

## Health issues topic of Elgin WI Winter Picnic

More than 85 residents enjoyed a bountiful meals as the River Road and Sparta Scorosis Women's Institute hosted the Elgin County District Women's Institute Winter Picnic at Fingal United Church Feb. 16.

Health issues, a concern for everyone, was the chosen topic.

A number of branches submitted skits, demonstrations, dialogue and poems related to this theme. Everything from breast examinations, ovarian cancer, heart and stroke facts to medication knowledge and expiry time, exercise and its benefits, and benefits from the Elgin Com-

munity Care Access Centre.

Draws were made throughout the evening. John Martin and Cliff Barwick, from the Elgin-St. Thomas Archives Association, spoke on their mission to preserve, collect and conserve artifacts that reflect our culture educational and social history of

Elgin.

Many artifacts are stored and in need of a home for public viewing. A one-floor, wheelchair accessible building is preferable, bringing the City of St. Thomas and Elgin County together.

There is a great need to make us aware of these untapped resources for future generations knowledge.

## Elgin County WI news

The Elgin County District Women's Institute Branch Directors met recently at the county building, with President Madeline Jenkins in charge. The Opening Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect commenced the meeting.

Glenna Ladell updated provincial board business, including the phone buster program and encouraging members to write the Minister of Education and local MPPs in regards to school closures.

The Tweedsmuir History project for 2000 is "Grandma's and Grandpa's Treasure." All branches were encouraged to continue providing leadership and financial support to 4-H clubs.

Upcoming dates include the District Annual on May 18 at South Dunwich Hall - host branches are Wallacetown and Shedden. Branches are reminded to bring a craft for the London Area Convention and \$6 for the Pioneer Museum Strawberry Social when attending the District Annual.

The theme for this meeting is "Health and You." Registration is from 1 until 1:15 p.m. **APR 2000**

## Elgin County WI news

The Elgin County Women's Institute held their annual meeting on May 18 at the South Dunwich Hall with Wallacetown and Shedden branches hosting.

President Madeleine Jenkins welcomed the members and conducted the meeting assisted by secretary Grace Campbell.

The Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect opened the meeting followed by the ratification of 15 district directors with one branch absent.

In her address, Jenkins spoke of the Rose Health Program "Rural Ontario Sharing Education" for women, which will be held June 26. Reports were also received from the education coordinator, public relations, Tweedsmuir history curator, lobbying convenor, farm safety and the pioneer museum.

An Elgin County WI Scholarship was presented to Marcie Ford of Clachan area by Grace Campbell, convenor of this committee.

The area convention will be October 24 in Thorndale. Elgin WI will host the area convention in 2002 with a coordinator needed for this event.

The 'New Millennium' is the theme for Branch programming in 2000-2001. 'A Grandmother's Legacy' was a great success and it is hoped these will be assembled in book form. A section on grandma and grandpa's treasures is requested for the Tweedsmuir History Book.

New officers were also installed at the meeting and include: Ann McLean (Past President-Education Coordinator), Madeleine Jenkins (President), Mary Veenstra (1st Vice-President), Pauline Lindsay (2nd Vice-President), Grace Campbell (Secretary-Treasurer), Eleanor McMillan (Public Relations), Betty VanPatter (Lobbying Convenor), Helen VanBrenk (Tweedsmuir Curator), Rena Campbell and Marion McKenzie (Museum Representatives).

## LONDON AREA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

*86TH Annual Convention*

*Theme*

*Learning Together In The Future*



## Women's Institute Theme for 2000

### The New Millenium

Location:

*Thorndale Community Centre*

*Thorndale, Ontario*

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

*Subdivision 18:*

*Middlesex East, Middlesex Northwest*

*Elgin County*

*Subdivision 19:*

*Perth South, Huron South, Huron West,*

*Oxford District*

## London Area Women's Institute Executive

ast President	Mrs. Gladys Egelton	786 Gainsborough, London	N6G 5B5	471-5584
resident	Mrs. Pauline Lindsay	R. R. 6, St. Thomas	N5P 3T1	631-5247
st Vice. Pres	Mrs. Fran Hyatt	R. R. 1, Mt. Brydges	N9L 1W0	264-1967
nd Vice Pres.	Mrs. Eleanor Williams	R. R. 6, St. Mary's	N4X 1C8	229-8200
ecretary	Mrs. Dorothy Sutherland	Box 35, Putnam	N0L 2B0	485-2122
ss. Sec.	Mrs. Mary Nicklas	Box 885, Tavistock	N0B 2R0	665-9915
reasurer	Mrs. Chris Wiffen	R. R. 6, Woodstock	N4S 7W1	462-2898
ublic Relations	Mrs. Margaret Armstrong	R. R. 2, Mt. Elgin	N 0J 1N0	485-3288
ducation Conv.	Mrs. Shirley Towers	R. R. 4, Glencoe	N0L 1M0	287-5249
obbying Conv.	Mrs. Gladys Egelton	786 Gainsborough, London	N6G 5B5	471-5584
eedsmuir Curator	Ms. Jeanne Leitch	Box 298, Dutton	N0L 1J0	762-3654
st. Curator	Mrs. Helen VanBrenk	R. R. 1, Fingal	N0L 1K0	762-2768
inancial Examiners:	Mrs. Kay Bickle	R. R. 6, Woodstock	N4S 7W1	462-2259
	Mrs. Mary Alice Roth	R. R. 2, Tavistock	N0B 2R0	462-2343

### Provincial Advisory Council (PAC)

ubdivision 18:	Mrs. Glenna Ladell	R, R, 2, Ilderton	N0M 2A0	666-1418
ubdivision 19:	Mrs. Donna MacPherson	R. R., 1, Embro	N0J 1J0	475-4174

### Provincial Advisory Council Alternate

ubdivision18:	Mrs. Ruth Axford	R. R. 1, Mossley	N0L 1V0	269-3912
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## Provincial Board Directors for Southern Region

Mrs. Donna Willows	R. R. 2, St. Paul's	N0K 1V0	393-6455
Mrs. Ruth Crump	R. R. 1, McGregor	N0R 1G0	726-6726

### Convention Committee Chairs

999 Middlesex NW	Bonnie Pilkington	R. R. 4, Mt. Brydges	N0L 1W0	264-1674
000 Middlesex E	Marilyn Howey	R. R. 1, Belmont	N0L 1B0	269-3097
001 Perth S.	Marlene Archer	219 Douglas St. Stratford	N5A 5P8	273-1454

### Appointments

hildren's Hospital	Marilyn Pym	R. R. 3, Exeter	N0M 1S5	235-1605
Western Fair	Joanne Shelley	R. R. 3, Embro	N0J 1J0	475-6055
	Evelyn Rath	Box 32, Putnam	N0L 2B0	485-3578

## Opening Ode

A goodly thing it is to meet  
 in Friendship's circle bright  
 Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet  
 Nor dims the radiant light  
 No unkind words our lips shall pass  
 No envy sour the mind;  
 But each shall seek the common weal,  
 The good of all mankind.

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## The Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us, O Lord from pettiness,  
 let us be large in thought, in word and deed.  
 Let us be done with fault finding  
 and leave off self seeking.  
 May we put away all pretences  
 and meet each other face to face  
 without self pity and without prejudice.  
 May we never be hasty in judgement  
 and always generous.  
 Let us take time for all things;  
 make us grow calm, serene, gentle.  
 Teach us to put into action our better impulses  
 straightforward and unafraid;  
 Grant that we may realize that it is the little things  
 that create difference;  
 that in the big things of life we are one.  
 And may we strive to touch and know the great  
 human heart common to us all,  
 and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

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## Women's Institute Grace

We thank Thee, Father for Thy Care.  
 Food, friends and kindness we share;  
 May we forever, mindful be  
 Of "Home and Country" and of Thee.

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London Area Convention  
 Tuesday, October 24  
 Program for 2000

**Chair : Pauline Lindsay**

Each Branch and District Reporting Secretary is asked to sit in the designated section and to report back to their members. Federate News and ACWW subscriptions are available today and remember you must have an ACWW membership if you plan to attend the Convention in Hamiltown in 2001.

8:45 a.m.	Registration Reception Coffee Hour	Presidents of Seven Districts Host District Wellburn, Birr & Harrietsville
9:25 a.m.	Time to Sing	Norma Shackelton & Margaret Churchill
	Presentation of Flags Sing March-In Institute Ode Mary Stewart Collect Welcome In Memoriam: Acceptance of Minutes from 1999 Convention Financial Report: Financial Examiner's Report: Correspondence Roll Call	Delores Shapton, Gladys Egelton O Canada District Banners  President Middlesex East Marilyn Howey Reynolds Creek Chris Wiffen Mary Alice Roth  Responsibility of District Presidents Each President to give a two minute summary of happenings in her district in 1999-2000 Pauline Lindsay
	President's Address	

**Chair : Fran Hyatt**

Light & Lively F.W.I.O. Prewsident Adelaide Hoodless Presentation Nomination of Provincial Advisory Council and PAC Alternates Collection Report of FWIO Convention Comments on Displays Announcements	Christine Reaburn  Reynolds Creek & Harrietsville Pauline Lindsay
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12:00 noon	Sing Institute Grace - Adjourn for lunch Catered by Thorndale Women's Institute
12:30	Country Store - Wilton Grove, Salem & Nilestown

Afternoon Session  
 1:30 P.M.

**Chair: Eleanor Williams**

Hymn of All Nations  
 Greetings from Visiting Area Presidents;  
 Guelph, Grey-Bruce, Southwestern

**F.Y.I.**

1. Jeweller	John Nash	Estate Jewellery
2. Clinical Nurse Specialist	Nancy Bol	'Alzheimer's

Lite & Lively::

Reports:	All printed this year- Please Read:
Lobbying Convenor	Gladys Egelton
Public Relations Officer	Margaret Armstrong
Tweedsmuir Curator	Jeanne Gow-Leitch
Children's Hospital	Marilyn Pym
Western Fair Association	Evelyn Rath
Rose Program	Bonnie Pilkington

Break & Time to Sing

**Chair: Pauline Lindsay**

100th Anniversay Presentation Provincial Advisory Councilors  Provincial Board Directors	Glenna Ladell Donna MacPherson Donna Willows Ruth Crump
Treasurer's Report of Convention Election of Officers: New Business: Invitation for Convention 2001 and Courtesies	Chris Wiffen Christine Reaburn  Marlene Archer

Announcements: Head Table Guests	Mary Nicklas
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Please Remember to Hand In Evaluation Sheets  
 At End of Evening

## Hymn of All Nations

This is my song, O God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for lands afar, and mine,  
This is my love, the country where my heart is  
This is my hope, my dream, my shrine.  
But other heart's in other lands are beating  
With hopes and dreams the same as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,  
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine,  
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,  
And skies are sometimes blue as mine.  
Oh, hear my song then, God of all the nations,  
A song of peace for their land and mine

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## W. I. Centennial Song

It's a hundred years since Adelaide Hoodless was convinced  
That milk should be pasteurized,  
Then Janet and Erland Lee found it easy to see  
That Women should organize.  
For Mrs. Hoodless knew that informed women grew,  
So they did mobilize.  
Hundred and one Women came and things were n'er the same  
For they formed the W.I.'s  
So this idea spread, round the world it shed its light,  
Things modernized.  
Then Women's homes improved, and Country's Laws were  
moved,  
Their Knowledge exercised.  
To encourage, help, and share, build a better world with care  
In the work of the W.I.'s.  
Now a hundred years young, still there's work to be done,  
Women's lives to be vitalized.  
Now it's time to celebrate, Achievements commemorate,  
with honor and with pride.  
This Centennial salute of the Women's Institute,  
Women of the world arise.

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Banquet

Caterer: Crimlin W. I.  
5:30 P.M.

**Chair: Pauline Lindsay**

W.I. Grace

Toast to the Queen

Toast to the Women's Institute

Introduction of Head Table Guests - Mary Nicklas

Greetings- Reeve of West Nissouri & Warden - Crispin Colvin

Entertainment - Huron South

Presentation of Maryn Pardy Scholarship

Presentation of Dorothy Fatcher Scholarship

Entertainment by **'Men of Accord'**

Presentations

Closing Ceremony - Retire Flags

Sing - Centennial Song

2000 London Area Convention Declared Closed



# Elgin County Women's Institute

## » Reaches Into The Community «

*The 11 branches in Elgin West, the 8 branches in Elgin East and the Junior Women's Institute in St. Thomas are proud of their achievements in the past, what they are doing now and what they will do in the future to help their communities in Elgin County.*

- ★ They helped to establish the Elgin County Pioneer Museum.
- ★ They initiated the restoration of the Southwold Earthworks.
- ★ They help out at Elgin Manor, Bobier Home, Terrace Lodge and Valleyview.
- ★ They help to lead 4-H Clubs.
- ★ They provide scholarships to Elgin County students.
- ★ They assist *OMAF* in leading courses for all the women in their communities.
- ★ Elgin West holds the Daffodil Tea to raise money for the Cancer Society.
- ★ Shedden Branch established the Neighborhood Watch Program.
- ★ They donate prizes to local Fairs and sponsor Fair Ambassadors.
- ★ They canvass their communities for charities.
- ★ Some branches own community halls, such as Forge and Anvil in Sparta - many other branches provide funds for their halls.

The list is endless.

*If there is a need in the community the Women's Institute will be quietly working to achieve its success.*

# Women's Institute plugging

The organization, more than 100 years old, has done a lot of good, but, relentlessly, its membership is shrinking and aging.

BY SANDRA COULSON  
Free Press Lifestyles Reporter

The pasteurizing of milk is so routine these days that many people have forgotten why it's important.

White lines down the centre of provincial highways are just one of those things that have always been there, right?

Music on the school curriculum is just a regular part of growing up.

But to the Women's Institute, these are markers not only of social progress, but also of its history.

The Women's Institute is a rural organization now in its second century.

Its membership is shrinking and aging along with the shrinking and aging rural population in Canada.

But it claims a proud history of making a difference to the everyday lives of people across Canada and overseas.

"They're leaders in a lot of things, but it doesn't come out that way," says Marjorie Johns, president of the Huron South district of the Women's Institute.

"The government takes over and everyone thinks the government (thought of it)."

She's not upset about the often forgotten role of Women's Institute.

"We've learned to accept it. I guess it was always the women's role. But let me tell you, when you want a job done, it takes women to do it."

Huron South district celebrates its 100th anniversary today with a dinner at the Dashwood Community Centre.

Perhaps significantly, the evening isn't exclusively about the history of the Women's Institute. The guest speaker is Mark Winegarden, who biked across Canada with his 12-year-old son to raise awareness of diabetes. Johns says it's a worthwhile subject because diabetes affects so many people.

The Women's Institute story begins in 1897 in what is now Stoney Creek, southeast of Hamilton.

A broad-minded farmer named Erland Lee invited the social reformer Adelaide

Hoodless to come from Hamilton to speak about the need for an educational society for poorly educated rural women.

After the speech, Hoodless and Lee sat in the Lees' dining room, drawing up the constitution and bylaws for this new organization while Lee's wife Janet wrote it out in longhand. Erland Lee was treasurer of the Farmers' Institute and the new group took the parallel name of Women's Institute.

Branches sprang up quickly after the founding.

Their aim was to improve living conditions of families and communities. Women were informed about sanitation, child-raising techniques and other matters of "domestic economy."

Pasteurization was high on the agenda because Hoodless's infant son had died from drinking infected milk.

As lobbying grew for this and other causes, provincial and national bodies were formed. Branches spread to Scotland and England and the Women's Institute joined the Associated Country Women of the World, based in Britain.

But accomplishments are tinged with some sadness.

"We're getting to celebrate something we're never going

to get to celebrate again," Johns says of her branch's centenary — not only because few live long enough to see two such anniversaries, but also because branches are closing.

Six are left in the Huron South district after two recent closings. Others are 'iffy.'

But the Grand Bend branch is bucking the trend with some younger members — meaning women in their 50s.

Cassie Lovie, 54, joined three years ago — "I had been thinking of joining some volunteer group," she says — when the Grand Bend branch put a display in a plowing match. Now she's on the committee that plans the monthly meetings.

Grand Bend's major fundraiser is at the community's Thanksgiving farmers' market. Lately, monkey dolls made from men's long grey socks — an old craft revitalized by the group — are big sellers.

The branch has given money to a nursing home for a patient lift, to poor teens for Christmas gifts and to the local library. "It gives you a good feeling that you've done something that you wanted to do and you're not getting paid to do," Lovie says.

Johns joined the branch in Elimville near Exeter in 1949, the year after it was formed, because of the opportunity to learn, enjoy fellowship with other women and pick up homemaking skills.

Recently, she travelled to England and Scotland, where she visited branches. It gave her a sense of the worldwide ties. "You kind of feel part of something bigger."

Jane Dearing joined the Crediton branch 38 years ago to get to know her neighbours.

"My mother belonged when I was a teenager. I changed townships and wanted to get to know the rest of the women in the area and thought that was a good way."

She likes the social aspect of the group and learning old skills updated to new times or hearing speakers on modern issues such as phone scams.

"We try and keep abreast of the times because the times surely are changing and it's hard to keep up with it."

When she joined the Crediton branch, it had 35 members, but only 14 are active today.

"We're having a hard job finding younger members because younger mothers are so busy. I have a daughter busy with dance and hockey

## County W.I. holds its winter picnic

Elgin County Women's Institute held its annual winter picnic on Feb. 19 at Talbotville United Church. Paynes Mills W.I. and Sparta W.I. were the joint hostess for this noon pot-luck dinner.

County president Mary Veenstra gave words of welcome and asked all to join in the singing of the Institute Ode and repeating of the collect. The Institute grace was sung with Eleanor McMillan at the piano.

Greetings were brought by Ruth Oxford our provincial advisory council member. She was pleased to tell us that the site of the first Women's Institute

meeting over one hundred years ago at Stoney Creek has been designated a National Heritage sight namely the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

Kathy Nesbitt of the Elgin-St. Thomas Health Unit outlined the broad scope of their mandate for programs, ranging from newborns and their moms to senior safety; sun safety concerns re skin cancer; immunization programs, public health including inspection of public eating places. She noted that all vaccines available to doctors must come through the Health Unit; inspection of sewage

system as well as testing of well water. The list is a long one.

Grace Campbell of Cowal W.I. brought her collection of hats and accessories. Some new, some not so new can be transformed with a few trimmings.

During the afternoon break members visited the "toonie" table convened by Sparta Sorosis W.I. while Paynes Mills W.I. were the kitchen convenors.

This concluded a pleasant afternoon and all would return with new ideas and new challenges.

C7

## away

and they just don't have the time to come out.

"What the future brings, I'm just not sure. There are so many other things out there you can join. I just know I'm going to keep going as long as it's going, because it's done me a lot of good."

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CAUSES

Since 1897, the Women's Institute has advocated to have:

- ▶ bread wrapped
- ▶ white lines painted down the centre of provincial highways
- ▶ fluorescent paint on the sides of rail cars
- ▶ garments labelled for quality
- ▶ music on the school curriculum
- ▶ a law forcing traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped
- ▶ breathalyser and blood tests for drivers
- ▶ poison containers marked
- ▶ milk pasteurized
- ▶ dental and medical inspections in schools
- ▶ war memorials set up



## Federated Women's Institute of Canada

HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING TO ACCOMPLISH:

- ★ Having bread wrapped
- ★ Having white line painted on the centre of Provincial highways
- ★ Having red stripe removed from bacon wrap
- ★ Having fluorescent paint used on sides of railway cars
- ★ Having garments labelled as to quality
- ★ Adding music to school curriculum (1937)
- ★ Having "STOP" signs placed at railway crossings
- ★ Having fowl graded for sale
- ★ Setting legal marriage age at sixteen with parental consent (1937)
- ★ Requiring car owners to purchase liability insurance before getting a license
- ★ Making it mandatory for traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped
- ★ Making hot lunches available in schools
- ★ Establishing the International Peace Gardens on the Manitoba/North Dakota border
- ★ Requiring breathalyzer tests and blood tests for motorists
- ★ Providing hospital benefits to nursing homes
- ★ Making it necessary for persons handling food to have "TB" tests
- ★ Teaching of sex education in schools
- ★ Enacting legislation on dimming car lights when meeting another vehicle
- ★ Having staples abolished on packaged food products
- ★ Having poison containers clearly labelled
- ★ Banning the sale of mineral based detergents
- ★ Establishing a course in Household Science at MacDonald Institute
- ★ Requiring the pasteurization of milk
- ★ Providing dental and medical inspections in schools
- ★ Establishing the MacDonald Institute, University of Guelph (Adelaide Hoodless)
- ★ Encouraging War Memorials and War Services



FWIO

2002

## Elgin County District Women's Institute

The Women's Institute is a rural organization that has a vibrant past and continues to have an influence throughout rural areas world wide. Although our revised district of Elgin County has only been in existence for 5 years we have been a part of district meetings for 94

years, tracing our roots to the first meeting held in Stoney Creek, ON in 1897.

Representatives from 16 rural Institutes with a membership of 224 met at Crinan Presbyterian Church on May 15 for their annual meeting.

Reports were a large portion of the evening including a summary of our volunteer hours in excess of 9,700 hours.

President Madeline Jenkins and secretary treasurer Eleanor McMillan kept the proceedings moving smoothly while the Yarmouth Glen Institute provided humour with their skit entitled "Protaters"

Our P.A.C. member Glenna Ladell from London Area gave highlights of the year and reminded us Elgin District will host the Area

Convention at the Shedden Keystone Complex on Tuesday October 29.

A representative from each W.I. signed a supporting letter on behalf of a funding programme for the V.O.N.

Tickets were distributed for the annual Strawberry Social on June 26 at the Elgin Co. Pioneer Museum.

The meeting concluded with the following offices elected

President - Mary Veenstra

Secretary Treasurer - Eleanor McWilliam.

1st Vice President - Pauline Lindsay.

2nd Vice President - Mary Ann Coughell.

Public Relations - Edith Auckland.

MAY 2002