
History Summary of
West Elgin
Daffodil Auxiliary Cancer Fund

About 1956 a local doctor's wife started driving cancer patients for treatment, doing home care duties and even helping financially. In due time, others came to her rescue with financial assistance – particularly the Women's Institute. Bear in mind that was a period prior to any government medical plans.

In 1967 the Daffodil Auxiliary applied for a charity number so receipts could be issued to individuals contributing to either the Welfare Fund or Cancer Fund.

For over 28 years a Quilting Group from the hamlet of Fingal has donated a special quilt for a draw to raise money for cancer patients.

An increasing number of people over the past 15 years have made memorial donations in lieu of flowers.

These two sources of funds have allowed caregivers to attend to the needs of local patients and make sizeable donations to local hospitals and Medical Centres.

Listed are some of the larger donations made by the Daffodil Auxiliary (Cancer) from 1990 on –

1990 – To St Thomas Elgin General Hospital, funds to make available the first Palliative Care Room for seriously ill patients and their family members.

1991 - To Four Counties Hospital, the same amount given to make the first Palliative Care Room there also. (A plaque is still on the door of that special room.)

1995 – Another donation to the St Thomas Elgin Hospital Radiology Department - for a Special Reclining Chair for ladies being tested for Breast Cancer.

1995 – To Four Counties Hospital towards the purchase of and Electric Bed.

1995 – To Camp Trillium to help children with cancer to attend a special Family Camp.

1997 – To the Building Project of the Bobier Villa Nursing Home.

1999 – To the Bobier Villa towards the purchase of a Mechanical Life.

2001 – To St Thomas Elgin General Hospital to purchase a Vital Signs Monitor.

2003 – To the Bobier Villa for a Special Release Mattress.

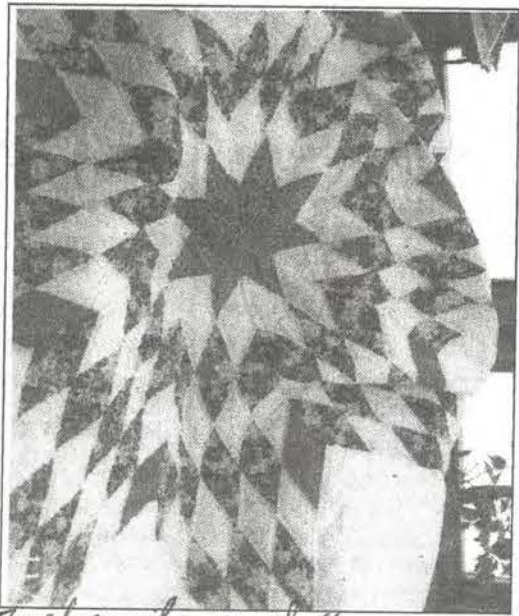
2003 – To the Building Project of Elgin Community Health Centre.

To my knowledge there is not another Registered Organization in Ontario or Canada that can raise funds for cancer and not be required to forward the funds to the Cancer Society.

N.B. – In April for many years you have purchased Daffodils and sponsored individuals participating in the “Great Ride”. Those funds are all forwarded to Toronto.

I am sure there is no one reading this report that has not contributed to the Daffodil Auxiliary Welfare.

Norma McMillan



Cancer Tea

Fingal quilters have made and donated a quilt for the draw for the past 28 years. Ruby McGugan has made and donated a quilt for the last 4 years. Heather McAdam has donated \$100 of scrapbooking supplies. Tea has been hosted by all the Elgin Women's Institutes over the years. This year, Cowal and Wallacetown are hosting it at Bobier Villa April 12 at 9:00 a.m. Tickets are available from all Women's Institute members for the draw. All proceeds are donated to the West Elgin Daffodil Auxiliary to aid local cancer patients.

The chronicle quilt ¹⁰ SUBMITTED 2008

CANCER TEA & RAFFLE

Saturday, April 12

9:00am - 11:30am ²⁰⁰⁸

Draw at 11:30am

BOBIER VILLA - DUTTON

1st prize ~ Handmade Quilt

2nd prize ~ \$100 Scrap booking supplies

*Sponsored by: Cowal & Wallacetown Women's Institutes
All proceeds go to the West Elgin Daffodil Society(Cancer)*



Leola Lawrence and Norma McMillian

Baked Table



Helen Van Breuk -

Heather McAdam.

CANCER TEA, APRIL 12, 2008
BOBIER VILLA, DUTTON
9 AM — 11:30 AM

It is so wonderful that the Women's Institutes of Elgin County are so willing to support the Cancer Society with the proceeds from their annual Daffodil Tea. April is Cancer month and we are so pleased that everyone can give a helping hand. In 2008 this annual affair is being hosted by the Wallacetown W.I. and the Cowal W.I.

We are asking that each Branch bring:

2 loaves of fruit bread - One sliced and buttered and one not sliced.

Items for sale for **The bake table, the white elephant table, and the craft table**
(Please bring items marked plainly with the price)

Wallacetown will look after arranging these tables and organizing the kitchen but we need helpers and servers to work in half hour shifts. *(two ladies each branch)*

1 for the sales table and 1 for serving

Boxall and Shedden	9 a.m. to 9:30
River Road and Crinan	9:30 to 10:00
Paynes Mills and Middlemarch	10:00 to 10:30
Clachan and Yarmouth Glen	10:30 to 11:00
Kingsmill Mapleton Calton	11:00 to 11:30

West Lorne will look after ticket sales and drawing for the winner at 11:30

West Elgin Daffodil Aux. would like to thank Cowal, Wallacetown, all Elgin Women's Institutes, Kensington Club and Bobier Villa for hosting the Cancer Tea & Raffle. To Ruby McGugan for the beautiful quilt - won by Mary Veenstra to Heather MacAdam for the scrap-booking supplies won by Pauline Lindsay, to Dutton Flowers for table arrangements won by Beth Peternel, Pat Zegers, Louie Lackey, Marg Carroll & Beth Farrelly and to all attending and supporting the cause. Over \$2,300 was raised. Thanks to all for your generosity. April 17/2008



WEST ELGIN DAFFODIL AUXILIARY

We lend a helping hand
to local cancer patients
in Aldborough, Dunwich
and Southwold Townships

-768-1526 or 762-3721



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WE OFFER

DAFFODIL AUXILIARY LIMITED ASSISTANCE:

Thames Lodge Accomodation
Parking Fees
Ambulance (if medically required)

RENTAL OF:

Hospital Beds
Wheelchairs
Walkers
Bath Chairs
Raised Toilet Seats
Food Supplements (Ensure)
Non Drug Plan Medications
Additional Medical Costs

ALSO AVAILABLE

FOOD DRIVE BRANCH

Food For Families In Need
519-762-5757

HISTORY

Founded in 1956 by Mrs. Helen Saunders (McKishnie) who assisted cancer patients by driving, home care, and financial support. At this time Canada had no medical coverage. The Daffodil Auxiliary was chartered in 1967 before the Canadian Cancer Society. This fact allows us to keep and spend all of the money raised locally for cancer patients. Women's Institutes, Dutton Meadows golf tournament, and memorial donations have a major role in our fundraising.



**WEST ELGIN
DAFFODIL
AUXILIARY**

ANNUAL BRANCH EDUCATION ROSE CONVENORS REPORT
YEAR ENDING MARCH 31st, 2008

Wallacetown Women's Institute

Educational Rose Convenor

Mrs. Kay Waite
11047 Miller Rd.
Dutton, Ontario
Tel. 519 762 5754

Agriculture

- Speaker — Allan & Kay Lilley, Wallacetown, gave a report and showed a video of their trip to Alberta. They visited the parliament buildings, botanical gardens, Edmonton mall and Jasper National Park. The surrounding farm land was beautiful. 2 hours in length with many questions being answered.
- Roll Call — What has been your favourite trip?
- Discussion
- Final preparations on the Daffodil Tea being held at the Bobier Villa on April 14th.
 - The success of our 95th Anniversary held on May 3rd.
 - Our volunteer hours as a group.
 - "Birds of Spring Coffee Break" at the Iona Hall on April 28th.
 - Elgin County District Annual, South Dunwich Hall on May 17th. Who can help?
 - 100th Anniversary of the Elgin County District.

Citizenship and Legislation

- Program — Movie " The Queen "
- Roll Call — Our comments on the movie.
- Discussion
- Re-investing our G.I.C.
 - Who will donate fruit bread for the Daffodil Tea and who can help set up tables?
 - Donation from Darlene Ford re our bus trip.
 - Earth Day Festival & Expo 2008 week April 19th - 26th.
 - Pot Luck and Progressive Euchre Card Party on Jan.10th. Our twin, River Road W.I. will be invited.
 - Password for the FWIO meetings and reports is " Mary Stewart "

Educational, Cultural Activities & Tweedsmuir History

Car Pool — London Area Convention at Kirkton Community Center
— Women's Institute Winter Picnic at Fingal United Church

Entertainment — Janine & Kelly Noorloos playing their violins

Speaker — Pastor Diane MacPherson on "Grandmothers"

— Janice Fisher, Talbotville, spoke on the "Referendum"

— Pauline Lindsay, St. Thomas, brought and talked about her many bells she has collected.

Tour — QUIA DU VIN ESTATE WINERY given by Jamie Quai

Motto — Life is a breeze, until

Roll Call - What's your favourite beverage, and what do you eat with it?

- Bring or tell about a favourite book of your childhood.

- Name something that has changed since Grandma's day.

Display - Tweedsmuir Books, Scrapbooks and House Logs

Discussion - Digital Mammogram Unit at the Elgin St. Thomas General Hospital.

- donating more pennies to Friendship.

- Who will bake 2 dozen tarts for the Bobier Villa tea?

- " Dan Moore " Award presented to our President Helen Van Brenk for Senior Volunteer of the year 2007.

Activities

- We prepared and catered to the Wallacetown Fair Dinner.

- Sponsored Dan Sutton for 2007 Ambassador for Wallacetown Fair.

- Members Joan Mc Landress and Joan Johnston worked at the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop.

- Sponsored a Christmas Mystery Bus Trip.

- Tweedsmuir Workshop held at the Thorndale Community Centre attended by President Helen Van Brenk and Sally McIntyre.

- London Area Convention at Kirkton Community Centre attended by President Helen

- Van Brenk, Sally McIntyre, Louie Lackey and Kathy Minnema.

- Elgin County Museum's 50th anniversary tea attended by President Helen Van Brenk.

- Winter Picnic at Fingal United Church on February 27th attended by Kathy Minnema, Louie Lackey, Darlene Ford and Kay Waite.

- Remembered the sick and shut-in's at home, nursing homes and hospitals at Christmas.

- We held a pot luck dinner and progressive euchre card party for the seniors of the community.

Donations - Pennies For Friendship

- 4H Club

- Daffodil - food bank, welfare auxiliary, Dutton.

- Our Christmas Family

- Baking, crafts & plants donated to Tea's and Bazaare's for door prizes

- Gifts donated for the Bobier Villa resident's birthdays

- Elgin St. Thomas General Hospital - donation to the St. Thomas Digital Mammogram Unit

- Rehoboth Home Inc.

Family and Consumer Affairs

Tour — Jim Collins gave us a conducted tour of " Lakeview Gardens and Greenhouses Inc." at Eagle, Ontario. Very interesting - 1 1/2 hours in length with many questions being asked re heating system, help needed, different types of plants grown and their retail and wholesale market.

Motto — Children help to keep the smile on our faces and a song in our heart.

Roll Call - What wise advice did your Mother or significant female figure give to you when you were growing up?

Discussion — Who will attend the Tweedsmuir Workshop in August?

- Quilts in Bloom show at the Shedden Keystone Complex on April 18th & 19th.
- District Annual at St. James Church on May 14/08 at 5pm for pot luck.

- London Area Convention at the Keystone in Shedden on Oct 7th/08.

Highlights — Our 95th anniversary - the number of people who attended, the entertainment and an all around party to remember.

- Our President Helen Van Brenk being the 1st. recipient to be presented with the " Dan Moore Award " for the Senior Volunteer of the Year 2007.

Membership - Tyrconnell Heritage Society.

Future Projects - Recruiting new members.

- Elgin County will be hosting the Tweedsmuir History Workshop in 2009.
- Cleaning and painting our cupboards.

**OFFICERS
2008 - 2009**

President - Helen Van Brenk
Vice President - Kathy Minnema
Secretary - Joan McLandress
Assistant Secretary - Kathy Minnema
Treasurer - Louie Lackey
District Director - Helen Van Brenk
Alternate District Director - Dorothea Monteith
Advocacy Convenor - Sally McIntyre
Rose Education co-ordinator - Kay Waite
Branch Director - Glady Graham
Tweedsmuir Curator - Helen Van Brenk
Auditors - Joan Johnson, Kay Waite
Press Reporter - Kathy Minnema
Rep. to Bobier Villa - Amarilis Drouillard
Rep. To Elgin Manor - Joan McLandress,
- Joan Johnston
Rep. to Elgin County Museum - Helen Van Brenk
Card & Cheer - Kay Lilley

Standing Committee Convenors

Agriculture - Joan Johnston, Kay Lilley
Citizenship & Legislation - Kathy Minnema
Consumer & Family Affairs - Darlene Ford,
Joan McLandress
Education & Cultural Activities/Grandmothers
Meeting - Louie Lackey
International Affairs - Sally McIntyre
Tweedsmuir History - Helen VanBrenk

Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us, O Lord, from pettiness; let us
be large in thought, word and deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and
leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretence and meet
each other face to face, without self-pity
and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
and always generous.
Let us take time for all things; make us
grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better
impulses, straight forward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize that it is the
little things that create differences that in
the big things of life we are one.
And may we strive to touch and know
the great human heart common to us all,
and O Lord, God, let us not forget to be
kind.



**Wallacetown
Women's Institute**

PROGRAM

2008-2009

ELGIN COUNTY DISTRICT

Motto - "For Home and Country"

INSTITUTE GRACE

**We thank Thee Father for Thy Care
Food, friends and kindness we share
May we forever mindful be
of Home and Country and of Thee.**

INSTITUTE ODE

**A goodly thing it is to meet
In Friendship's circle bright,
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet
Nor dims the radiant light.
No unkind words our lips shall pass
No envy sour the mind:
But each shall seek the common weal -
The good of all mankind**

2008

Thursday, Sept. 4 - 1 P.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Community Hall
Consumer & Family Affairs

Convenors - Darlene Ford, Joan McLandress

Motto - A hobby will add interest and pleasure to your life and broaden your knowledge.

Comments - Joan McLandress

Roll Call - Laughter is the best medicine. Bring a joke.

Program - A tour of Debbie McCallum's business "In a Jam" located in Melbourne.

Lunch - provided - tea-time, jam tasting with scones and muffins.

Thursday, October 2nd - 9:30 A.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Community Hall

International Affairs

Convenor - Sally McIntyre

Roll Call - When was your first train ride and where to?

Program - A visit to the St. Thomas Railway Museum with the tour beginning at 10 o'clock

Meeting - at the station

Lunch - \$10.00 per person

Men are welcomed

Tuesday, October 7th - 8:30 A.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Community Hall

London Area Convention

Car Pool - to Shedden Keystone. Registration at 8:45

Thursday, November 6th - 1 P.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Community Hall

Pincroft Display

Tour - The Elgin County Museum

Lunch - at the Talbot Trail

Men are welcomed.

December 4th - 12 noon
Christmas Dinner

Place - The Iona Restaurant. (A turkey Dinner)

No Meeting

No Program

Donation - \$10.00 to our Christmas Family

Men are Welcomed

2009

Second Thursday January 8th - 12 Noon
Pot Luck Dinner

Place - South Dunwich Community Hall

Convenors - Kay Waite, Doris Barber

Program - Progressive Euchre Card Party

Invite your friends

Mid February
W.I. Winter Picnic

*Feb 18th 2009
Wednesday*

Date and Location unknown at this time.

Car Pool - to go to the Winter Picnic

Call Helen Van Brenk 519-762-6454

Bring your own dishes and your favorite dish to share.

Thursday March 5 - 11 A.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Community Hall
Citizenship and Legislation

Convenor - Kathy Minnema

Motto - The Mail must Go Through

Comments - Kathy Minnema

Roll Call - Tell us about a special letter you have received in the mail.

Program - Location of Springfield's 1st. Post Office at the home of Wilfred and Rhonda McNaughton.

Speaker - Pat Zimmer from the Aylmer District Museum

Lunch - \$8.00 provided by Kathy - goes for a donation for the Aylmer District Museum

Third Thursday April 16th - 1:30 P.M.
At Helen Van Brenk's home
Annual Meeting and Tweedsmuir History

Convenor - Helen Van Brenk

Roll Call - A safety tip for your home

Reports - R.O.S.E Co-ordinator - Kay Waite

Nominating Committee - Louie Lackey

Tweedsmuir Report - Helen VanBrenk

Installation of Officers - Darlene Ford

Payment of Membership Fees - \$15.00

Display - Tweedsmuir Book No.9, Scrapbook and House logs.

Lunch - Kay Waite and Louie Lackey

Thursday May 7th - 1:30 P.M.
At South Dunwich Community Hall
Educational & Cultural Activities
Grandmothers Meeting

Convenor - Louie Lackey

Reunion - of the "PAST MEMBERS OF THE WALLACETOWN INSTITUTE"

In Memoriam - for Past Members

Entertainment

Speaker - Margaret Hulls on her involvement with Education Day at the Backus Page - with the Walking Trails and her "Tai Chi" exercise group.

Guests - Family Member and close friends of Past Members

Lunch - Kathy Minnema and her W.I helpers

Wednesday May 13th - 4 P.M.
District Annual Meeting

Car Pool - to Shedden Bethany United Church
Call Helen Van Brenk 519-762-6454

Bring your own dishes and your favorite dish to share

Thursday June 4th - 1 P.M.
Meet at South Dunwich Hall

Agriculture

Convenors - Kay Lilley, Joan Johnston

Tour - The Aylmer Dairy Museum

Motto - Old time milking methods

Comments - Joan Johnston

Roll Call - Farms you have known or visited

Lunch - In the Aylmer area

Men are welcomed

April 28, 2008

Flush

... toilet exhibit a popular pause at museum

By JACKIE GILL
FOR THE TIMES-JOURNAL

The Elgin County Museum has it in the can with its newest exhibit, *Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet*.

And although it opened on April 19, Saturday marked the official launch with a family fun day designed around toilet-based displays and activities.

"It's an area we really need to do some work on — programming for families," said Mike Baker, the museum's curator. "We're getting a pretty good turnout."

By Saturday afternoon, the small museum in the Elgin administration building on Sunset Road had seen nearly 15 families come through its doors to check out toilet facts, displays, games and crafts, including a chance to build a Popsicle stick outhouse and throw beanbags through a basketball hoop and into a toilet bowl.

Plus, the traveling display, which originally came from Guelph, Ont., is small enough to work in small-town museums and ties in with awareness programs the museum al-

ready supports, said Baker.

"We do have a sort of companion program that we offer to the schools on waste water management," he said. "It just gets kids to understand there isn't any new water out there. It's just cycling through."

And although Baker already knows a fair bit about toilet history from a previous show he did about homes at the turn of the century, there's still a lot of information families can flush out of the exhibit, he said.

He wants kids walking away thinking, "Here's some neat stuff about the toilet, this is what we're doing now, and this is how much water we use," he said.

At the same time, he hopes the subject matter will be a draw.

"I had a feeling this would catch people's imagination," said Baker.

Noah Swann, 3, was especially drawn to a black-and-white toilet with a partially clear tank that lets visitors peek into the inner workings of a toilet. He and his sister, Zoe, 2, visited the museum for

the first time on Saturday with their parents.

"They're both in potty training so we thought it would pique their interest," said mom Kristen Swann, as her children doodled on a colouring sheet with a wooden outhouse on it.

"We were telling him it's a potty like grandma used to use," she added.

The lid closes on the exhibit July 19, when it travels to its next destination, the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, said Baker.

"It's a pretty high-profile little show," he said.



Noah Swann, 3, takes a peek inside one of the toilets on display at the Elgin County Museum for its display *Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet*. (T-J photo)



Dorothea Monteith.



War Bride Story by Joyce BEZEAU.
given at the Wallacetown WI on May 1st 2008.

At 19 years of age the romance and adventure is very exciting until we watch the shores of England disappearing, The thought finally hits hard, will we ever be able to return?

The first shock after arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax was to receive a telegram. My husband was not going to meet the train when it arrives in Rimouski. If I was nervous before I was now panic stricken.

There was nothing else to do but carry on and hope and pray every thing will turn out alright, eventually.

At 2am on a cold and dark Monday morning I got off the train with one other girl and two Army Officers, Her husband was there with a car and off they went leaving me and the poor Officers wondering what to do.

One suggestion was that I get back on the train and they would hand me over to the Red Cross in Montreal. I refused I knew my desination was only 40 miles across the St. Lawrence River and I would get there somehow.

They decided to call thre Red Cross in Rimouski which happened to be the Doctor, who eventually turned up, not vey happy and I couldn't blame him but he did take over and sat me in a waiting room for the rest of the night.

The next morning I was put on a very small rickity plane and we flew to the north shore, it was my very first plane ride and it was soooo cold and scary. I thought the wings would fall off it shook so badly.

We did arrive safely and there was my hero, luckily he was

alone because I would not have recognised him out of uniform. we took a taxi to his sisters home and he told me he couldn't get across the river on Sunday so that was the reason he was not there to meet the train. All was forgiven.

Next we went to the town to buy some boots for me because the snow was still deep and the winter was far from over. Then Bob started to pack his back pack, When I asked him where we were going now he said "You have to stay here I'm going back to work in the bush" That meant he would be away for two weeks and I would be alone with Mary Ann who couldn't speak English and I couldn't speak French. The next morning he was gone without waking me. As he told me two weeks later he knew I hadn't slept the night before so he let me sleep in. He was quite surprised to hear I had been crying.

My famous last words to comfort my father who was so worried were "Don't worry, I'll be alright, I'll be with Bob"

Actually I was very lucky because Bob's family were so kind to me, Mary ann especially walked around with an English french dictionary in her hand until I had picked up enough french words from the children to at least communicate.

It took about two years and many mistakes to really settle down and find friends and our own apartment. I am so glad that I came to Canada and so are my four children. It has been a wonderful life.

THANK YOU EVERYBODY.

Joyce Bezeau.

Helen
Starr.

SPEECH FOR WALLACETOWN W.I.

The story really begins in 1946. The 2nd. World War is over and the troops are more than ready to go home, but many of them have extra baggage, wives and children. Some 48,000 wives and 22,000 children.

Looking back 60 years I still marvel at the magnitude of the task and tremendous work involved in organizing the repatriation of the armed forces and their families.

Remembering that the majority of the wives were hardly out of their teens (and some were't) it is hardly surprising that there were a lot of homesick women.

It was as we sailed and watched our beloved England disappearing we really began to realize that we may never see our homeland and families again, it was quite distressing.

Add to that in my case, as the train left Halifax I was given a telegram to say that my husband would not be meeting the train, I was to arrive at Rimouski in Quebec on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River on a Monday morning at 2a.m. and in the middle of winter. unable to speak French and a 40 mile stretch of partially frozen river to somehow cross to my destination. Baie Comeau. As you can see I did make it.

In 2006 Via Rail and various wonderful organizations gave any interested " War Brides" the opportunity on Nov.8th. 2006 to return to Pier 21 in Halifax, our port of entry to Canada.

At first I was not interested, I had no contact with another "Bride" and was not too happy about spending so much time without a companion, but was finally persuaded by a very dear friend, Dorothy Pieffer to get in touch with Elsie Mills in Glencoe and that was how I came to be on the train with my daughter in law also. I am so thankful I took Dorothy's advice because it was a really wonderful journey.

Along with 300 other war brides and one male bride and caregivers we were able to meet and chat and sing all the way as if we had known each other all our lives when in reality I don't think any of us had ever met before.

The stories and comical mistakes that we made in our early years caused much laughter and sometimes even a few tears.

Most often the story was told of Bridal and baby showers and caused the loudest laughs. You must understand that they were unheard of in England so husbands were questioned, "Do we need towels?, a swim suit? a change of clothes? etc. Lucky for me I didn't have that problem although the ones that did were absolutely amazed and overwhelmed at the kindness and generosity of Canadians.

To say that life in Canada was very different to England is to put it very mildly, we discovered that the dictionary type booklet that we had been given was definitely needed. it had dozens of words. Actually many many words had such a different meaning that they were an embarrassment to every one. but we gradually fitted in.

~~By Helen~~ We had many interviews both before and after we got on the train, T.V. Radio and Magazine reporters etc. and all the way as we passed through towns and villages there were crowds of children, veterans, bands, town officials etc. all waving and cheering with both the flags of Canada and England. Sometimes very early in the morning, other times in the rain and even very

P. 14

late at night. It was tremendous and very heart warming.

I must mention the meals on the train because they were so delicious and the waiters and waitresses so friendly and cheerful it was a wonderful experience, in fact I must tell you that many of the crew requested the return shift because they had so much fun.

We arrived in Halifax to a guard of honour and a bagpipe band along with the Lord Mayor and all sorts of officials. The Red Hat Ladies were so welcoming, I could even say loving that many of us shed a few tears but they didn't last very long because it was such a joyful occasion.

Mary Ann, [my daughter in law] and I were with Elsie Mills my contact from Glencoe and her friends one of whom had lost her voice with all the singing of war time songs and all the talking.

The next day we had visits to all the displays and a concert of the type that ENSO put on during the war. Then 18 couples renewed their marriage vows and of course we had more sing songs. Perhaps the habit of so much singing came from the times the air raids were so frightening to the children that everyone sang loudly to drown out the noise outside the air raid shelters but that is just my observation. Anyway we all did an awful lot of singing.

One of the exhibitions that I found fascinating was the 6ft tall bridal pictures and a few of the brides [60 years later] standing to have their picture beside it.

I would dare to say we are all in our 80's now and many with walkers or wheel chairs etc. and I am sure with white hair but believe me there were not many that didn't get up and dance.

There was a gala evening in a hall as big as a ballfield and the decorations were just beautiful. The meal was prepared by a prizewinning chef and I have never been so royally treated in my life, it was magnificent.

We finished the evening with a Congo Line all around the Hall. Next morning we were back on the half mile long train for the return home, Mary Ann and I were being met in London by my two sons who took us to a Restaurant to wind up our adventure. We were still in a party mood until the "boys" asked us to calm down we were embarrassing them.

Actually I took a couple of days to "calm down" it had been such a fantastic trip, and I am eternally grateful to the Government the Railway Army personal~~ly~~ and just everyone involved in these 60 years. It has been a wonderful life and I know my children are as grateful as I am.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Written by Joyce BEZEAU.
a "war Bride"

May 1st - 11:30pm 2008