



OFFICERS 1982-83.

L. to R.
MRS. SALLY DALE
(PRES.)

MRS. GERTRUDE
SLOAN (VICE)
(PRES.)

MRS. DOROTHY
ROBSON (SEC.)

MRS. JEAN
MORRISON
(TREAS.)

You're Invited

The president, secretary or
alternates (4 persons) and hitobonds
are invited

For the 70th Anniversary

Date July 8, 1982

Time 7.30 p.m.

Place Hallacetown

Community Hall

Given By Hallacetown

Women's Institute

Please reply
by June 26th

Mrs. H. Robson,
Secretary
R.R.#1, Hallacetown
NOL 2 M O

Program for 70th Anniversary

Institute Ode

Mary Stewart Collect

Lord's Prayer

Welcome - President, Mrs. Sally Dale

Minutes of 1912 Meeting - Mrs. Walter Robson

Musical Numbers - McWilliam Sisters of Largie

History of Wallacetown - Jimmie Ford

Sing Song - Mrs. Krin Dieleman, leader

Highland Dancing - Charlotte Littlejohn and Robin Silcox

Resume of Institute Activities - Mrs. Harold Sloan

Musical Numbers - Mr. Ray Hathaway, Mrs. Sam Foreman with
Mrs. Gary Monteith as accompanist

Game - conducted by Mrs. Krin Dieleman

Tap Dancing - Misses Sonya, Juanita, and Shannon Colvin of
Teeswater

Banjo and Piano Music - Mrs. Wallace Pfaff, Nolan and Janice

Sing Song -

Presentation of gifts and corsages

Courtesy Remarks

O Canada.

Womens' Institute Activities

Since the beginning of the Institute in 1912, the meetings have been held the first Thursday of the month. The meetings were held in the members homes and then sometimes in the different churches in the village. Since the new hall was opened in 1948, all the meetings have been held here.

The first meetings started with the singing of the Maple Leaf Forever - at one meeting a gramophone was used to play it. This was followed by the Lord's Prayer.

It wasn't until 1927 that the Institute Ode was used as a beginning for our meetings and in 1949 the Mary Stewart Collect was added, read at first by one of the members, but later all repeated it together, followed by the Lord's Prayer. This is still our opening at the regular meetings.

During World War I the Institute helped with Dunwich and Southwold to buy a machine gun, in 1914 they bought a piano for the old town hall; in 1923 they helped pay for the street lights in Wallacetown. During the War years they made contributions to a large number of Red Cross and relief funds.

Members have taken a number of Homemaker Clubs such as Sewing, Millinery, Rugs, Lamp Shades, Block Printing and in more recent years, crewel Embroidery, Indoor Gardening and Quilting Courses.

We help to sponsor the 4H Homemaking Clubs, have a display each year at Wallacetown Fair and sponsor a contestant for the Fair Queen Contest.

We assist in many ways in community activities such as the Tuck Shop at Elgin Manor, Birthday Parties and the annual Tea at the Bobier Convalescent Home, Elgin County Museum and Clinics.

The activities for making money over the years have been varied. Lunches and meals were served at the fair, garden parties held, concerts, plays, bazaars and meals of different kinds; catering to Clubs, weddings, and other festive occasions. The last few years, we have held a supper in the hall in June, along with the Tyrconnell Inst. and other ladies of the community - the proceeds being given to the Hall Board.

Many bus trips over the years have been educational and enjoyable - Ice Carnival, Royal Winter Fair, Shakespearian Festival, Factories, Pinecroft, museums, Science Centre, and a boat trip.

The programs presented at our meetings in charge of the Standing Committee conveners provides us with much information and entertainment with topics prepared by our own members, visiting speakers, demonstrations and pictures.

Entertaining and being entertained by other groups is a delightful diversion from our regular activities and meetings.

Attending District Annual meetings, Leaders Conferences, London Area Conventions and Winter Picnics brings us new ideas from other Institutes and many new friendships formed.

In the early years, the hostess served lunch at our meetings, but in 1921 a regular luth was started - a 10¢ tea with three articles to be served and later it has been a 25¢ tea with one item of food served. We all enjoy the tea and fellowship after the meetings.

Our membership over the years has had its ups and downs. In 1924 there were 70 members, as a result of a membership drive and again in 1948 had 65 members, but usually it is between 20 and 30. We hope in the coming years many of the younger ladies of the community will become interested and join our Women's Institute.

*Prepared and read by
Gertrude Sloan.*

History of Wallacetown

We are all aware that our Community began in 1803 when Colonel Thomas Talbot Landed at the mouth of a small Creek, which he named Port Talbot.

The first Irish settlers who received land grants started at a port site, called "Little Ireland", later named Tyrconnell. Those who came from Scotland, the Colonel sent farther away to a swampy spot called "Frogtown". In 1833, Donald Currie came out from Argyleshire and saw possibilities in the place, so he got a grant in the south half of Concession 7, lot 12. He thought the place should have a more dignified name, so he named it "Wallacetown", for the Scottish National hero, Sir William Wallace.

Soon a road was started from Lake Erie towards the Thames River, called the Currie Road which went through the centre of Wallacetown. This village soon became very important being on the stage-road that went from St. Thomas to Chatham. Large hotels were built on the cross-roads corners, also a livery stable where horses were changed on the stage coach; passengers stayed overnight in the hotels. Soon industries came to serve the growing population; grist mills to make grain into food; saw mills to make forest logs into future homes or ship them out from the port at Tyrconnell; a wagon factory, harness maker, woolen mill, tailor shop, blacksmith, tin shop, shoemakers, general merchants. Soon came a doctor, a drug store, a cheese factory, the undertaker, who also had a furniture store. Then came the post office and the telegraph station.

To encourage the sowing of good seed and the production of better grain, fruit and livestock, the West Elgin Agricultural Society was formed and a fair held before 1860. In those years there was fear that a group of Irish Revolutionists "The Fenians" who had come to the United States might try to take over Canada. Canadian military forces were organized. A drill shed was built on the present fair grounds and the Agricultural Society were allowed to use it until the Fenians were outlawed and there was no danger of invasion, the drill shed was then purchased by the Society.

The first Church in the district of course was St. Peter's Anglican, built in 1827, then came the St. Andrews' Presbyterian Church in 1852, the Methodist Church, now the United Church in 1875 and a couple of years later, St. Helens' Church (Catholic).

Schools came in the earliest days, as parents realized that children must learn to read. First held in homes, later log schools - the first one being built in 1816 at Watsons' Corners, on the Fingal Road. The Wallacetown Schools were first built on the street north of the

Presbyterian Church, the old two storey brick school was built in 1876 and the newer one in 1922.

In 1875 the Canadian Southern Railway was put through the district, going through Dutton, three miles north. So many industries moved there and Wallacetown started to fade. Some of the industries which lasted for many years were the cheese factory, sawmill, butcher, potash maker, tinsmith and of course grocery stores and the Post Office.

In the past few years many new homes have been built, older ones renovated and be autified. We now have twelve businesses in our community - Shelleys' Saw Mill, Unich Greenhouses and Farm Market, Wendy's Ceramic and Gift Boutique, Arvebo Meats, Arvebo Abbatoir, Wallacetown Small Engines, Dietrich Drainage, Wallacetown Sunoco, B. P. Service Station, Elgin Motors, Darlene's Hair Closet and Pfaff's Grocery and Post Office. Just a few miles distant is Van Brenk's Fruit Farm.

We havean active Optimist Club which looks after Youth Activities, our busy Church Groups and of course our Womens' Institute, who sponsor a 4H Homemaking Club and try to do a real service in up-dating community thoughts.

What about future challenges? Let us all look ahead at what might be possible and if we all keepiworking for it, we will continue to add to our history of Wallacetown.

*Prepared by Gertrude Sloan,
read by Jim Ford (jr.)*