



FRUITFUL TRIP — Members of the Shedden Women's Institute took a wagon-ride tour of Park's Blueberries recently. Pictured are, back row, left to right: Pat Palmer, Jean Palmer, Maxine Silcox,

Connie Silcox, Brenda Silcox and Diane Park. Middle row: Dorothy McLaughlin, Dora McArthur, Ruth Hunter and Pauline Silcox. Front row: Beth Vicary and Carol Gordon.

May 30th, 1999

Shedden W.I. 85th Anniversary

On Saturday, May 30th, members of the Shedden W.I. traveled to Park's Blue-

berries near Bothwell to celebrate their 85th anniversary.

They began their visit by enjoying a cafe style luncheon with a large variety of food to choose from, including blueberries in assorted recipes. Following was a short business meeting conducted by Carol Gordon.

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 this group.

The minutes and treasurer's report were given. 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 members

about the rhubarb jam to be sold by the members. Dorothy McLaughlin then introduced the guest speaker and owner of Park's Blueberries.

Diane Parks, her husband Bill and their four children began the family business in 1978. Blueberries are labor-intensive plants and 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 restaurant, gift shop, bakery and a place to relax and enjoy one's 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.

The members enjoyed a wagon ride through the fields of different varieties of blueberries and it was a great learning experience. Diane was thanked by Jean Palmer for her kindness and time in helping them celebrate their 85th.

The next meeting will be on June 23rd at Bethany United Church.

Shedden W.I. learns about nature's ways

The September meeting of the Shedden W.I. was held at Bethany United Church with 12 members present. The motto was "To avoid trouble and ensure safety, breathe through your nose - it keeps your mouth shut."

The meeting opened with the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode, followed by roll call - Name a way that you are 'environmentally friendly' other than recycling. Many answers were heard.

The guest speaker, Dave Martin, a freelance naturalist and biologist, was introduced by Connie Silcox. He has been hired to search for endangered species in southwestern Ontario, as well as doing environmental impact studies before construction can begin for large developers. These developers must give 5% back, to be used for wetlands, woodlots or parks. Mr. Martin helps developers decide how the 5% will be used. He also writes programs, gives landowners information on their properties and designs nature trails.

He showed a slide presentation on points of interest in this area, including hawk migration in Port Burwell and migration of

swans from Maryland and New Jersey to the tundra. Slides were also seen on different species of nature and animals in this area. The speaker was thanked by Kay Chamberlain.

The business portion of the meeting was held beginning with the minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report. Carol Gordon gave the museum report. A haunted house is being organized at the museum for Halloween. New displays are available for viewing, as well as plans are gearing up for Christmas.

The Area Convention will be held this year in Mount Brydges, with Jean Palmer and Dorothy McLaughlin as Shedden W.I.'s delegates. A newsletter was received from the president of FWIO, a donation was given to the Shedden 4-H and volunteers were organized to help at the Elgin Manor for November 5th.

Next meeting will be held at the home of Lois Oldham on October 27th at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.



1999 Shedden Women's Institute

Shedden Women's Institute met at the home of Lois Oldham for its October meeting. The meeting opened with 11 members and one guest, repeating the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode.

Convenor Lois Oldham introduced Sonia Beavers who is the Administration Officer of Elgin County Homes. She explained her position, which is the admission process for seniors entering a home in Elgin County. Sonia co-ordinates for Terrace Lodge, Elgin Manor and Bobier Villa.

Since 1993, persons entering a home must qualify to be admitted. Other community services such as VON, Meals on Wheels and Day Programs must have been exhausted before admission. Respite beds are available for short term recuperation at all three homes for up to 60 days at a time. Sonia was thanked by Connie Silcox.

The business portion

of the meeting was opened with the Roll Call: If you were a student today, what would you choose as a profession? Members responded with brilliant change-overs for their "next life." Motto was: Education means developing the mind, not stuffing the memory. The minutes were read and approved.

Jean Palmer reported from the District Meeting and she noted a successful Daffodil Tea with proceeds over \$5,500.00.

Upcoming events were announced for February 16th, the Winter Picnic and February 17th, a Fun Day for Women's Institute members. Community events were also announced. Elgin Manor volunteers for November were Sharon Welch and Pauline Silcox. A decision was made to make the usual cookie trays for the Museum Coffee Break. Tweedsmuir Curator Dora McArthur passed around old photos of a "Hat Course" that was offered for members in days gone by.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was enjoyed. Committee members were Lois Oldham, Connie Silcox and Margaret Campbell. Next meet-

ing will be on November 24th at Bethany United Church. All welcome.

Enthusiastic speaker at Shedden W.I.

The November meeting of Shedden Women's Institute was held the 24th at Bethany United Church.

The meeting opened with the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode, followed with Roll Call: Name something you would put in a child's bedroll (These children live on the street). Many necessary items were mentioned by 11 members and 5 visitors.

Dora McArthur reported her Tweedsmuir History project that has been on-going for some time and has almost been completed. She has been photographing the homes in Shedden.

Cheryl Garvin reported 6 new families have received Welcome Books.

Jean Palmer gave the report from the Area Convention that she attended with Dorothy McLaughlin. One item of note was that any unused prescriptions should be returned to the drug store for safe disposal. Guest speaker at the convention was Jayne Graham who spoke on health issues. Jean thanked the W.I. members for sending her and Dorothy as their delegates.

The museum report was given by Carol Gordon. She said

A.V.S.S. students had been helping to decorate the romes there for Christmas. Repairs had been made to the agricultural building as well as sidewalks, front porch and shutter replacement. Institute members are invited to an advanced Rug Hooking Course at the museum on January 15th, 22nd and 29th. A beginners course is being offered if there is enough interest. Call museum for more info.

Donations were made to many charities including Children's Hospital, USC, Save the Children, W.I. Head Office, Salvation Army and 2nd Stage Housing. Maxine Silcox, Margaret Campbell and Ilene Orchard will be remembered by members this Christmas. A thank you was received from Shedden/Fingal 4-H Club and invitations were read for upcoming community events.

Brenda Silcox then introduced the guest speaker, Hilde Morden, who shared with the members her interest in "Sleeping Children Around The World."

The organization began in 1970 by Mr. and Mrs. Murray Dryden (parents of David, Ken

and Judy). Mr. Dryden is 88-years-old and is still very much involved.

This group provides bedkits to children who will benefit the most in underdeveloped countries. Contents vary from country to country but consist of a groundsheet, mattress, sheets, blanket or mosquito netting, pyjamas, sweater or other clothing and personal care items. Since it began, over 475,000 children in 31 countries have benefited.

When asked why Mr. Dryden sends this relief to other countries rather than to Canada his reply was, "I know the difference between being poor in Canada and being poor in Bangladesh. Remember, they have no welfare system, no Medicare and very few charitable organizations in these countries. It is when there is so little hope for people, such as those people in developing countries, that we must work to improve

conditions. And of course, is that they, too, are God's children."

The organization is run 100% by volunteers out of Mr. Dryden's home in Toronto. To support a child by buying a bedkit the cost would be \$30.00. Once the bedkit has been given to a child, a picture is taken and sent back showing the child and the bedkit that was provided.

Mrs. Morden brought so much enthusiasm with her that members felt the need she spoke of. Cheryl Garvin thanked Mrs. Morden for sharing her worthwhile interest with the members.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served by Brenda Silcox, Cheryl Garvin and Pauline Silcox.

Next meeting will be on December 15th at the home of Pat Palmer. Please feel free to come.



GROCERY
B2/69

SCAW

NEWSLETTER



28 Pinehurst Crescent
Islington, Ontario, Canada M9A 3A5

Phone: (416) 231-1841

Fax: (416) 231-0120

E-mail: scaw@idirect.com

Web Address: www.scaw.org

A charitable organization founded by Margaret and Murray Dryden

(1)February, 2000

CHENNAI, INDIA: January 24 - February 2, 2000

2,000 BEDKITS and 1,000 LAYETTES

GARY JEWITT
CLINTON, ONTARIO

This year, the SCAW distribution team arrived in Chennai (Madras), India on the country's Republic Day. January 26, 2000 was the 50th anniversary of the Republic of India.

Headlines in the newspaper that day quoted President Narayanan saying, "... Ignoring the poor is dangerous". Dwelling on the country's contrasts, he said, "India had the largest reservoir of technical personnel, it also had the world's largest illiterate population and the largest number of people below the poverty line".

Since 1970, Sleeping Children Around the World has been involved in bedkit distributions in India. Mr. Dryden not only saw the needs, he had a vision and long term commitment to improve conditions for thousands of the neediest children and families in the country. This distribution was part of that commitment.

Before the arrival of our distribution team, in India, much work had already been done. The funds provided by you, the donors, had been sent to India. The Rotary procurement committee indicated that they were able to negotiate excellent prices for articles because they had the cash to pay immediately. Local people, companies and cottage industries were employed to produce the bedkits and layettes. The procurement committee were able to assemble an excellent bedkit with 24 items, all for the \$30 you donated. They also had the responsibility of producing 1,000 infant layettes with 28 items for distribution to infants up to three-months-old.

The distribution of bedkits and layettes took place at six locations in and around Chennai. Distribution sites were selected by the Rotary Club. The sites must be as close as possible to recipient families, have reasonable security, and have settings for the photographs to be taken. In most cases, bedkit photos are taken outside. Infant layette distributions however, are conducted indoors. Attempts are made to include some local cultural, or item(s) of interest, in the background for the photos. The actual day of distribution is very exciting, especially for the recipients, but also for local organizers and, of course, our Canadian overseas distribution team. It is the culmination of thousands of hours of volunteer work, both in Canada and in India.

In discussion with donors and other interested people, I have found the most asked question is "How are the poorest of the poor children selected?" In Chennai, the selection committee have developed a process using the knowledge and expertise from local schools staff, medical and health workers. In order to avoid confusion and mistakes on distribution days, SCAW requires a full list with children's names, addresses and ages. Our Canadian Overseas Travelling Volunteers made contact with each and every recipient on your behalf. Their appreciation shows in their eyes and their quiet "Thank you's!" Yes, unfortunately, there are other children who also require assistance, and with your support perhaps a bedkit just may be supplied to them next year.

SCAW has made a difference and continues to do so in India and around the world. Rotary International's motto "Service Above Self" fits the philosophy of the

founder of Sleeping Children Around the World, Murray Dryden. So far the partnership between the Rotary Club of Ambattur and you, our donor, have over the years, distributed over 16,000 bedkits and 4,000 layettes to the neediest children in Chennai and surrounding area.

It was reinforced with me in India this year that there is a difference between being poor in Canada and being poor in India. They have no welfare system in India, no Medicare and live with little hope. SCAW comes into this situation to provide a basic need. As Mr. Dryden says, "The better reason is that they, too, are God's children".

MAGGIE HAINS
STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO

This was my first trip with SCAW, and I would like to describe the preparations that preceded our actual journey.

My first step was sending in an application form, and then I was interviewed by the SCAW selection committee. At that time, I was informed that there was a waiting list of people wanting to be part of a team to distribute the bedkits to the various countries.

I left the meeting feeling inspired, and excited about this organization. I also had the pleasurable opportunity of meeting Murray Dryden that day.

Shortly after that meeting, I was informed that I qualified to be an Overseas Volunteer. I eventually received the call, "Would I like to join a team to distribute bedkits in Chennai, India?"

(continued on page 2)

SCAW - 30TH ANNIVERSARY - 1970-2000 - 503,600 BEDKITS TO-DATE

Shedden WI Christmas meeting

Twelve members were present when Shedden Women's Institute met at the home of Pat Palmer to hold their December meeting.

The meeting opened with the Mary Stuart Collect and Institute Ode. Roll call was an exchange of favourite recipes at Christmas. The minutes were adopted as read and the treasurer's report given. Correspondence included the announcement of a Lit-

eracy Program that will be available for members to promote before June of 2000 in their branches.

A collection was taken as well as the gifts of food and non perishables for the Christmas Care. The meeting was then handed over to the convener Pat Palmer.

A sing song, led by Kay Chamberlain, was enjoyed around the piano. Following the music, members made

the annual Christmas craft that each year they make to display their talent to their family members. A little elf was constructed using felt and a block. As lunch was being prepared a contest was completed.

Lunch was served by Pat Palmer, Sharon

Welch and Carol Gordon. A time of fellowship was enjoyed.

The January meeting will be held at Bethany United Church when Mary Krebs from the Village Pantry Boutique will demonstrate egg decoration. All are welcome.

COMMUNITY

Roll call becomes recipe exchange at WI

BY PAT PALMER

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Twelve members were present when Shedden Women's Institute met at the home of Pat Palmer to have their December meeting.

The meeting opened with the Mary Stewart Collect and Institute Ode. The

roll call was an exchange of members favourite recipe at Christmas.

The correspondence included the announcement of a literacy program that will be available for members to promote before June of 2000 in their branches.

A collection was taken as well as the gifts of food and non perishables for the

Christmas Care.

A sing-song led by Kay Chamberlain was enjoyed around the piano. Following the music, members made the annual Christmas craft that each year members make to display their talent to their family members. A little elf was constructed using felt and a block.

As lunch was being prepared, a contest was completed. Lunch was served by committee Mrs. Palmer, Sharon Welch and Carol Gordon.

The January meeting will be held at Bethany United Church when Mary Krebs from the Village Pantry Boutique will demonstrate egg decoration.

Shedden Women's Institute enjoy craft demonstration

Fourteen members of Shedden Women's Institute met at the Bethany United Church on January 26th for the first meeting in the year 2000. Motto was "Who is wise? He that learns from everyone."

The roll call: "Name a craft you would like to try" was answered with various ideas for something they would like to try different. Topics such as quilting, caneing, tatting, appliqueing, to name a few.

Minutes and treasurer's reports were heard. Many thank you's were read from charities that the W.I. had given donations to over the Christmas season. Tweedsmuir Curator Dora McArthur reported the completion of her latest project that she had been working on. One card had been sent for remembrance and thank you's were received from Margaret Campbell and Ilene Orchard.

The Elgin County Museum report was given. A fundraising dance will be held at the Memorial Arena. A new digital camera had been installed at the museum, as well as carpet and flooring. The rug hooking course was well attended.

The Winter Picnic was to be held at Fin-

gal United Church on February 16th. Denise Maton volunteered to donate an item toward the penny table. Jean Palmer, Brenda Silcox and Denise Maton will be responsible for the 5 minute presentation.

A donation was given to Pat Palmer for the Shedden 4-H Club. The next club topic will teach how to make pies, decorate cakes, make cookies, pizzas, etc.

Convenor Pauline Silcox introduced Mary Krebs from the Village Pantry Boutique who demon-

strated how to make pot pourri hearts. Members enjoyed their craft time.

Mary was thanked by Sharon Welch and lunch followed, served by Pauline, Ruth Hunter and Sharon.

The next meeting will be at the Bethany United Church on February 23rd when Dr. Doug Poolley will speak on Future Health Care. All welcome.

Shedden W.I. meeting

Chiropractor speaks on future health care

BY PAT PALMER

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

Twelve members of the Shedden Women's Institute met at the Bethany United Church for their February meeting, Family and Consumer Affairs.

The roll call for the meeting was "What do you expect in future health care?" Many concerns were voiced. Some felt we are very fortunate to have professional care on our doorsteps compared to other countries. Some felt more volunteers could be very helpful to relieve the financial burden to the system.

Motto for the evening was: Laughter is a massage from the inside out.

Carol Gordon introduced the speaker, Dr. Doug Pooley, a chiro-

practor who spoke on future health care. He stressed also that no other place in the world receives better health care than we in Canada do. The advancements are incredible. He stated he feels in the future there will be more partnership with the different health care levels. Doctors, chiropractors, acupuncture specialists and even the use of herbal medicine will all be more accepted by each other. The key to long term good health is maintaining your health on a daily basis. Like the saying "Prevention is the best medicine."

Dora McArthur thanked Dr. Pooley for his wealth of knowledge and for sharing it with us.

The business portion of the meeting was conducted beginning with secretary's minutes and treasurer's report. The card convener reported

nine cards were mailed.

Brenda Silcox gave the Winter Picnic report. A very informative as well as entertaining evening was held at the Winter Picnic at the Fingal United Church.

Correspondence included: an invitation to the Sparta Women's Institute Tea at the Forge and Anvil on April 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon; an invitation to Erland Lee's opening day fundraiser to enjoy pancakes on April 14.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was enjoyed. Committee for the evening was Carol Gordon, Dorothy McLaughlin, and Dora McArthur.

The next meeting will be at Bethany United Church on March 29 where the speaker will be Jeanne McLaws from the Alzheimer Society. All welcome.

Easter egg hunt April 22 in Shedden

By PAT PALMER
FOR THE TIMES JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Suzanne Mezenberg, education coordinator for the Alzheimer Society, was the guest speaker at the March meeting of the

Shedden Women's Institute.

Alzheimer disease is a neurological degenerative disorder of the brain. One in 13 over the age of 65, or more than 300,000 Canadians have Alzheimer dis-

ease and related dementias. It is estimated that the number will be as high as three-quarters of a million by 2031.

Currently, there is no known cure, but the Alzheimer Society funds

research into a cause and a cure for the disease with the hope that one day this disease will only be a memory. The society provides support in groups or one-on-one, helps individuals find programs

and services, promote public education and awareness, established the nationwide Alzheimer Wandering Registry, provides educational tools and resources for caregivers and members of the health care team. Their motto is Help for Today, Hope for Tomorrow.

For more information or support, contact the Elgin-St. Thomas Alzheimer Society located at 98 Centre St., St. Thomas, 633-4396. Sharon Welch thanked Ms. Mezenberg for her interesting presentation and presented her with a donation on behalf of the WI.

The motto for the evening was "A friend is a gift you give yourself." The roll call was answered by telling one characteristic that all your friends have in common.

In the museum report, Ms. Welch told us a new carpet was to be installed

in the meeting room.

On April 22, there will be an Easter egg hunt for the kids. April 19 is Pioneer Days, and May 13 is the Mother-Daughter Tea.

On May 22, the second annual Artisan's Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Jean Palmer reported for the Elgin Manor. Elgin Manor Volunteers are invited to the volunteer luncheon on April 27 at 1 p.m.

An invitation was received to attend the Kensington Club Tea on May 3 at 7:15 p.m. in the Lawrence Station Hall. The ladies decided to once again make rhubarb jam to sell at Rosy Rhubarb Days, June 9-11.

The next meeting will be held at Bethany United Church, April 26, at 7:30 p.m.

Pauline Silcox thanked the convener, Cheryl Garvin and her committee.

