

The Women's Institute



For Home and Country

BRANCH PROGRAM FOR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

February 19th, 1997 *Ned.*

AGENDA

HOSTESS: Branch Executive
OPENING ODE, MARY STEWART COLLECT

3 MOTTO: Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future

2 ROLL CALL: What have I accomplished with a Women's Institute Lifeskill?

1 CENTENNIAL SONG: To be sung by all members (see back)

Joan MINUTES: Branch Secretary to read minutes of first meeting of Women's Institute held in Stoney Creek on Feb. 19, 1897 (see back)

PROGRAM: (To be read by Branch President):

"As we begin our program we will light a candle in Celebration of 100 years of Women's Institute, sharing this ceremony with all members throughout Ontario."

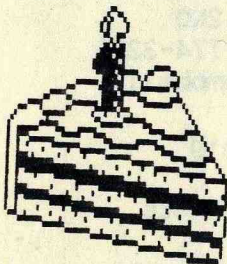
Take note: The executive may design the program using the accompanying information and resource material. The program should celebrate our past and create enthusiasm for the future, including activities of your own branch. (See back for program information.)

DO YOU KNOW? (On separate pages)

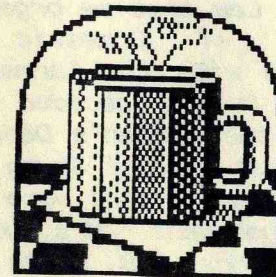
SPECIAL COLLECTION: For the Headquarters' Fund

GRACE:

PROPOSED LUNCH MENU:



Beef, chicken
cucumber & watercress,
and egg sandwiches
Buttermilk tea biscuits
with strawberry jam
Sugar cookies
Johnny cake with
maple syrup
Gingerbread with
whipped cream
Tea



**THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
OF ELGIN WEST DISTRICT
INVITE YOU TO**

THE WINTER PICNIC

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1997

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

**PLACE: West Lorne Lutheran Church-
Graham Street- across the street
from W.E.S.S.**

**THEME: "OUR HOME
AND COUNTRY
HERITAGE"**

Each Institute is to have an exhibit/display illustrating the theme. A short commentary (2minutes**) is to be given describing the exhibit.**

****Bring your own dishes and cutlery, along with your food. A beverage will be provided.****

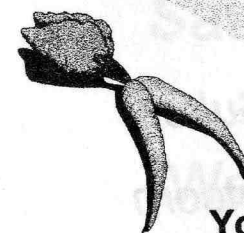
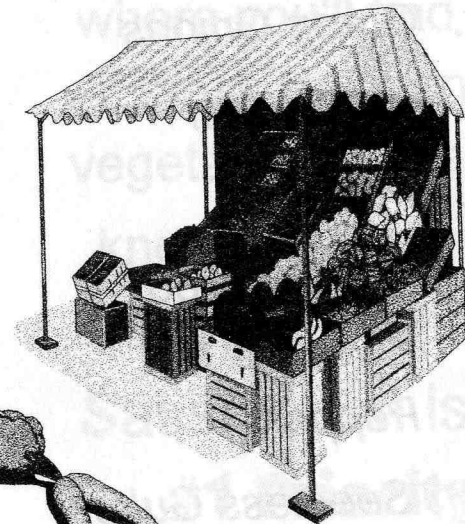
**HERITAGE COSTUME IS
OPTIONAL (BUT DESIRABLE)**



twich Township, Iona Sation, about 1926. (31 pupils). Front row – Lorne Joseph Cowan, Roy Winters, Raymond Downs, Glenn Marr, Wilfred Cowan, second row – Irene Marr, Muriel Rycroft, Norma Hathaway, Helen Irwin, Jean , Shirley Wilson, Meryl Wilson, Edna Dell, Effie McLellan. Third row – Eli ellan, Wilfred Downs, Johnny Webb, Grace Marr, Mary Marr, Agnes Dell, Margaret Cole (Mrs. Roy McNeil), teacher.

EMPIRE VALLEY

FARM MARKET



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HOURS

10 AM TO 6 PM Monday - Saturday

12 am to 6 pm Sundays

CENURY

FARMS.

A Tribute to a Farmer

"New" and "Improved."

How many times have we heard these words applied to everything from dish soap to tooth paste. We all rush out to purchase the newest farm machinery, and the latest improved seed beans on the market.

Not far down the

road however, is a farmer on a 100-acre farm in North Dunwich township who has been planting the same seed for nearly 50 years. Bill McAlister doesn't live his life by chasing the newest trends. Instead he sticks to the proven methods of farming that his family has used for generations.

He said, "You know, I've been thinking about this all morning, I guess in 50 years I've bought new soya bean seed about 3 times. If one of the neighbours have an outstanding field of beans, then I buy a hopper wagon of that

crop, store it in my flat wooden wagon all winter and plant it the following spring."

Bill points to the 50-acre field, next to his drive shed. "I bought these beans from John McMillan. He had a real good crop of early maturing Bicentennials, so I bought a wagon full of his bean oh, must be at least 25 years ago. I just save a wagon full of beans each fall to plant the next spring."

Bill McAlister's Scottish and English upbringing has made him a man who will not waste an hour in the day, or a vegetable in his garden. He is al-

ways on the go. Starting work around 6:00 each morning, you will often find him still working on something at 10:00 at night. You can spot his characteristic lope 1/2 a mile away, for Bill seldom walks. He's always moving quickly, his shoulders slightly stooped from years of hard work.

On a tour through his one-acre vegetable garden he stops to point out his plentiful squash crop. "These are Uncle Ben's flat heads," he says. "My father's brother-in-law, Uncle Ben grew these same squash 60 years ago. See the

tops of these squash look flat compared to a regular squash, that's why I call them Uncle Ben's flat heads."

Not far from the squash patch is a long row of beans. Bill remembers when he was 13-years-old, he worked two afternoons for Wilfred McKellar thrashing white beans. When he was offered \$3.00 for his services, Bill asked if he could instead have a pail of the beans they had just thrashed. Mr. McKellar was happy to oblige. Bill's family had beans to eat all winter, and the leftovers were planted the next spring in the garden. He has been saving some seed from the harvests each fall and planting them the following year, ever

since.

Bill saves broccoli, radish, tomato, potato, pumpkin, squash, pepper, white bean, green bean, yellow bean, brussel sprout, cucumber, citron and many of the flower seeds each year. He keeps a reserve supply of seed every year in case of a crop failure.

At this year's Walacetown Fair, Bill's bean crop was judged in the field and placed third amongst a group of Dunwich's top cash crop farms.

So if you're passing by Bill McAlister's farm some day and notice him out in the front yard making split rails for his fences, just give him a wave. You probably won't find many farmers like him. (submitted)

Randy and Michelle Small.

This farm is located on Concession 8, N/W corner lot 17 and 18 of Sunwich Township. Crown land to Hon Thomas Talbot in March 22nd 1821. Dec 5th 1826 to Alexander McCallum, March 31st 1861 to William A. McCallum. Feb 27th 1894 to Joseph W. Husband, April 18th 1899 to John D. McWilliam and Andrew S. McWilliam. Sept 15th 1903 to Donald McWilliam, March 4th 1931 Gordon D. McWilliam and Mary L. McWilliam. March 8th 1988 to Randy Keith Small and Michelle Lynn Small own it to-day.



photo taken 1994.

William and Linda Van Raay.

This farm is located on Concession 8, N/E Corner of Lot 18, of Dunwich Township. Crown land to Hon Thomas Talbot in March 22nd 1821, May 11th 1826 to Grove Smith. March 14th 1828 Angus Campbell Sr, June 9th 1871 to Angus Campbell Jr., Feb 24 1879 to John C. Graham, Dec 3rd 1901 to - William A. Graham. March 10th 1938 Mary Elizabeth Graham, Oct 9th 1975 to Campbell Graham, April 2nd 1982 to William Morris Van Raay and Linda Marie Van Raay own it to-day.



photo taken 1994.