

50th Anniversary of Women's Institute



Grace Lemon, Earl Lemon, Wolf Liepmann, Gertrude Liepmann

MRS. EARL (GRACE) LEMON

Grace was a charter member of the Women's Institute. She joined in 1920 and she was always a faithful member.

She was the instigator for getting the plaque for the Public School bell which is mounted at the site of the old school, which is now where the Sr. Citizen's Apartment is located.

She always liked to have the summer meeting at her home.

Grace was a good volunteer worker and helped develop their many achievements.

She was the organist at the Church of Christ Disciples for over forty years. She and her husband were faithful members.

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MRS. FRANK (MARY) KASZA

Mary joined the Women's Institute in 1977. In 1981 she became the President and remained in this office until June of 1985.

She first heard of the Women's Institute when she lived in England many years ago. Also, she was told it originated in Canada.

She was fascinated to learn so much had been done by the pioneer ladies. The Women's Institute contributed many supplies to the soldiers during the war. She realized how much had been done for the good of the country.

Even though in the last few years there haven't been too many members, she felt it was a joy to meet with the ladies each month. She felt each time they met, she learned a little more about this great organization.



Mary Kasza, of London, was like a lot of East Enders in London, England, during the war — dodging bombs on the way to work and trying to catch a few hours of sleep each night in the family's backyard Anderson shelter, an earth-covered semi-dugout about eight by five feet and tall enough to stand up in. Mary came to Canada in 1945 as a war bride of Frank Kasza, a soldier with the Essex Scottish.

BY MARY KASZA

“The day war was declared, the sirens went off and we all rushed to the bomb shelters.

The heavy bombing started the next year. Many times I had to get off the bus on the way to or from work and take shelter.

One night we were caught in a raid and had to take shelter huddled up against a partly demolished building. Bombs were falling quite near. I felt something up against my foot, and when it finally got light, I saw it was a human arm, still in a sleeve.

We tried to sleep sitting up in the Anderson shelter at the foot of the garden. That went on for months and months.

I remember the rationing and the comradeship of neighbors who were always willing to help and share.



” This photo of Mary Kasza was taken just before the Second World War.

75th Anniversary



Jim McGuigan M.P., Grace and Harry Humphries

MRS. HARRY (GRACE) HUMPHRIES

Grace is a charter member of the West Lorne Women's Institute. She was 2nd Vice President in 1982.

She was an active member until a few years ago, but due to her husband's illness, she was not able to attend.

She set a record by moving 38 times in her life. She joined the W.I. when there was one available, as she moved from place to place. The reason they moved so often was because her husband, Harry, worked for the New York Central Railway, as a signal maintainer.

Grace and Harry celebrated their 75th Wedding Anniversary on July 11th, 1986.

Harry passed away on December 31st, 1986, at the Bobier Convalescent Home. He was in his 100th year.



MRS. MARY HEALEY

Mary joined the Institute 17 years ago. She was born in West Lorne, but had moved away many years ago.

She was the President from 1979-1980 and also from 1980-1981.

Mary was the convenor for Citizenship and World Affairs. She gave a report on this topic at each meeting. Her reports were from countries such as Russia, Cuba, England, China and Japan or wherever there were particular news reports. She dearly loved this topic.

Mary was a faithful member and she enjoyed her association with the other ladies.

Mildred Turner, former teacher, dies

Ninety-seven year-old Mildred Turner died in Victoria Hosp., London, Wednesday, April 19th, 1989.

A resident of West Lorne, she made her home at Beatie Haven the past few years.

A retired elementary school teacher, she was a member of the West Lorne Church of Christ (Disciples).

A brother, Hugh, predeceased. Surviving are a number of cousins.

Visiting will commence at the West Lorne Chapel of Padfield Funeral Homes Friday at 2 pm, the funeral to be conducted Saturday at 1:30

with Rev. Ron Dakin of the Church of Christ (Disciples). Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

MRS. NEIL (LOUISE) NICHOLSON

Mrs. Nicholson joined the Institute in 1925. She was a life member. She had the office of District President for Elgin West in 1941.

She helped with many programs for the Women's Institute. One memorable program was at Easter, each member made their own Easter bonnet to wear at the program and they also wore it to church on Easter Sunday. Louise always liked to help with Christmas programs and loved to compose songs for them. She was a hard working member.

She was the organist at the Church of Christ Disciples for 40 years.

She and her husband celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 13th, 1964.



MRS. VERA RIPLEY RECEIVED A GIFT FROM WEST Lorne United Church's congregation following Sunday's service, for having been a choir member 65 years, starting in Windsor when only 13. Choir leader Shirley Walker made the presentation before a group of about 75 who enjoyed coffee, muffins, tarts and a social hour.

MRS. THOMAS F. (VERA) RIPLEY

Vera is a life member of the Women's Institute. She has been an active member for 55 years. She is a past President and was a Secretary-Treasurer for 28 years. Over the years she has helped with many achievements of the organization. She has been a faithful and valuable member.

She has sung in the United Church Choir for 63 years and has sung many solos.

She has also been a faithful worker for the Cancer Society. She was honoured for her many years of service in September 1986, in Aylmer.

She was also active in the ladies group of the United Church (UCW). She was the Secretary of the UCW for 36 years and was a member of the session.