

NORTHWOLD VISITOR TO WI MEETING IN SOUTHERN ONTARIO

How often we have to admit to not having visited a local museum when others have perhaps travelled halfway around the world to look at its contents? It seems this is not only an English omission.

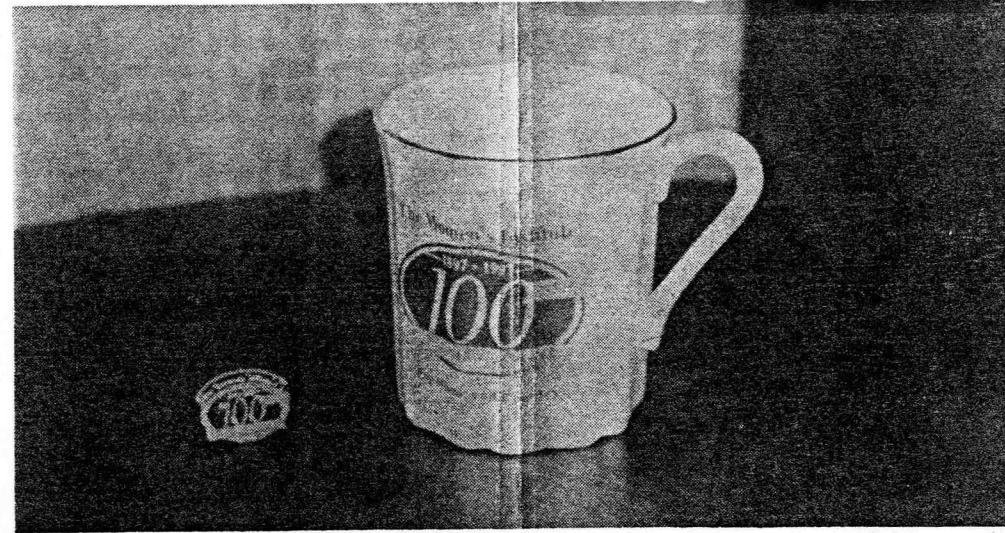
Earlier this year it was my pleasure to attend a WI meeting at Wallacetown, Elgin County, Southern Ontario, and I found that many of the members had not been to the Erland Lee museum at Stoney Creek, the home of the WI movement.

The meeting began with the Institute Ode, sung to the tune of Old Lang Syne, and the Mary Steward collect that was read in unison. Business and correspondence were dealt with by the president and secretary, then the two convenors for the meeting took over for reading the Motto and the remarks – almost like a text and short address. Another member conducted a roll

call to the subject printed on the program (programme) so that members had had time to prepare their thoughts. There was no speaker as they were visiting, and being given a conducted tour of, a new library just opened in the area: some of the money had been raised by a lecture given by “local boy made good” John Kenneth Galbraith.

Important features of WI activities are the Tweedsmuir Books – these record the local history of the area and contain facts and pictures of WI activities, also the history of homes, when houses were built and details of the occupants.

The Canadians will be celebrating their centenary in 1997 (Feb 19th) and it was an honour for me to be presented with a celebration beaker and badge – both with blue and gold decoration – their colours; members were very surprised to learn our



Canadian Centenary Beaker and Badge presented to Pam Eyles

colours were red (for hearth and home) and green (for country).☺

Amongst the centenary activities is “to make a quilt”. These are to be hung in the Gambrel Barn at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in the summer of '95: that will be a mecca for stitchers: the quilts hanging there, when I made my visit, were superb. I have a few snapshots, but they cannot do

justice to the fine, even stitches.

It would seem the word “lunch” means light refreshment – for the meeting I attended started at 1.30 and finished with lunch; at the close we repeated the Grace and Doxology. By now all members will have had a chance to visit Stoney Creek as plans were afoot before I left.

PAM EYLES, NORTHWOLD



PAGE 18--DUTTON ADVANCE--WEDNESDAY--JUNE 8--1994



PITCH-IN-WEEK – This group of Dutton 4-H members were busy putting mulch in the flower beds at Caledonia Gardens during Pitch-In-Week. In front, left to right: Heather Bobier, Aimee Zinkan, Shannon Lunn, Amanda Jordan, Dianne Markowski and Amy McNeill. In back, left to right, Debbie Armstrong, leader; Kathleen Andrew (hidden), Penny McMurphy, leader; Brianne McCready and Kristen Beattie. Wallacetown Women's Institute sponsored the Club.





LONDON AREA ANNUAL CONVENTION WOMEN,S INSTITUTE. Photo Taken October 14th 1993... Wallacetown Members Are. L TO R .

1. Mrs. Dorothea Jewell. 2. Mrs. Kay Waite. 3. Mrs. Helen Van Brenk.
4. Mrs. Lillian Jones. 5. Mrs. Sally McIntyre. 6. Mrs. Louie Lackey.

June 4/94.



ASSIST AT BLOSSOM TEA – Margaret McKillop, a former administrator at the Bobier Convalescent Home, is pictured pouring tea for Muriel McCallum. The annual event, sponsored by the Bobier Home Auxiliary, was held at the Home last Friday afternoon.

COMMUNITY

100th anniversary in 1997

Work starts on W.I. history

Dr. Linda Ambrose, graduate of the University of Waterloo in history, has been hired by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, to gather history of the Women's Institute to compile a history book for their 100th anniversary in 1997.

She interviewed institutes from east and west Elgin on Tuesday, April 5, at the OMAFRA office all day. In the a.m., she interviewed institutes from east Elgin and in the afternoon, she interviewed seven branches from west Elgin.

She had some input from different members about their times in the Women's Institute, how long they have been a member, and how they got involved or introduced to the Women's Institute. What impressed them about the institute. Inquired about the different courses they took through the Women's Institute workshops.

How different speakers have impressed

them at their meetings. How they recommended recycling, the school buses, having motorists stopping both ways when they are letting the children off the buses.

What organizations they support with their moneys they make, having bake sales, catering to dinners, silent auctions, tea money, etc. West Elgin institutes are very supporting to the Daffodil Society, Cancer Society, Rehoboth Home for Girls and many more organizations.

They feel after they go home from their meetings they go home with something which makes it very interesting, also the fellowship of the other ladies and not feeling alone in the community they come from.

They also are involved with their ladies' group in their church.

They feel it is a broader field with the Women's Institute than the church group because they get to go to different branches and

meet ladies from different walks of life. The Women's Institute is not a religious or political group.

They feel that in a rural community, the neighbors are there for you in times of troubles, more so than in the city.

They also feel that there are changes being made in their community that newcomers moving in do not want to be involved and that the younger families are busy with their children who are involved with sports and they go so far afield that they have to be driven here and there.

It is very hard to get younger members into the Women's Institute so that the branches can keep going.

Refreshments were served by the hostess, Pauline Lindsay, provincial board director Sub. 22, Grace Campbell, program co-ordinator for west Elgin Women's Institute, and Helen VanBrenk, Tweedsmuir History.



Dr. Linda Ambrose talking to Marjorie Ripley on left side next to her Gladys Graham.



L to R 1 Pauline Lindsay (provincial board director Sub.22.)
 2. Dr. Linda Ambrose (Compile a history book for Women,s Institute of Ontario for their 100th anniversary in 1997) 3. Grace Campbell (program co-ordinator for West Elgin Women,s Institute).
 4. Helen Van Brenk. (Elgin West District Ass. Tweedsmuir History Curator.) Photos taken 5th April 1994.



CHARTER MEMBERS AT THE 50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WALLACETOWN W.I.

THIS PHOTO IS IN BOOK 1. TAKEN IN 1962.

L to R.

1. Miss Jeanette Small, 2. Miss Ella Sifton, 3. Mrs William Pearce.

4. Mrs J Lucas. 5. Mrs. Andrew Mc William. 6. Miss M.C. Gow.

7. Mrs. Harry Fox, 8. Mrs. Fred Moore.