

100 years ago Feb. 19, 1897 Women's Institute formed

It was 100 years ago that women gathered near Stoney Creek, Ontario to hear Adelaide Hunter Hoodless speak and formed the first Women's Institute branch. Locally, branches of the W.I. are celebrating this special milestone.

Formed on February 19th, 1897, the W.I. movement grew from one community to another, spreading across Canada and, eventually, around the world. A Junior Women's Institute was formed in 1915. The first goal of the W.I. was to educate girls and women in rural Ontario, providing a setting where they could meet and learn from each other, develop their minds as well as practical skills.

Dutton Branch

There are still three W.I. branches in existence in Dutton Township today. The Dutton W.I. was formed in 1905 but disbanded in 1988 and was inactive during the war years between 1914 and 1925.

Cowal Branch

The Cowal W.I. branch was formed on May 5, 1925 with 22 ladies becoming members. The first president was Mrs. D.E. Carroll. Meetings were held in the afternoon on the second Wednesday of each month but were eventually changed to be held in the evening. The Cowal W.I. has been an active part of the community over the years by serving dinners, helping to pay for renovations to the Cowal Hall in 1930, supporting soldiers overseas during the war, and supporting the Bobier Convalescent Home and the Bobier Home Auxiliary, just to name a few.

Tyrconnell Branch

In the 1940's the Tyrconnell W.I. branch was formed with

about 20 ladies becoming members. Today membership has declined to 11 but the group remains active supporting various organizations such as the Daffodil Society, Bobier Home Auxiliary, and the Wallacetown Hall. Along with volunteering at the Elgin Manor Tuck Shop three times a year, the Tyrconnell W.I. also caters lunches for the staff at Dunwich-Dutton Public School on a regular basis.

Meetings are held in members' homes on the third Wednesday of every month in the evening.

Wallacetown Branch

The Wallacetown W.I. had 30 members when it began in 1912 reaching a high of 60 members. Currently there are 18 members. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month either in the afternoon or evenings. The Wallacetown W.I. is also involved in community services such as supporting the Daffodil Society and the Bobier Home. At each meeting, a guest speaker is invited to give a presentation and a wide range of topics have been covered through the years.

Tweedsmuir Book

Lady Tweedsmuir, the wife of Lord Tweedsmuir, the Governor General of Canada from 1935 to 1940, was an ardent W.I. worker in England and once in Canada, encouraged branches here to keep a history of their communities. The Tweedsmuir History books were began and are still kept up-to-date today.

Centennial Celebration

The Women's Institute centennial celebrations will take place in June in Hamilton with 4,000 delegates expected to attend. The keynote speaker will be Canada's first woman in space, Roberta Bondar. "Indebted to the Past; Committed to the Future" is the convention's theme. Convention Chair Peggy Knapp noted that "the symbolism of the change from horse and buggy days at the term of the century to the present space age is profound".

In the 100 years of the Women's Institute, society and the W.I. have undergone many changes; from the industrial revolution to those today which are due to the tremendous advantages in science and technology.

Not a religious group, new members are always welcome to join.



Wallacetown WI Celebrates 100th Birthday- Over 50 members of the Wallacetown Womens' Institute met at the Community Hall to celebrate their 100th birthday. The occasion featured a special meal and a program that was used by all Womens Institutes across Ontario to celebrate their 100th. From left to right these members are dressed in period costume Helen Van Brenk, Mae Graham age 90, Marjorie Ripley and Joan McLandress

The Star, February 26, 1997 - Vol. 1 Iss. 43, Page 6



Wallacetown WI holds Christmas meeting

The Wallacetown Women's Institute held their Christmas meeting at the home of Kay Lilley on Thursday, December 7th. Kay welcomed everyone into her home. The tables were festively decorated for the holidays, a lovely turkey dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by 15 members and one guest. As always the conversations were interesting and lively, many sharing moments in their everyday lives. Laughter makes time go so quickly, which is something everyone needs more of.

President Helen Van Brenk and Kathy Minnema were the convenors for the meeting. Helen introduced Rev. Tom Godfrey, guest speaker for the day, who introduced members to interesting Christmas trivia.

The Christmas tree originated in the 17th century in Germany, someone was walking through the forest and saw stars in the pine trees.

Candy canes were to teach the children about faith. Made of hard candy with 3 thin strips of white meaning without sin and one wide red strip meant the blood of Christ. The 12 days of Christmas - True love to God Himself; Partridge meant Christ and the tree was the cross; Four calling birds were the gospels; 10, for the commandments and 12, the apostle creed.

Helen thanked Rev. Godfrey and presented him with a token of appreciation.

The meeting opened with the Institute Ode followed by the Mary Stewart Collect and the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Sally McIntyre gave the Bobier Villa report. Thank you notes from West Elgin Community Health Centre and for History books sent to the Niagara Falls Library Archives and to Ottawa Ar-

chives. The W.I. members all donated money toward a needy family in this community for Christmas. Preparations were made for the Open House on Saturday, December 16th, at the South Dunwich Community Hall. Dot Monteith presented member Mary Lapadat with her 40-year pin.

Kathy read a Christmas story "If wishes were Horses."

The roll call: A Christmas custom from your ancestors. Answers included:

As a child they put beer out for Santa with cookies; caroling and playing games on Christmas Day; that

was the day Dad played what the kids wanted to play; every year no matter what the weather, made the trip from London to Seaforth to visit relatives; wearing silly hats; going to grandmother's house for the day; gift bags of sausage, bread, cookies and money; pillows with presents at the end of the bed; going to visit relatives; always had oyster stew and crackers; weren't allowed to open any gifts until the chores were finished in the barn and had breakfast; still making mothers carrot pudding; made a fresh manger scene each year to put on the mantel.

NEW PUBLICATION LAUNCHED - An Open House was held to introduce the Wallacetown Tweedsmuir History book published by the Wallacetown Women's Institute. On hand for the purchasing and book signing were, seated, long-time members Gladys Graham (left) and Marjorie Ripley. Standing is Helen Van Brenk, president. This event was held December 16th at the South Dunwich Community Hall, Wallacetown. Copies can be purchased at \$30.00 for hard cover or \$20.00 soft cover.



Kathy Minnema

Kay Lilley



Rev Tom Godfrey.

Mary Lapadat, Dot Monteith, Sally McIntyre

Ruby McEugan

Gladys Graham.



Kay Lilley

sitting Louie Lacey, Kathy Minnema, Joan Johnston,

Dorothy Lamb, Joan McLeandress

"Turn of the Century W.I Meeting" with costumes, entertainment,
June 5th/97. At the Bobbie
Convalescent Home and
a "Early 1900 Tea".



1/ Louie Lackey, 2/ Marjorie Ripley
3/ Kay & Pat Waite.



1/ Louie Lackey, 2/ Sally McTigue
3/ Kay Waite, 4/ Lillian Jones.



Residents looking on.

Women and Estrogen

Sixty-five women from Fin- gal to Rodney attended an Information Night on Women and Menopause, the use of Estrogen, and a natural way of curing the body and mind through the use of herbs, on Tuesday, April 15th, at the Wallacetown Community Hall. The evening was sponsored by the Wallacetown Women's Institute and organized by Darlene Ford.

The first speaker was Public Health Nurse Diane Reith from East Elgin. She has a B.Sc.N., and gave a very informative talk and video on Menopause, the many different symptoms and their severity that can effect your life from day to day. Such things as mood swings, loss of memory, hot flashes, irregular sleeping patterns and many more. For each individual it can go easily or be extremely difficult - there are no two women alike.

The second speaker of the evening was Pharmacist Ron Campigotto from Dutton who spoke on the use of Estrogen. He began by comparing the symptoms between men and women, a very effective opening considering he was the only man in the crowd. There are so many things you need to know when buying any kind of health product, such as always reading the fine print to know what is in the product for example calcium, vitamins, are they really fitting your needs. In all situations if you are in doubt ask your pharmacist for help or assistance. There have been many studies completed on the use of Estrogen, and as much more

information is available for one to know and understand the benefits and the proper use of the products. There are eight dosage levels available for the mild to the extreme cases. Estrogen is not for everyone, speak to your doctor, know your own symptoms, and research all the information you can, talk to friends and family, you don't have to go it alone.

The third speaker was a Doctor of Naturalpathic Medicine from London, Dr. Nadia Tymoshenko M.D., who deals with healing the body and the mind as one through the use of herbs. To become a Naturalpathic Doctor, 3 years of University and 4 years of training as a Naturalpath at a College here in Ontario, are needed. She talked about the parts of the body and its functions, and in order to deal with the problem one needs to know what the cause of the problem is. Whether it be an emotional, your lifestyle or a physical

upset in your life. There are so many herbs to heal any kind of problem, it's knowing what is best for your situation.

There was a question and answer period after each speaker and hopefully everyone was satisfied in finding out what they needed to know to help their situation. Also the group heard from two area ladies about their own personal experience, how and why they went for help, and the change in their lives because of it. Everyone came away with answers, possible solutions or just a knowledge of what could nor might happen to them or someone they know.

The Wallacetown Women's Institute then made draws from the loonie table, donations made by the Institute member, some taking home more than one item. A lunch was also provided and appreciated by all. Appreciation was given the speakers of the evening, and to those who helped make it happen.

COMING EVENTS

Women and Estrogen Information Night, Tuesday, April 15th, Wallacetown Community Hall, at 7:30 p.m. Presentations by a Public Health Nurse, a Pharmacist and a Naturopath. Loonie table. Sponsored by Wallacetown Women's Institute. 13 & 15



Speaker Pharmacist Ron Campigotto spoke on the use of Estrogen. April 15/97.

Women's Institutes Centennial celebration held at W.I. Canadian Convention '97

Hundreds of Branch banners and thousands of miniature lights from the approximately 2,000 delegates of the Women's Institute from across Canada and around the world helped Canadian members usher in their second century. Pageants, parades, bus tours, choirs, speakers, fashion shows, panels, banquets, a multicultural concert at the

Hamilton, Ontario Convention Centre, and an Interfaith Service made the week of June 15th to June 22nd an unforgettable experience for the double event, the Women Institutes Centennial Celebration and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Convention '97. Helen Burt, Upper Saunders-Baufelt, a long-time W.I. member from Thorold, Ontario, born in 1897, the same year the first Women's Institute Branch was formed, attended the opening ceremonies and stated that she has never ceased praising the Women's Institutes for their good work.

Home and Country", the Ontario Women's Institutes History, encouraged the W.I.'s in their future plans and was present to autograph copies of her book.

The keynote speaker for the convention, Dr. Roberta Bondar, when recounting her lifetime of achievements including her participation in the space program, stressed the importance of setting adventurous goals, always keeping a clear vision of them and, if one path isn't clear, finding another path and keeping enthusiasm alive. When a goal is reached, change your views to continue to improve realizing that the achievement is not the end but only the beginning.

During the convention, Charlotte Johnson, president for the past three years, turned over her president's duties to Mildred J. Keith of New Brunswick. Active at the National level of the W.I. for many years, Mildred was named to the 1997 edition of the "Who's Who of Canadian Women". After a two ballot election, delegates chose Faye Mayberry, a Red

Under the direction of Adelaide Hoodless, an activist Hamilton socialite and Erland Lee, a prosperous Stoney Creek, Ontario farmer, the first Branch of the W.I. was initiated on February 19th, 1897, and one hundred years later remains an organization devoted to developing informed, responsible citizens, encouraging good family life skills, initiating programs to achieve common goals and leadership development.

Under the umbrella organization, the Associated County Women of the World (approximately six million women in more than 60 countries) projects continue to help women improve their living conditions. Lyndsay Hacket-Pain, World President of the A.C.W.W. stressed the fact that the role of the A.C.W.W. is to "help women to help themselves" by offering relatively modest but practical support to rural communities, requesting whatever the donees can offer and often receiving matching funds from specialist United Nations and other aid agencies.

The convention theme, "Indebted to the Past; Committed to the Future", formed the basis of addresses by all the guest speakers. Motivational speakers, Norman Rebin and Rosalie Wysocki congratulated the W.I.'s on their accomplishments during the past 100 years but reminded members to scheme, dream and redeem as they enter their second century and that it is attitude that affects altitude. Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of the recently published "For

Deer, Alberta Farmer and FWIC executive member over the other nominees, Margaret Murno and Joyce Johnson, to be the President-Elect of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada for the next triennium.

Action will be taken on all resolutions presented at the convention including: requesting that Canada Post review addressed ad mail rates; requesting Health Canada to set safety standards for cooking pots; set a minimum standard for print size on medicinal containers and, ensure a list of ingredients on the labels of all imported liquid-filled products such as paperweights. As well, a letter and petition will be submitted requesting that



Y Sally M'Intyre & Helen VAN BREWK.

Elgin East and West Women Institute Members.



Y Sally M'Intyre, & Lyndsay Graham, & Helen VAN BREWK.

