Manley Palmer; hockey, Jean Howe Langley and Brenda Gretzky Silcox; downhill skiing, Karen Percy Gavin; and karate experts Carol and Jeff Gordon. Highlighting the skit were weightlifters Margaret Turner and Ruth Hunter and shopping-cart racer Pat Pretzle Palmer.

Steve Garvin, one of the torch bearers on the Olympic torch relay, told about the part he played as a participant in the Olympic run. He wore his Olympic suit and set up a display of pictures and memorabilia.

Members heard about the Old Barn Woodworks near Lawrence Station. As a family operation, Allan, Sandra, Gregory and Allison Fish make folk art items which are handcrafted in pine. Gregory gave a brief history and talk about the country collection of examples they had on display. The Fish family hopes to host an open house in the future.

Carol Gordon thanked Cheryl Garvin and Brenda Silcox for planning the family night.

Pat Palmer presided for the meeting and roll call was answered by telling what was liked best about winter.

A 4-H leaders appreciation banquet, sponsored by the agriculture committee of Elgin County Council, will be held Wednesday, March 24, the 5th anniversary of 4-H in Canada.

The FWIO 60th anniversary scholarship was won by Marlene Reymer of Aylmer.

Dorothy Fletcher will be inducted into the Agriculture Hall of Fame in Milton June 5.

Girls are welcome to join the 4-H Club Encounter the Outdoors which will be led by Wanda Schram and Linda Pridham.

The FWIO leadership convention will be held in Kingston, Ont. from May 13 to 15. The reeve of Southwold township, Bud Marr, will speak at the next meeting, March 23 at the home of Mrs. Pat Palmer; everyone is welcome.

## Women's Institute still confident despite the fact she's showing age

By GIL HARDY March/88  
Ottawa Bureau

Thomson News Service

OTTAWA — The grand old lady of Canadian women's organizations is serene about her age and confident of her future, despite a 50-per-cent drop in membership since 1961.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, known in its heyday as the rural woman's university, began in 1897 in Ontario and sparked an international movement. It will hold its triennial national convention this June in St. John's, Nfld.

"Women's Institutes will be here long after a lot of fly-by-night organizations are gone because they are so basic," says past-president Bernice Noblitt of Ottawa. "It doesn't matter how the world changes, they will adapt to the need that is there."

WIs concentrate on that most basic of social units — the family. Because there will always be families, there will always be WIs, or so members believe.

But membership has plunged dramatically. In 1961, there were 80,000 women in WI branches; today, there are barely 39,000. In the last five years alone, the ranks have been reduced by 7,800.

To combat the decline, branches are being encouraged to publicize their activities. The steady slide in membership may have bottomed out because increases have been recorded in Nova Scotia and in western Canada, according to a spokesperson in the group's Ottawa office.

Noblitt, president between 1982 and 1985 and recent recipient of the Order of Ontario, says dramatic changes in the farming industry and society in general account for the decline.

More women are working full-time to support farms suffering through a mini-depression of high costs and low commodity prices. They are just too tired to attend WI meetings, Noblitt said in a recent interview.

On top of all that, WIs are facing competition from other groups reaching into their traditional rural enclaves. For instance, farm women's organizations are drawing away traditional WI members.

And who is the typical WI member in the late 1980s? According to Noblitt, much the same kind of woman who joined when the group was founded.

Noblitt estimates that the average age of a member is about 50, although no surveys have been done. WI is also predominantly anglophone because most rural women in Quebec are part of a similar but separate francophone group with some 70,000 members.

WI's more than 2,200 branches in rural Canada concentrate on the well-being of the family. And the organization's roots can be found in a family tragedy that happened almost 100 years ago.

In January, 1888, Adelaide Hoodless, wife of the chairman of the Hamilton School Board, gave birth to the couple's fourth child, John Harold. His death at 18 months from

drinking contaminated milk spurred Hoodless to create the first Women's Institute.

The aim was to educate women the domestic sciences so their families would be better fed and cared for. WIs spread across Canada the provincial groups formed a national federation in 1919.

Similar groups formed in other countries, leading to the creation of the Associated Country Women of the World in 1933. This international arm, which today numbers some eight million, is a channel for funds for Third World projects.

At home, the organization changed with the times. Last year Health and Welfare Canada sponsored a two-day seminar on sexual abuse for WI provincial leaders.

The federal wing has appeared before Commons committees on issues as funding for women's programs that it wants continued. It written to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, urging him to make sure Meech Lake accord does not impede equality for women.

Noblitt says the WI has always been a forum for members to speak out on current issues — which to include battered women, child and support for woman farmers. That flexibility is its strength.

Branch meetings feature speakers on topics of local interest and members perform countless hours of volunteer work. And women in isolated areas find fellowship through the as they have from the start.

# Shedden members get lesson in how municipal politics work

March 1988

Ernest (Bud) Marr, reeve of Southwold Township, spoke to members of the Shedden Women's Institute at the March meeting and explained how the municipal system works.

Southwold has five elected officials, reeve, deputy reeve, and three councillors who are elected every three years by those residents living in the township and who are on the voters list.

There are several appointees; clerk, secretary, road superintendent and five assistants as well as several part-time workers. Thirteen meetings are scheduled per year but many more are necessary to conduct the business of the municipality.

Mr. Marr said that some members of the council sit on many different committees in the township and in the county. Mr. Marr, who has been in the council for many years has served as Elgin County warden for two years as well as serving the township.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Kay Chamberlain who also thanked him and presented him with a token of appreciation.

The meeting, in the home of Mrs. Pat Palmer, was on the theme Citizenship and Legislation with Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Chamberlain in charge of the program. A contest on everyday signs we see and what they mean was enjoyed. The business meeting was in charge of Mrs. Palmer assisted by the secretary Mrs. Connie Silcox and reports were heard from representatives.

Mrs. Margaret Turner announced that the next meeting of the museum committee will be held April 12 at 9:30 a.m. Membership tickets were purchased by the branch and may be obtained from the secretary.

Mrs. Madeline Parks reported from the Elgin Manor Auxiliary meeting that 12 residents had been entertained at a potluck dinner recently and that a card party is being planned for April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Manor. Bridge and euchre will be played; tickets are available from any member and the proceeds will go towards a canopy for the patio on the south side of the Manor.

Mrs. Jean Palmer reported from a recent meeting of the Elgin West District, held in Wallacetown. The annual meeting for the district of Elgin West will be held in Grace Anglican Church, West Lorne, on May 18 with West Lorne WI in charge, noon luncheon will be served. A bus is being arranged to go to the unveiling of the portrait of the late Mrs. J.F. Futcher when it is hung in the Agricultural Hall of Fame at the Milton Agriculture Museum on June 5; there will no longer be Leadership Courses given but Miss Valerie Clark, R.O.S. will provide any help needed, the next meeting of Elgin County Rally will be held in the Museum on April 12 following the meeting of the Museum committee. Mrs. Palmer announced that daffodils will be sold in the village on Saturday, April 9 in aid of the Canadian Cancer Society. Mrs. Irene Orchard reported sending several cards to the sick. The 4-H Club is being led by Mrs. Wanda Schram and Mrs. Diane Pridham and a contribution towards the expense of the club was made. A nominating committee, Mrs. Carol Gordon, Mrs. Chamberlain and Mrs. Pat Palmer will bring a slate of officers for the years 1988-1989 to the next meeting.



# Women discuss education

April 1988

Susan McKillop-Harris a teacher of a class of mentally-disadvantaged students at Prince Charles school in London spoke to members of Shedden Women's Institute at the April meeting, which was held in the home of Madeline Parks. The theme of the meeting was Education with Mrs. Parks, Ruth Hunter and Jean Langley in charge of the program. Mrs. Harris has worked with the mentally retarded students for some years and had a very informative talk about these special students. The speaker said the Association for the Mentally Retarded has changed its name to the Association for Community Living. Only three per cent of Canadians are retarded and they are classified in two groups. Medical retardation, due to birth defects, nutrition deficiency, accidents, etc, and I.Q. mildly, moderately and profoundly retarded. Mrs. Harris was introduced by Mrs. Hunter, a long-time friend and thanked by Mrs. Langley. Mrs. Hunter also conducted a contest. A special guest was Mrs. Harris's mother, Catherine McKillop.

Pat Palmer presided for the business assisted by the secretary Connie Silcox. Reports were heard from committees; Ilene Orchard, remembrance convenor said that several cards had been sent to the sick; Margaret Turner representative to the Museum reported on several upcoming events, June 15 is the Strawberry Social at the Museum with the Regent of IODE and the vice presidents of Elgin East and Elgin West District WI in charge of arrangements. Three bus trips are being arranged by Mary Gow, Wallacetown; on June 5 a trip to the Agriculture Museum at Milton, to attend the unveiling of the portrait of the late Mrs. J. R. Fitcher, past president of FWIO in the Hall of Fame; trips to the Grand Bend playhouse on July 21 and August 11 in aid of the museum finances.

The annual meeting of Elgin West District WI is being held May 18th with West Lorne branch as hostess, in Grace Anglican Church starting at 9 a.m. Four delegates were named to attend. Mrs. Parks installed the officers and convenors for the 1988-89 year as follows: past president, Mrs. Palmer; president, Brenda Silcox; vice president, Cheryl Garvin and Lois Oldham; secretary, Connie Silcox; treasurer, Beth Vicary; district director, Mrs. Palmer alternates, Carol Gordon and Mrs. Parks; PRO, Mrs. Oldham; Tweedsmuir history curator, Dora McArthur; representative to the museum Mrs. Turner, representative to Elgin Manor Auxiliary, Mrs. Parks; remembrance con-

venors, Mrs. Orchard and Ina Ross; program co-ordinator, Mrs. Jean Palmer; auditors, Margaret Campbell and Laurie Bathurst, pianist,

Kay Chamberlain; convenors of committees are: family and consumer affairs, Mrs. Palmer; resolutions, Mrs. Oldham; cultural activities, Dorothy McLaughlin;

agriculture, Mrs. Parks; education, Dr. Cathy McNaughton; Christmas meeting, Mrs. Chamberlain; family night, Mrs. Gordon; Canadian Industries, Mrs. Garvin; citizenship and legislation, Mrs. Langley; international affairs, Jean Palmer.

The May 25th meeting will be held in the home of Pat Palmer with a roll call, a reason for or against being a blood donor.

Following the meeting a social hour was enjoyed when Mrs. Parks expressed appreciation of the group for the work of the retiring officers notably Pat Palmer's work as president for the past two years. Refreshments were served by the committee in charge assisted by Brenda Silcox.

# Organ donors are needed says transplant volunteer

Bill Langeveld, a volunteer with Transplant International (Canada) spoke to members of Shedden Women's Institute at the May meeting, held in the home of Pat Palmer. The theme of the meeting was Family and Consumer Affairs with Mrs. Palmer, Margaret Carder and Ruth Hunter in charge of the program. Mr. Langeveld explained that Transplant International is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers dedicated to making people more aware of the urgent need for organ donors. Volunteers come from business, community leaders, families of organ donors, and transplant recipients, and are guided by a Medical Advisory Board but have no direct ties to any medical or government organization. After a video presentation Mr. Langeveld gave some statistics on organ transplants and an-

swered many pertinent questions from the floor. A gift of appreciation was presented to Mr. Langeveld by Mrs. Hunter. *May/88*

Brenda Silcox presided at the meeting assisted by the secretary, Connie Silcox. Reports were heard from various committees. Among coming events to remember is the Strawberry Social on Wednesday, June 15 at the Museum. On June 14, 4-H Achievement activities at Pinafore Park 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. On June 21 area auxiliaries will be entertained at a luncheon at Elgin Manor. On Sunday, July 10 is the annual Elgin Manor Picnic for residents, their families and friends. Also on July 10 the official opening of Elgin East division W.I. display at Aylmer and District Museum from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Carol Gordon gave a report on the Elgin West District W.I. annual meeting.

Following the meeting Mrs. Carder conducted a contest and lunch was served by the committee, assisted by several members.

The June 23 meeting will be held with supper at 5:30 p.m. at The School House Tea Room in Shedden, followed by a tour of Floridel Gardens in Port Stanley, and the business meeting at the home of Lois Oldsham.

## Shedden women celebrate 75 years with tour of Elgin Military Museum

The 75th anniversary of the Shedden Women's Institute was celebrated with a luncheon at the Talbot Trail Tea Room, followed by a guided tour of the Elgin Military Museum and a visit to the Mary Rose Sanderson Trillium Study where Mrs. Sanderson's work was viewed.

Mrs. Sanderson gave a brief narrative on her painting techniques and members returned to the Tea Room for cake made by Peggy Silcox in honor of the anniversary. Pictures were taken of many life members around the cake.

The president, Brenda Silcox, called the meeting to order with the Mary Stewart Collect, thanking the convenor of the meeting, Dorothy McLaughlin and her committee for the anniversary celebration. Madeline Parks, a life member, gave a brief account of the origin of the Shedden W.I. noting the first meeting was held on May 31, 1913 in the Shedden Public School. Officers were elected for the branch and within six months there was a membership of 44 at a fee of .25¢. The Shedden W.I. has a current membership of 30, with nine life members and a total of 411

*Sept/88*  
over the 58 years.

The roll call was answered by naming your birthstone and reports of various committees followed. Correspondence was read. Events to remember include the fall rally at New Sarum Public School on Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. and on Oct. 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Frome United Church Women will host a coffee break at their church.

On Dec. 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. the Elgin Pioneer Museum Coffee Break will be held with the Elgin West W.I. in charge.



# Shedden W.I. celebrate 75th anniversary

The 75th anniversary of the Shedden Women's Institute was celebrated on September 8th with a luncheon at the albot Trail Tea Room, followed by an informative guided tour of the Elgin Military Museum and a visit to the Mary ose Sanderson Trillium studio where her beautiful artwork was perused and Ms. Sanderson gave a brief narrative on her painting techniques. The group then returned to the Tea Room for cake, made and decorated by Peggy Silcox especially for the 75th anniversary with the W.I. logo "For Home and Country". Pictures were taken of

several life members around the cake and the tea room served ice cream and beverage with the cake.

The President, Mrs. Brenda Silcox, called the meeting to order with the Mary Stewart Collect, thanking the convenor of the meeting. Mrs. Dorothy McLaughlin, and her committee, for a delightful and apt 75th anniversary meeting. Mrs. Madeline Parks, a life member, gave a brief account of the origin of the Shedden W.I., noting that the first meeting was held on May 31st, 1913, in the Shedden Public School. Officers were elected for the branch and within six months there was a membership of 30, with nine life members having a total of 411 years membership. Two of these have been members for 58 years, followed by 56 years down to 27 years. Roll call was answered by "Your Birthstone," in keeping with the anniversary theme. Reports of various committees were given and correspondence read.

Events to remember include:

October 12th, at 8:00 p.m., Shedden Agricultural Society Fashion Show at the Shedden Fair Grounds Country Club; October 13th and 14th, The

*Sept 88*  
London Area 74th Annual Convention at St. Anne's Centre, St. Thomas, at which three resolutions will be presented. Mrs. Pat Palmer will be Shedden W.I. voting delegate and members of Shedden W.I. will present a skit on the afternoon of the 13th; October 25th, at 7:30 p.m., Fall Rally at New Sarum Public School; October 26th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Frome U.C.W. Coffee Break at Frome United Church; November 5th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Rebecca Lodge annual bazaar at the Lodge Hall in Shedden; December 2nd, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., The Elgin Pioneer Museum Coffee Break at the Museum, with Elgin West W.I. in charge.

## Agriculture studied by Shedden women

*October 88*  
Margaret Turner outlined some facts regarding agriculture in the community and within the schools of Elgin County for the October meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute. The meeting, which was held at the home of Madeline Parks, opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode after which 20 members and two visitors responded to the roll call, "a childhood experience on the farm with a farm animal."

Following reading of the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial report, several committee reports were given including the welcoming committee from Carol Gordon. Dora McArthur reported on the Tweedsmuir Book and distributed genealogical research and family line charts to each member for completion and return at the next meeting.

The guest speaker, Dr. Cathy McNaughton, a member of the Shedden branch, gave a talk on swine production. Dr. McNaughton is a free-lance swine consultant with clients in Elgin county and surrounding counties throughout southern Ontario.

*October 88*  
Her presentation was demonstrated by slides prepared by herself, outlining the swine production industry from the birth of piglets to the consumer market. Also included were slides showing the different types of housing for swine and disease control. A video with children completed her presentation. After replying to questions from the floor, Dr. McNaughton was presented with a gift of appreciation for her presentation.

Jean Palmer read a self-composed poem entitled, "A Walk with Your Dog," resulting in many smiles.

Coming events to remember include the Dec. 2 Elgin Pioneer Museum coffee break from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting will be held Nov. 23 at Bethany Church.





