

COMMUNITY

Shedden WI prepping for plant sale

By **CONNIE SILCOX**
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — "Bring a brown bag gift for a Women's Institute friend for a good year, and dues for the coming year" was the roll call for the April meeting for the Shedden Women's Institute as the members were welcomed to the home of president Pat Palmer.

Sharon Lemming previewed the handcrafted needle cases that our branch will be donating to the London Area Convention in August.

A discussion was held in regards to the micro-filming of our Tweedsmuir History books. Dora MacArthur will investigate this matter with the Elgin County Archives and inform the members of her findings at the next meeting.

Our perennials sale will be held on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to 10:30

a.m. at the D.A. Monteith Medical Centre in Shedden. Please bring your donations to the store or to Pat or Carol on the Friday before the sale.

The Elgin District Annual is to take place on Wednesday, May 17, starting at 5:30 p.m. with a pot-luck dinner at St. James Presbyterian Church hosted by North Yarmouth Women's Institute. Bring your own cup, plate and cutlery. Each branch is to bring a donation for the strawberry social, Pennies for Friendship, an item for the country craft table at the area convention and is to tell about two programs held during the last year.

Volunteers were arranged to help out at the tuck shop for May 8, July 17 and Sept. 11. Work bees were set up to make jam for Rosy Rhubarb Days.

Installation of officers for 2006-2007 was per-

formed by Jean Palmer during the annual meeting.

Our president, Pat Palmer, was honoured with the presentation of her life membership badge and certificate. Pat has been a very active member in our branch since she joined in 1981 and has held several offices and been quick to volunteer whenever needed. A very valuable member and a much-de-

served award!

Members tested their memories with a contest concerning former and present Women's Institutes before getting their yearly viewing of our Tweedsmuir History books.

Dora McArthur, our curator, brought out both books and the scrapbook and pointed out a few of the new additions before reminiscing began on his- tory old and new. Great job, Dora.

A luncheon of fruit

bread and cheese and refreshments rounded out the evening.

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday, May 24, at Bethany United Church. Special guest speaker will be Scott Stafford.

2006

Amputee hockey star guest at Shedden WI

By **SHARON WELCH**
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Scott Stafford, a member of the Canadian Olympic amputee hockey team, was the MVP at the May 24 meeting of Shedden Women's Institute.

Scott had just returned from Riga, Latvia, where the Canadian team played in the world championship and defeated five other teams in taking away the top medal.

Each member of the

team raises money to finance their trips themselves, and the players, who come from across the country, range in age from 16 to 40. Scott is the youngest member of the team. To keep in shape between tournaments, the team plays exhibition and charity games across Canada.

Twelve WI members and two guests participated in the presentation by addressing personal preferences and observations

about the Olympic Games and amateur sport.

During the business portion of the meeting, members again volunteered to work in the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop over the summer.

A review of this year's perennials sale, held May 20 in Shedden, was presented and discussion followed about the Kensington Club Tea, the Iona Willing Workers Tea and the Elgin District Women's Institute annual

meeting.

The final tally for volunteer hours was reported and the ladies of the Elgin district contributed 11,000 hours to their communities. Community involvement and support continues to be a driving force in the WI.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 27, and the Friendship Challenge was extended for each of the members to bring a friend.

WI learns turkey industry

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

Shedden Women's Institute Branch held its first meeting of the new season on Sept. 27 with Anne Oegema as the Keynote Speaker for the evening.

Anne spoke about the turkeys and how they are raised, and sold at Oegema Turkey Farms.

In 1982 when the Turkey Shoppe opened it sold 125 turkeys for Christmas, and the third generation of Oegema family will sell over 2,500 fresh and frozen turkeys

for Christmas this year. Anne also told the meeting about their new wind turbine, imported from Holland, and its capacity for creating energy to meet the needs of the farm operation.

Fundraising efforts of the May Perennial Sale and Rosy Rhubarb Days were very successful. Our entries for the Shedden Fair were well rewarded also.

The Shedden Women's Institute will hold its next meeting on Oct. 25 at the

home of B. Silcox with a fun evening about "laughter" on the program.

A little comedy for Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute Branch held its meeting Oct. 25 at the home of Brenda Silcox, and laughter was the aim of the evening.

After the Institute Ode, the Mary Stewart Collect and two short jokes by the president, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and reports were given regarding the treasurer, the welcoming committee, the District Annual Meeting, and our invitation to our Twin Branch of Crinan. All events were enjoyed by those who attended.

A short business meeting was conducted and then it was on to the events of the evening. A comedic reading was presented by Brenda Silcox, while Sharon Leeming set up the movie for the evening, Over the Hedge, a delightfully animated flick full of laughter and fun.

When the movie was over, members proceeded to the dining room, where Halloween had taken over, for lunch with spiders in the punch, and gummy worms in the cup cakes.

"You don't stop laughing, when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing." The Shedden Women's Institute will hold its next meeting on Nov. 22 at Bethany United Church.

Shedden Women's Institute *Puzzles, games and Christmas fun*

2006

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL
SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute Branch held it's November and December meetings at the Bethany United Church and the home of member Sharon Welch-Leeming respectively.

The theme for the November meeting was puzzles and games. After the business part of the meeting where we donated some of our hard-earned money to various charities and hospitals we took some time to learn about crossword puzzles, Jumbles, Sudoku and Wonderword. Samples of all of these word puzzles were available and we played

them all. Much fun was had by the ladies that evening.

December meeting was spent learning some trivia about Christmas and its origins. While Christmas music played in the background, we gathered around the table to make our own glass tree ornaments, painted and decorated with glitter, to hang on our trees for Christmas.

There were 50 items of trivia about Christmas to be read aloud during lunch, with cranberry loaf and hot cider, cheese and fruit.

Did you know that Nova Scotia leads the world

in live Christmas tree production? And that the Christmas buying season was extended and advertised during the Second World War so that gifts could be sent to the soldiers overseas in time for Christmas?

Did you know that Christmas trees are edible?

What about the fact that a day for remembering the birth of Jesus Christ was set aside as early as 125 - 136 A.D.?

Our next meeting will be held Jan. 24, discussing the advantages of living on the farm.

Shedden WI recalls early days on the farm

By SHARON WELCH
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute held its Jan. 24 meeting at Bethany United Church and roll call took us back to early days on the farm.

After the reading of the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect, nine members recalled many things about their childhood on the farm for the roll call — like milking the cows, feeding the chickens, gathering the eggs and "cousins" visiting from the city.

Following the business part of the meeting, Jean Palmer read a poem, Hay-ing Time, to introduce guest speaker Carl Chamberlain who compared "farming then" to "farming today."

When he began working on the farm, for \$2 a day, it was with a team of horses, Min and Prince, helping with the haying. The corn crop yielded 40-50 bushels/acre. Today the tonnage is 100-200 bushels/acre. Wheat yielded 35 bushels/acre with more straw than it

does today. Now the yield is 100 bushels/acre. One of the first combines was five feet long and was pulled behind a tractor. Today our combines have headers that are 24 feet long, have computers and air conditioning. The best invention in machinery was hydraulics, making a

farmer's life much easier. The Women's Institute Winter Picnic is Feb. 21 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Firgall, starting at noon. This is a pot-luck event and every member who attends always has a good time. Kingsmill/Mapleton WI will celebrate its 100th anniversary

on Feb. 8 at the Belmont Odd Fellows Hall. Congratulations to Kingsmill/Mapleton from the Shedden membership. Lunch, with angel food cake and toppings, was enjoyed by all, with conversation of farming stories from the "Good Old Days."

Our next meeting is Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m., at Bethany United. The men have been invited to this evening of "young musical guests" and the Bethany UICW ladies have agreed to join us for pot-luck to begin the evening. It promises to be very entertaining.

Music for the soul at Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute Branch held its Feb. 28 meeting at Bethany United Church with the members answering the roll call by naming their favourite type of music.

Bethany rang with laughter and music as some of the community's finest musicians played for the group, including the United Church Women's group and the family and friends of WI and UCW members.

A pot-luck supper was served first and then the solos and duets on piano, guitar, drums, and saxophones were played for the attendees. A history of the bagpipes was given before a serenade by the same.

After the reading of the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect, a short business meeting was held with the naming of the nominating committee for next year's slate of officers and the setting of a date for presenting Ruth Hunter with her life membership pin and certificate.

April 14 was announced as the day for the Cancer Tea to be held at the Bobier Home in Dutton from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and the Wallace-town WI 95th Anniversary Tea will be held on April 15 at the Wallace-town Hall.

CONTADORA ISLAND

The March meeting of Shedden WI was well-attended as Carol Gordon took us on her trip to Con-

tadora Island, Panama.

The pristine beaches, and lovely resorts on this small island of two square miles off the west coast of Panama was touted as an island paradise, with snorkeling, fishing, swimming in the ocean or just relaxing on the beach.

Just watch out for the jelly fish!

Ms. Gordon gave us a history of the area and mentioned that it was 96 to 104 degrees F in the daytime (35 to 40C) and a temperate 75 to 85 degrees (23 to 29) at night.

A moment of silence was observed to remember Maxine Silcox, and then the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect were recited to start the business part of the meeting.

Members were asked to tell about "their most embarrassing moment when traveling" and there was lots of laughter at their plights.

A thank-you was extended to Pauline Silcox and Jean Palmer for volunteering at the Elgin Manor in March.

The annual perennials sale will be held again this year. Watch for the notices and get your perennials for your garden. Our Toonie Draw winner for the evening was Brenda Silcox.

Lunch and tea were served and Brenda Silcox made the courtesy thanks to the committee.

Members are reminded to bring their meeting plans for next year's booklets to the April meeting.

2007

New officers set for Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Shedden Women's Institute had it's annual meeting in April at Bethany United Church and a new slate of officers was installed.

With that in mind, the new meeting roster was set for 2007-08 and Sharon Welch agreed to print and deliver the new booklets for the May meeting.

With new president Carol Gordon at the helm, the May meeting was held at the home of Pat Palmer.

The new booklets were distributed with a great lineup of meetings for the coming months.

The Perennials Sale was discussed.

Donations for the Rehoboth Home were received and the roll call of "an eye opener you've discovered while traveling" was answered by 12 members.

Our program for the evening featured Jean

Palmer, talking to us about "Barnardo Boys."

Does everyone know who they were?

Lots of children came from England in the years preceding the First World War. Because of the industrial revolution in Britain, there were many men out of work, and many families living in the Poor House. Thousands of these children were found on the streets, living from hand to mouth, and Dr. Thomas John Barnardo was one of the rescuers of these children.

He found them homes in Canada and raised the money to send them here, with a small trunk, and a

promise of better things to come. Some of those promises came true, some did not. Lots of families in southwestern Ontario are descendants of those children, who arrived here, on boats from England, to work on the farms in Ontario.

A light lunch of rhubarb cake and ice cream was served (Rosy Rhubarb Days are coming!) and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The next meeting of Shedden WI is to be held Sept. 26, 2007, at Bethany United Church, 7:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Jane Carder on "The Wonder of the Orient." New members welcome.

Food, Fun and Frivolity

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — The Shedden Women's Institute Branch held its December meeting at the home of member Sharon Welch-Leeming near Melbourne, Ont.

Opening the meeting with a smile in mind, president Carol Gordon read a poem called Food, Fun and Frivolity.

The Institute Ode was sung a capella and the Mary Stewart Collect was recited to begin the business part of the meeting.

In the spirit of the season, the business meeting was kept short with the reading of reports, paying of bills, and recognition of the thank-you notes and receipts for donations in November.

The roll call, "Tell what is at the top of your Christmas wish list," was answered by 11 members and one guest with wishes for peace, health, safety, having the family home

for the holidays, a maid/chef, and reconnecting with old friends.

Help was arranged for the second Monday in January for the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop and then the fun and social part of the evening began.

Gathering around the kitchen table with many coloured glass beads in hand, each member made their own bracelet (although many were opting to hang them on the Christmas tree instead).

While lunch was being served, the ladies broke out in song. With lots of Christmas tunes and laughter, a delicious coffee cake and three-tiered Jell-O dessert was enjoyed with tea and coffee.

Carol Gordon extended the courtesy remarks and thanks for the evening to the committee.

The January meeting is to be held at Bethany United Church.

2007

AN EVENING WITH CELINE DION

In keeping with the musical theme of the evening, Carol Gordon opened the meeting with a welcome to all and played a song entitled "Remember Me" which was written and recorded by Joanne Does, a member of the Shedden community.

Following the Institute Ode and Mary Stuart Collect, members answered the roll call by naming their favourite songs. The motto "Walk through life with a spring in your step and a song in your heart." The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario Conference will be held June 6 - 8 in Kingston. Early registration is March 1st with the final registration by April 1, 2008. Our Winter Picnic will be held at Fingal United Church on February 27, 2008 hosted by Yarmouth Glen and Boxall. Enough of the business part of the meeting - let's get to Celine Dion.

With Connie Silcox as convenor for the evening we had to guess who the Canadian Singer was. A poster of the "star" with strategically placed removable papers over it. By playing - name that tune-, members had to guess what song was being played on the piano. With each correct answer a paper was removed from the poster and eventually, the star appeared! Celine Deon. A true "Singing" Noteworthy Canadian. To find out about her life, Connie had printed out in sentence form some points of her story. She then cut each sentence in half, mixed up the pieces, and we had to match them up. After doing so, they were arranged in the order in which they had happened. Voila - the story of Celine Deon. Thanks Connie for the evening of fun. I'll bet Celine hasn't played that small and enthusiastic a venue in a long time.

We then enjoyed a nice cup of hot tea or coffee, fruit bread and cheese. Pauline Silcox gave the courtesy remarks for a most enjoyable evening to Connie and her committee, Dora McArthur and Brenda Silcox.

January, 2008

COMMUNITY

2008

Police called to Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — Vice-president Connie Silcox, members and their husbands met for the February meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute.

The evening began by singing the Institute Ode.

Connie Silcox then got a chuckle out of all by reading excerpts from the Darwin Awards — strange police calls.

The motto was the Ontario Police College Motto ... Training Today for a Better Tomorrow.

Everyone answered the roll call: Why do we need law enforcement?

Family, community and consumer affairs convener Brenda Silcox then introduced the guest

speakers, London police officers — a secondary school resource officer (one of five in the city of London), and a member of the Investigative Response Unit (one of 12 in the unit).

The secondary school resource officer does patrol work, deals with theft, assault, drug and alcohol abuse and presents a drug- and alcohol-awareness program and a drunk-driving program at the Grade 11 level in high schools.

The officer related one marijuana to seven tobacco cigarettes. It was also noted that the meth-amphetamine capital is southwestern Ontario. The members of the Investigative Response Unit track down the

"wanted" criminals in London. There are 3,500 wanted people in the city, accounting for approximately one per cent of the population.

The officers also brought the computer on which police access information by vehicle licence plates.

They also had members try a pair of goggles simulating what it is like to be drunk in the daylight and another pair of goggles simulating what it would be like at night.

They also touched on fraud. Right now a popular scam is the Nigerian letter scam and counterfeit money. Elderly people are targets.

Pat Palmer thanked the offi-

cers on the behalf of the group for their insight into policing and presented them with a gift of appreciation. While answering a few general questions, the officers, members and their guests enjoyed a delicious desserts lunch served by Brenda Silcox, Doris Molnar and Pat Palmer.

Members then met for a short business meeting. The 95th anniversary of the Shedden Women's Institute is fast approaching and a celebration is in order. Pat Palmer volunteered to research dinner and a play at Port Stanley and report back with her findings. It sounds like that is going to be an evening to enjoy.

Jean Palmer and Doris Molnar attended the Winter Picnic on Feb. 27 at Fingal United Church.

The Shedden Fair Board will hold Quilts in Bloom at the Keystone Complex on April 18 and 19.

It was agreed we would hold the perennials sale in May. This committee has been Carol Gordon, Cheryl Garvin and Pat Palmer. Items required for the Shedden Fair List were read. Members are to think about what Shedden WI might be able to complete for entries.

The next meeting will be an outing to Palmer's Maple Syrup on March 26. A sweet time is expected to be had by all.

Shedden WI travels with the Carders

BY SHARON WELCH
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

2007

Shedden Women's Institute held its September meeting at Bethany United Church.

Carol Gordon, our president opened the meeting with a humorous story about "Lipstick in School" and we continued with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode.

The roll call was answered by 14: "Where would you go to teach English and why?" A very good question.

Our speakers for the evening were Jane and Bill Carder, with Bill doing most of the "roadie" work. Jane has spent the last three years in Korea as headmaster of two international schools.

An international school is like taking a Canadian school and putting it in a foreign country. The students all speak English.

While in Korea, Jane and Bill had the opportunity to travel the area and so they did.

During their holidays they went to Bali, south of the equator, a very lush and mountainous island; the Republic of Singapore, the financial hub of South East Asia; Sentosa, an island that is part of Singapore; the arpeggio of islands called the Phillipines; China, which included the city of Beijing, and Xian where the terracotta soldiers were discovered; then on to Cambodia and Thailand, where temples 2,000 years old have been uncovered in the jungles - a magnificent sight.

Their pictures and commentary were excellent and much enjoyed.

The minutes of the last meeting were read, and the summer activities discussed.

The perennial sale, always held the last weekend of May was another successful day, while Rosy Rhubarb Days, two weeks later was enthusiastically enjoyed by all of our members and myriads of people from the community and beyond.

Again, another great weekend event.

Thankyou for all the help, making jam, manning the booth, and all the little extras behind the scenes that make Rosy Rhubarb Days the place to be in June.

We also entered items into the Shedden Fair, with a result of two firsts, two seconds and two thirds.

Other business reflected our involvement in the community, with Remembrance Day Services displays, thankyou's from the Rehoboth Home, attendance at the Sept. 17 district meeting, a discussion of the Car-A-Van on Sept. 30 leaving from the Keystone Complex, the Oct. 3 area convention in Kirkton/Woodham, the Dafodil Tea to be held in the spring, and 4-H.

Lunch followed with lemon loaf and fresh fruit, a lively discussion to catch up since our last meeting in May, and a thank you to our committee.

2007

COMMUNITY

A trip around the world for Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — The Women's Institute held its Nov. 28 meeting at the home of Olive Rycroft, who, as speaker of the evening, graciously opened her home to the group.

A retired teacher from the Shedden area, Mrs. Rycroft travelled the world in 30 days with the Retired Teachers Organization of Ontario, based out of Toronto.

She spoke about the excellent people she travelled with and the many stops on her tour, beginning in Edmonton, with dog sledding in Alaska, and several days in Tokyo, the Ho Chi Minh seaport, and Delhi, India.

The highlight of the trip for her, being a history buff, was standing in Istanbul, Turkey, where Marco Polo began and ended so many of his forays into an unknown

world.

President Carol Gordon opened the meeting with a funny story relating the adventures of long-term marriage and then there were the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode.

Roll call was answered by the members telling about many memorable moments experienced on

trips taken by themselves and friends.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and the evening's business was conducted with donations being awarded to the regular recipients at this time of the year.

Thanks were extended to Kay Chamberlain and Jean Palmer for volunteering again at Elgin Manor.

The bazaars of the area were well-attended, and it was noted and appreciated how much work and organization it takes to hold bazaars for the Christmas season.

The Elgin Pioneer Museum Chili Lunch and Pie Sale was held Dec. 6 at the museum.

The 95th anniversary of the Shedden Women's In-

stitute is fast approaching — May 31, 2008.

Lunch followed with tarts, tea and Hawaiian coffee.

Thanks to the committee were extended by Brenda Silcox.

The next meeting is Dec. 19, at Sharon Welch-Leeming's — a time for us to celebrate the Christmas season together.

Shedden WI members look at years

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — The Shedden Women's Institute held its Oct. 24 meeting at Bethany United Church.

Carol Gordon, president, opened the meeting with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Institute Ode.

Roll Call was answered by the members and their guests, "What changes have you seen in Shedden and area during your time here?"

Many of the members have been in Shedden for the major part of their lives and many changes were noted, most regarding the loss of

the hotels, gas stations, furniture and hardware stores and many other businesses over the years.

The loss of the railway was another change, as was the addition of the Southwold Keystone Complex.

Speaker for the evening was Lorne Spicer, who brought his slides, depicting Shedden and area through the years. Many old sites were revisited as he showed the old and the new.

Mr. Spicer takes his slide show to seniors homes where they are much appreciated by the residents.

It was also announced that Kay Chamberlain was presented with a Senior Citizen Award this month.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and the evening's business conducted with reports on the London and Area Convention held in Kirkton-Woodham, Tweedsmuir, Remembrance, and the Car-A-Van. A donation was given to the Shedden Play Safe committee.

Lunch followed. Next meeting is Nov. 28 with a trip around the world with Olive Rycroft.

Shedden WI marks 95 years

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

Ninety-five years ago, the Shedden Women's Institute began with a group of women who celebrated their spirit, their intelligence, their families, their homes and their country with hard work, diligence, duty and community spirit.

Today, they celebrate that spirit again — with a different group of women from Shedden and area, who have been inspired by those who went before us.

On June 25, 12 members and three guests of the Shedden Women's Institute celebrated the 95th Anniversary of the founding of this branch of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario with a dinner at the Wharf Restaurant in Port Stanley and an evening at the Port Stanley Theatre, and a performance of Perfect Wedding.

The play, comedic and raucous at times, quite aptly reflected the 95 years of relationships that the Women's Institute has fostered.

Shedden Women's Institute began as a young,



inexperienced but hopeful group that, with some laughter, some mistakes, some questioning and lots of youthful exuberance, found the right partners, the right associations and the right winning combination to last almost a century.

Many friendships have begun with the Women's Institute and been passed from generation to generation.

There was no business meeting for this night. Instead, much laughter and good fun was had celebrating the founding of the Shedden Women's Institute.

Shedden WI members and guests at Port Stanley Festival Theatre. Front row: Cheryl Garvin, left, Carol Gordon, Brenda Silcox, Kay Chamberlain, Carl Chamberlain, Pauline Silcox. Back row: Connie Silcox, Ethel Minor-Clare, Jean Palmer, Audrey Wilson, Pat Palmer, Mary Anne Caughill, Beth Vicary, Doris Molnar, Sharon Welch-Leeming. Absent: Connie Molnar, Dora McArthur, Ruth Hunter. (Contributed)

A taste of lavender at Shedden WI

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

SHEDDEN — President Carol Gordon opened the September meeting of Shedden Women's Institute with a reading by Julie Andrews.

Her song "My Favourite Things" had been rewritten to have the lyrics reflect on her body changing at age 69.

Roll Call for the meeting was "Lavender is ..."

Many answers were heard including the need for members to know how to grow lavender properly.

The taste of lavender was greatly anticipated as Connie introduced guest speaker Suzanne Steed, from Lavender Blue. Lavender Blue is located in Sparta and grows approximately one acre of lavender plants.

Lavender was originally used by the Egyptians for mummification, bathing and perfumes. There are 30 different species of lavender plants. Ms. Steed explained that the lavender plants are harvested in June and the buds are used for jams, jellies and sachets. Other plants are hung upside down to dry for three to four weeks,

arranging the 95th anniversary outing in June and to Elgin Manor help Jean Palmer, Doris Molnar, Connie Molnar.

Correspondence was received from the Elgin Federation of Agriculture Hall of Fame for the 2009 awards nomination; brochures for this year's Car-A-Van tour of Central Elgin; a public comment sheet from the Township of Southwold for special zoning; a note from member Dora McArthur about the Remembrance Day

program on Nov. 9, where our display will be in place again this year; a congratulatory card for our 95th anniversary from the River Road Women's Institute; a thank-you from the Rehoboth Home for the \$106 donated in a baby bottle, along with their brochure; and the Second Stage Housing newsletter and golf tournament notice.

Reports were received from Pat Palmer about the district meeting, held Sept. 15. The International

Plowing Match is to be held in Elgin in 2010.

JoAnne Erickson is holding a Wellness Fair at the St. Thomas Seniors' Centre, with free admission — topic "Expanding Our Horizons."

The winner of the WI Scholarship of \$500 was Nicole Watson whose essay was titled "4-H A Gift to Last."

The winter picnic is to be held Feb. 18 at Talbotville United Church. The district annual meeting is to be held May 13 at

Bethany United Church, Shedden.

Convener Connie Silcox, along with her committee in absentia of Dora McArthur and Pauline Silcox, presented a luncheon of tea, coffee and muffins (for which some lavender-infused honey and jelly remained).

Carol Gordon extended the courtesy remarks, thanking them for a very informative, aromatic and tasteful evening. Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 22 with the agenda

focusing on "Chinese Adoptions."

then debudded by hand.

At Lavender Blue you can buy jams, jellies, honey, creams, soaps, bath salts, and dried flower arrangements. We were treated with a taste of the honey infused with lavender and lavender jelly, and thoroughly enjoyed the sensation. Connie thanked the guest for coming and sharing her new venture.

The business meeting began with the Institute Ode, the Mary Stewart Collect and the reading of the minutes of the last meeting held in May.

The jam sales from Rosy Rhubarb Days of \$575 and the prize money from the Shedden Fair of \$47 helped to bolster the bank balance for the coming donations to be made. Thank-yous were extended to Pat Palmer for

St. Tho

2008

COMMUNITY

Buda or Pest? Shedden WI knows for sure

BY SHARON WELCH-LEEMING

FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

November's meeting of the Shedden Women's Institute, held at the home of Doris Molnar, was opened by our president, Carol Gordon.

After reciting the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect, 11 members and one guest answered the roll call, "What do you associate with Hungary?"

Most of the answers recalled neighbours and friends from the area, and some recipes. Our motto for the evening was "Don't judge a person by their accent".

Donations were made to our regular charities for the year.

Thank you to our volunteers for the November visit to Elgin Manor on Nov. 10, Pat Palmer and Pauline Silcox.

Jean Palmer and Ethel Clare attended the Frome Fall Favourites Bazaar. The Rebekah Lodge Bazaar was also attended by Jean Palmer and Ethel Clare, where Jean won a gift certificate to M&M Meat Store in St. Thomas. Brenda Silcox helped Jean spend the certificate.

A thank you is extended to Dora McArthur for setting up the Remembrance Day Display again this year. Blair Ferguson was the speaker for the day.

It was reported that approximately 300 persons attended the Palmer Apprecia-

tion Night on Nov. 25. The evening went very well with 17 groups from the area pitching in and working together to make it special for the Palmer clan. Shedden W.I. presented two skits for the entertainment part of the evening, one being sung to the tune of "Johnny Appleseed" and one with four cheerleaders, dressed in Palmer aprons and using stuffed Palmer Environmental Carry Bags for pompoms. The cheerleaders were Connie Silcox, Pauline Silcox, Cheryl Garvin, and Carol Gordon.

The business part of the meeting ended with a collection and donations to the Pennies For Friendship Fund. The rest of the evening was turned over to our hostess and her daughter Sandra for a most interesting tour of Budapest, the capital of Hungary.

Settlers built a centre on both sides of the River Danube and both parts came collectively to be known as Pest.

The name Buda came somewhat later, during the reign of King Béla IV. When Hungary was invaded and devastated by the Mongols (1241-1242), King Béla ordered new castles and fortresses to be built all around the country. He built the first Royal Palace in Buda on what became known as Castle Hill. The Royal Palace grew ever larger until its zenith was reached under King Matthias (ruled

1458-1490).

Pest also prospered at this time, and Matthias raised it to equal rank with Buda. In between the two, contemporary records show that Margaret Island was home not only to several monasteries but also to a castle built by the crusaders.

Following the dire Hungarian defeat at the Battle of Mohács (1526) the Turks sacked and burned Buda. Pest and Óbuda, too, suffered dreadfully as a result of the century-and-a-half of Turkish rule that followed. Buda was freed from Turkish rule on 2nd September, 1686, and so began the next period of development.

In 1777 Empress Maria Theresa had the country's only scientific university moved from Nagyszombat (today Trnava in Slovakia). Emperor Joseph II later switched it from Buda to Pest, a move which promoted a big growth in Hungarian-language literature and in due course theatre, because up until that time the dominant language of culture in Buda had been German. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Kisfaludy Társaság, and the National Theatre together played a pivotal role in the social development of the city.

The next challenge was the building of the first permanent bridge over the River Danube — the Chain Bridge, today still the most recognizable symbol of the city

— and the logical conclusion of that was the legislative unification in 1873 of Buda, Pest and Óbuda into one city — Budapest.

The Second World War, however, had a catastrophic effect. Apart from the horrifying cost in terms of human casualties, the architectural splendour of the city was brought to ruin. Every one of the bridges over the River Danube was blown up by the retreating Germans. These the authorities managed to replace within four years.

Covering an area of two hundred square miles and divided into 23 administrative districts, it is home today to a population of 1.8 million people. Budapest possesses a rich and fascinating history as well as a vibrant cultural heritage. Recognizing the unique value of its traditions it has managed to maintain its magic and charm, and is rightly known as the Queen of the Danube.

Cheryl Garvin extended the members thank-yous to our convener Doris Molnar and her committee of Pat Palmer and Beth Vicary. Green tea, coffee and lovely sweets of poppy seed cake, apple pastries and sweet wontons were served for the luncheon. Our next meeting on Dec. 17 will discuss the topic of autism.