

**Our Anniversary
Album of
Memories**



**Oxford North District
Women's Institute**

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Introduction

Oxford North District Women's Institute is celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 1980. This History Book is in commemoration of our anniversary . . . hence the title — "Our Anniversary Album of Memories."

Oxford North District Women's Institute is comprised of seventeen Institutes with a total of 565 members. These Institutes are:

- BRAEMAR
- BROOKSDALE
- BROWN'S
- DRUMBO
- PRINCESS ELIZABETH
- EMBRO - WEST ZORRA
- HARRINGTON
- HICKSON
- INNERKIP
- KINTORE
- LAKESIDE
- ANNA P. LEWIS
- GRACE PATTERSON
- PLATTSVILLE
- TAVISTOCK
- UNIONDALE
- WOODSTOCK NORTH

Thank You

The booklet committee extend their thanks to all who helped in any way to make the publication of this little booklet possible. To the seventeen branches who contributed their history highlights, those who made pictures available, and all who participated in any way — your contributions were appreciated.

Mrs. Irene Richardson
Mrs. Jessie Thornton
Mrs. Ethel Slater

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ADELAIDE HUNTER HOODLESS
Founder of Women's Institute of Ontario

75th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM
Oxford North District Women's Institute

Embros Community Centre

TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1980

"Forward Together"

- 11 a.m.** — View displays of District and Branches. Visit with friends.
12 noon — Please be seated!
— Hymn of All Nations.
— Ode, Mary Stewart Collect
— Institute Grace
— SMORGASBORD DINNER

Welcome: Mrs. John Richardson (Thank Opti-Mrs.: Mrs. Harry Thornton).

Introduction of Head Table Guests and executive: Mrs. Bert Drenth

Greetings: Mrs. Clarence Diamond, president of F.W.I.O.

Mrs. Willis Matheson, Provincial Board Director, Subdiv. 23.

Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, President of London Area.

Mrs. Leonard Caffyn, Chairman of County Conference.

Mr. Cliff Matthews, Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Mrs. Brenda Ingratta, Home Economist.

Mrs. John Templeman, president of Perth South.

Mrs. Keith Hammerton, president of Oxford South.

Solo: Mrs. Thos. Thomson **Pianist:**

Presentation of past District presidents and secretaries: Mrs. Hugh Baird.

Memorial Service: Embros & West Zorra W.I.

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Mrs. Archie Armour.

Guest Speaker: MRS. HERB MALUSKE, past president of F.W.I.O.

Thank Speaker: Mrs. Harry Thornton.

Let's All Sing: Mrs. Hugh Baird.

Entertainment: Mrs. Alex Hossack.

Solo: Mrs. Thos. Thomson.

History: Mrs. Ray Slater.

Courtesies: Mrs. Gordon Knox.

Closing: Mrs. John Richardson. *Let There Be Peace on Earth.*

Chairman: Mrs. John Richardson, president.

Pianist: Mrs. John E. King.

Reception: Mrs. John Richardson, Mrs. Willis Matheson.

Registration: Mrs. Isabella Whittaker, Mrs. Wm. Timbs.

History Book Sales: Mrs. Harry Thornton.

Cookbook Sales: Mrs. Lorne Walters.

W.I. Display Co-ordinator: Mrs. Archie Armour.

75th Anniversary Committee: Chairman, Mrs. Archie Armour, Mrs. John Richardson, Mrs. Bert Drenth, Mrs. Harry Thornton, Mrs. Gordon Knox.



Greetings from F.W.I.O. President

It is a great pleasure on behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to offer sincere and hearty congratulations to you on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary.

Throughout these years your accomplishments have multiplied in scope as you have upheld our W.I. objectives like a beacon light that has created better communities in your county for all.

Through conscientious work and generous financial assistance you have participated in those causes that have helped others but you still have reached out with helping hands to do the little acts of kindness, truth and grace which have had a big influence on human conduct.

I know you will keep your minds open to new ideas in your Branches and looking ahead you will continue to seek roads to a better world. I am proud that as you carry on in these best traditions, you have been challenged to preserve the history of these past seventy-five years. I know you will continue to develop informed members for tomorrow, armed with knowledge, wisdom and understanding and showing the friendship way of W.I. to future generations.

All the best to everyone "For Home and Country."

Mrs. Florence Diamond

Greetings from London Area President

It is a pleasure to extend greetings from London Area Women's Institutes on the occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of Oxford North District Women's Institute. This is a very special day in the lives of the Women's Institute members in Oxford North and will hold many special memories for each of you. May you go forward from this memorable day with renewed dedication as you faithfully continue to serve 'Home and Country'.

Congratulations and best wishes on your Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Keith (Janet) Hiepleh,
President London Area Women's Institutes

Message from the President Oxford North District Women's Institute

We, in Oxford North District, are marking a most important occasion this year, our Seventy-fifth Anniversary.

One looks back over the past seventy-five years of Institute work in Oxford North with feelings of admiration and appreciation. Admiration for the foresight of past officers in the choice of projects undertaken, and appreciation for the hard work of those dedicated members who saw those projects carried out to completion. We look forward with enthusiasm to meeting the challenge of the future in Women's Institute work.

It is a great privilege to have the honour of bringing you greetings on this happy and memorable occasion. On behalf of the District of Oxford North, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to those members of the anniversary committee who have worked so faithfully to make this day — July 29, 1980 — such a memorable one.

(Mrs. John) Irene Richardson
Uniondale, Ontario



Greetings from Provincial Board Director

Congratulations on your Seventy-fifth Anniversary and I wish you many more.

How fitting that you are celebrating this year which has been proclaimed "The Year of the Women's Institute." Many lives have been changed, many new friends have been made and many new crafts have been learned through membership in Women's Institute.

We remember members and executive of the past and welcome and encourage the ones in the future as we work for "Home and Country."

Mrs. Willis (Ruth) Matheson
Provincial Board Director
Federated Women's Institute
of Ontario



Greetings from Director of Home Economics

It is indeed a pleasure to extend to the Oxford North District the congratulations of the Home Economics Branch. Your District has reached a significant milestone in its celebration of seventy-five years of service "for home and country".

When we think of the technological changes that have taken place in the past seventy-five years, it brings home to us how the role of the Women's Institute has changed. From what was strictly a rural organization, it has expanded to encompass women who live in larger towns and those who live on the outskirts of metropolitan centres. Some things, however, have not altered — the encouragement, caring and financial aid that the institutes have traditionally extended to projects that benefit their members, their communities and, through ACWW, needy people of other countries.

We of the Home Economics Branch greatly appreciate your assistance in sponsoring 4-H Homemaking Clubs, in providing leaders, in participating in our adult courses and, by working with our staff, in "Spreading the word" about the services the branch offers. We hope you will continue to attend, enjoy and benefit from these services.

As I write this, it is early April — a time when life begins anew — and it is my hope that you, also, will find renewed enthusiasm and challenge as you begin your second seventy-five years in the work of the Women's Institutes.

Molly McGhee, Director
Home Economics Branch
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Greetings from Home Economist for Oxford County

Originally the Women's Institute Branch and Home Economics Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food was developed as a result of a need expressed by the founding members of the Women's Institute—

- to help women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency
- to develop a more abundant life in rural communities
- to develop better, happier and more useful citizens
- to discover, stimulate and train leaders

Through several name changes the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food still has the basic objective to help the residents of Ontario enhance their physical, economic, and social well-being through programs designed to aid in the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills.

Workshops, short courses and food forums for adults as well as 4-H Homemaking Clubs have been the basic means for reaching these objectives. The Women's Institute Branches in Oxford North District have been particularly responsive and supportive of the programs offered. As well as providing leaders for courses and giving special achievement awards, the Women's Institutes sponsor bursaries and scholarships.

As you look ahead to the future, I hope you will plan to continue your close association with the Home Economics Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture & Food and that we can continue to meet the needs of the rural people of Ontario and Oxford County.

Mrs. Brenda Ingratta
Home Economist for Oxford County

Greetings from Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food

As we all know, life doesn't stand still and the ways of dealing with it don't remain the same for long. We have only to think of the tremendous advances in farming to realize how much has been swept aside or altered beyond recognition in the past 75 years. So many ideas seemed right when they were first introduced, but so few of them proved to be enduring. So often something better came along.

One idea that withstood the test of time is reflected in the continuing existence of the Women's Institute movement. The reason becomes clear in this history of the Oxford North District's 17 Branches. There are numerous examples of how much help can be obtained — and given — when people share their knowledge with one another. The success of such an idea was assured from the beginning. No amount of change would overtake it. It made too much sense.

In celebrating its 75th Anniversary, the Oxford North District Women's Institute has a right to be proud of its many achievements. It has made a significant contribution to the quality of rural life. It continues to bring an essential service to the farming community.

At the Ministry of Agriculture and Food we are constantly in touch with Women's Institute officers and members. Especially in the work of our Home Economics Branch we can always depend on a ready response to requests for help. The 4-H Homemaking Clubs program is only one example of activity in which we receive invaluable assistance. Selfless devotion to a cause is not just an ideal in the Women's Institute movement. It is put into practice in countless heartwarming ways.

I want to commend the authors of this publication for a job well done — and fittingly put on record. These pages pay tribute to values that are still worth retaining in today's changing world.

Lorne Henderson
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Greetings from Agricultural Representative for Oxford County

On behalf of past and present staff of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food office in Oxford, I extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Oxford North District Women's Institutes on the District's 75th Anniversary. For some sixty-seven years the Women's Institutes in Oxford North have contributed in a major way to the rural extension programs of this office. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Your support of 4-H Homemaking clubs, workshops, short courses and student bursaries has played a significant role in the development of both the rural community and individuals within the community.

C. B. Matthews,
Agricultural Representative,
Oxford County.

4-H Clubs in Oxford North District

Oxford North District had 4-H Clubs as early as 1935. Unfortunately no records have been kept of leaders, club names or projects taken.

Over the years many girls have received County Honours, Provincial Honours and several girls have even gone on to receive Advanced Honours.

Today there are many 4-H members in Oxford North. For the current 4-H project "Food For Friends", there are 276 enrolled from Oxford North. It was a homemaking club that started out chiefly to instruct rural female youth and is now very much a part of both rural and urban life with both males and females.



Emblem Chosen

In February, 1903, a committee was appointed to select an emblematic pin for Institute members. The choice of pin was designed from a signet ring worn by Laura Rose (Mrs. Stephen) at the time of organization and was in the form of a small oval in blue with gold letters "O.W.I." cut in the oval, a small maple leaf at each end and the words of the motto engraved on the oval banding. The blue chosen was clear corn flower blue and the gold a bright yellow, colour. The pin remains the chosen emblem of Ontario Institutes today.

Past Presidents of Oxford North W.I.



Mrs. Dewar
Bright
1905 - 1908



Miss B. Gilholm
Bright
1908 - 1913



Mrs. Thos. Underhill
Embro
1913 - 1916



Mrs. A. S. McKay
Braemar
1916 - 1918



Mrs. R. D. Dayman
Drumbo
1918 - 1920



Mrs. H. B. Atkinson
Embro
1920 - 1924



Mrs. James E. McKay
Braemar
1924 - 1927



Mrs. L. Darnley
Drumbo
1927 - 1929

Past Presidents (Continued)



Mrs. A. A. McMillan
Kintore
1929 - 1932



Mrs. Wilbur Youngs
Brooksdale
1932 - 1934



Mrs. J. M. McKay
Embro
1934 - 1935



Mrs. James Goodwin
Drumbo
1935 - 1938



Mrs. F. R. Thornton
Kintore
1938 - 1941



Mrs. L. DeMontmorency
Woodstock N.
1941 - 1943



Mrs. J. A. McDonald
Brooksdale
1943 - 1945



Mrs. George Gates
Lakeside
1945 - 1947



Mrs. Orrie O. Smith
Kintore
1947 - 1950

Past Presidents (Continued)



Mrs. Gilbert Ross
Embro
1950 - 1952



Mrs. J. H. Lederman
Plattsville
1952 - 1954



Mrs. Fred Slater
Uniondale
1954 - 1956



Mrs. J. J. McKay
Embro
1956 - 1958



Mrs. Charles Munro
Embro
1959 - 1960



Mrs. McKay Birtch
Innerkip
1960 - 1963



Mrs. Wilbur Lawrence
Embro
1963 - 1965



Mrs. Roy McCorquodale
Lakeside
1965 - 1967



Mrs. Gordon Knox
Plattsville
1967 - 1970

Past Presidents (Continued)



Mrs. O. C. Powers
Thamesford
1969 - 1971



Mrs. Willis Matheson
Brooksdale
1971 - 1973



Mrs. Fred Howe
Braemar
1973 - 1975



Mrs. Archie Armour
Thamesford
1975 - 1977



Mrs. Harry Thornton
Kintore
1977 - 1979



Mrs. John Richardson
Uniondale
1979 -

Secretaries Down Through The Years



Miss B. Gilholm
Bright
1905 - 1909



Mrs. Matthew Cowper
Thamesford
1909 - 1914



Mrs. A. A. McKinnon
Embro
1914 - 1919



Miss Marion McLeod
Embro
1919 - 1920



Mrs. J. Harmer
Drumbo
1920 - 1925



Mrs. Andrew Kerr
Brooksdale
1925 - 1937



Mrs. Angus McDonald
Brooksdale
1937 - 1943



Mrs. J. D. Hossack
Embro
1943 - 1949



Mrs. Chas. Elsom
Woodstock North
1949 - 1952

Secretaries (Continued)



Mrs. A. S. Pearson
Braemar
1952 - 1958



Mrs. Edward Eddy
Woodstock
1958 - 1964



Mrs. Bruce McKay
Ingersoll
1964 - 1970



Mrs. Fred Arthur
Brown's
1970 - 1974



Mrs. Gordon Knox
Plattsville
1974 - 1980

Provincial Board Directors from Oxford North

1933 - 1936	Mrs. Andrew Kerr	— Brooksdale
1944 - 1947	Mrs. F. R. Thornton	— Kintore
1955 - 1958	Mrs. J. D. Hossack	— Embro
1967 - 1970	Mrs. Wilbur Lawrence	— Embro
1979 - 1982	Mrs. Willis Matheson	— Brooksdale

Alternate Provincial Board Directors from Oxford North

1944 - 1947	Mrs. Angus MacDonald	— Brooksdale
1955 - 1958	Mrs. O. O. Smith	— Kintore
1967 - 1970	Mrs. D. H. Hart	— Woodstock North
1979 - 1982	Mrs. Archie Armour	— Grace Patterson

District Life Members

Mrs. Andrew Kerr	Brooksdale	(deceased)
Mrs. F. R. Thornton	Kintore	(deceased)
Mrs. J. D. Hossack	Embro	

Highlights from the History of District of Oxford North Women's Institute

During the first ten years of their existence, the Women's Institutes were organized first as ridings, then districts, and then branches. The rules and regulations regarding organizations were simple.

Two important ones were as follows:

(a) "Each Women's Institute shall be in affiliation with the Farmers' Institute in the district."

(b) "The organization meeting may be called by the Superintendent of the Farmers' Institute, by the head of a municipality, by the President and Secretary of the local Farmers' Institute, or by five ladies of the District."

Other rules outlined the aims and purposes of the organization, grants, and the practical subjects to be discussed and illustrated at meetings. This information was contained in a circular prepared by Dr. G. C. Creelman, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, and sent to all inquirers in Ontario.

Due to the absence of the first minute books the earliest details concerning the organization of Oxford North District are missing, but some information was obtained from the Women's Institute records in Toronto.

The first report of any branch is recorded for the year ending May 31, 1902, from the Princeton Women's Institute which had been organized that year. In 1903 the Kintore branch was organized.

The first meeting of Oxford North District was held in 1904 - 05 and the first officers were: Mrs. D. Dewar, president, Mrs. J. Craig, vice-president; and Miss B. Gilholm, secretary-treasurer. During the same year a branch was organized at Plattsville and the above-named ladies were all members of this branch although they were residents of Bright. In the following year branches were formed at Bright, Drumbo, Hickson, and Thamesford; and in 1906-07 Innerkip, Braemar, Embro, and Cassel were organized.

During the First World War all branches were engaged in war work and by 1919 the only branches actively involved in Women's Institute were Bright, Braemar, Drumbo, Embro and Hickson.

The early District Annuals were held in Woodstock in the office of Mr. G. R. Green (Department of Agriculture), at the Y.W.C.A., and in the Council Chamber. These early meetings were of one session, and were opened by singing The Maple Leaf, repeating the Lord's Prayer, and with devotions. In 1923 the Embro branch acted as hostess for the District Annual, and the following year it was held at Hickson. That meeting was divided into two sessions with lunch being served.

The Institute Ode was first sung to open the meeting in 1924, and the Mary Stewart Collect was first used in 1941. The Hymn of All Nations

has been used to open the afternoon sessions of the District Annual since 1964, and the Institute Grace, composed by Mrs. Clara Lintell Deakin, was accepted by F.W.I.O. in 1950, and is now used by most institutes at all their functions.

In 1914 the Province was divided into three Convention Areas with sessions being held in Toronto, London, and Ottawa. Until 1920 Oxford North was in the Toronto Area. At that time a resolution was presented and North Oxford delegates were allowed to attend the London Convention.

Today the District of Oxford North has seventeen active branches of Women's Institutes. Of these, Tavistock has the distinction of being its oldest member. Tavistock W.I. was organized in 1902 in the District of South Perth. In 1949, realizing that their interests were becoming more involved with those of Oxford County, they asked to join North Oxford District. Their request was granted and on June 1, 1950, they were welcomed to Oxford North.

The interest of Women's Institute members in the girls and young women living in their communities was evident from the beginning. Gradually it was felt that there might be a place for an organization for girls of sixteen years and over, and this realization led to the formation of Junior Institutes.

In 1930 the Drumbo Junior Institute was welcomed into the District; later there were Junior Institutes at Bright, Lakeside, Innerkip, and East Nissouri.

Girls' Homemaking Clubs, now known as 4-H Homemaking Clubs, were begun in 1935, and this work has become one of the most important parts of the Home Economics Extension Program. Sixteen institutes in Oxford North District sponsored 27 4-H Clubs last year. Assisting the club leaders for the past seven years has been Mrs. Brenda Ingratta, Home Economist for Oxford County. Others who have held that position and have given valuable leadership in the district were: Misses Verna Lowden, Susanne Squires, Eileen McDermid, Ruth Axtmann, Carol Wood, Mary Beth Bothwell, Sharon Hart, and Nancy Strang.

Although a District Annual is primarily a business session, Oxford North has set an example of good programming for its branches to copy. One speaker from the Department stated on one occasion that each meeting should include an educational feature, something practical, a bit of fun, and a social half hour. District Annual programs have more than met that requirement.

Inspiring addresses have been given by Provincial and Area Presidents, and by speakers from the Home Economics Branch. On more than one occasion the honoured guest speaker was Miss Ethel Chapman whose fine talents have contributed so much to the lives of women and their families in Ontario. As a result of the extension courses offered to branches, some fine displays of aprons, dresses, hats, gloves have been exhibited, as well as aluminum, copper and needlecraft articles. Entries for the Tweedsmuir Competitions have been viewed with pleasure.

Comic musical numbers and skits have provided welcome relief from lengthy business sessions, and delicious luncheons have always been provided by the hostess branches.

Special occasions have been suitably celebrated in the District. Its 50th Anniversary celebration was held in the Recreation Hall, Woodstock, on June 1st, 1955. The 60th birthday party was held in Hickson, and the 70th in Embro. The 1967 District Annual was held at Plattsville with many members attired in centennial dress. A four-day bus trip to Expo 67 was a highlight of the same year. Refugee Year, International Women's Year, and International Year of the Child were also celebrated with special programs.

The first project of the District was furnishing a ward at the Children's Shelter in Woodstock. Interest was keen as the branches contributed to the ward's upkeep and provided bedding, clothing and toys for the children. When the shelter was closed, support was given for the construction of the new Children's Aid Society administration building. Their centennial project was the gift of a desk and chair to the Adult Training Centre in Woodstock.

The District has contributed to the Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund, and the Oxford County Scholarship Fund. It has had a share in the preservation of the Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee Homesteads. Each year donations are collected for the A.C.W.W. Pennies for Friendship and the Canadian Save the Children Fund. With help from some branches, two Foster Children are supported.

In 1907, ten years after the first Women's Institute was formed at Stoney Creek, the organization had reached into every section of Ontario. Women of diversified classes, different needs, and varying opinions were united in a common effort to better the conditions in their homes and communities. As their numbers grew, so did the power of their opinions. Speaking with a united voice, they were able to bring about improvements in conditions relating to child welfare, school health inspection, education, and laws pertaining to immigration, women and children. One of the first recorded resolutions submitted to the government of the day by the District of Oxford North was that "total prohibition as a war measure" be brought about. This was in 1917.

Oxford North District has opposed the colouring of margarine, daylight saving time, the committing of children to penitentiaries, and the pollution of our environment. They have supported the mandatory use of seat belts, improvement in the quality of light bulbs and thread, pensions for the blind without a means test, remedial training and auxiliary classes for rural school children, and the Farmers' March on Parliament Hill. Television advertising and programming have been subjects for much discussion in Oxford North as in other institutes across Canada.

At the local level, branches have been very successful in having lights installed at railway crossings, street signs erected, fire protection in rural areas, and low-rental housing for senior citizens provided, as well as other numerous matters of strictly local concern.

Since the W.I. 50th Anniversary at Guelph the District Executive has arranged for many chartered bus trips. They went to Toronto, Ottawa, and the A.C.W.W. conventions in Toronto and Lansing, Michigan. Institute branches in Northern Ontario and the Maritimes were visited. They went south of the border to New York State, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. On the other hand, the District has entertained visitors from Wales, Holland and Australia.

Thus we find that the 75 years of Women's Institute existence in the District of Oxford North has been a period of growth. The aims and objectives of the organization have been achieved in no small way, ever furthering the scope of "Home and Country".

History of Anna P. Lewis Branch 1946 - 1955

One of the younger branches of the North Oxford District held the inaugural meeting of the Anna P. Lewis W.I. on December 3rd, 1946, at the home of Mrs. Edmund Hansuld. Mrs. Gates of Lakeside presided over the meeting and conducted nominations. Of the eighteen ladies present fifteen became charter members.

We were honoured at the February meeting, the fiftieth anniversary, to have Miss Lewis as our guest. She became our Honorary President. In her address she presented her "Namesake" with a framed copy of the "Mary Stewart Collect."

We sponsored six "Homemaking Clubs", and helped to organize the East Zorra Junior Farmers Organization, which has become very active.



Anna P. Lewis Branch — Annual Family Barbecue
In Foreground: George Wilhelm, Catharine Yousie, Lenore Wilhelm.

Home extension courses offered by the W.I. Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture were sponsored by this Institute. They include Frozen Foods, Oven Meals, Quilts and Quilt Making, etc. Lovely blankets were made from old woollens donated by the members and the blankets were used for relief work, as were the quilts made from strainer cloths. Relief was sent to Poland, Britain, Europe and Korea.

The programs in the past years featured both educational and social meetings and the branch also held several community gatherings. Recreation, poetry and music are a part of every meeting. There were guest speakers and the program always contained a paper or book review by a member. Exhibits by members and the branch as a whole were entered at London, Drumbo and Tavistock fairs.

Histories of their farms with photographs were collected from the members for the Tweedsmuir History Book which is being compiled.

Regular euchre parties sponsored by the branch were a popular event. Each year at Christmas the branch sent a gift of candy to the members of a Scottish Institute with whom they corresponded. For 17 years a Korean Child has been sponsored by our group. When one child outgrows our help another younger one is given us to care for. We receive interesting letters from the child especially after she has received her Birthday or Christmas gift we send. It is most interesting to follow the child's progress.

During this interval of time, one of the outstanding events for our Branch was the celebrating of our 25th Anniversary in the Legion Hall Tavistock. The neighbouring Athlone W.I. served the dinner attended by 42 — past and present members and guests. The guest speaker was Miss Helen McKercher, director of Home Economics. Four Charter Members were given Life Memberships for 25 years of pioneer work in the Branch. These members were Mrs. F. W. McKay, Mrs. C. Winhold, Mrs. S. Scott and Mrs. C. Wittig. A short address of achievements was read to each by Mrs. F. Bickle and Mrs. E. Bickle, Miss Mildred Alles, Mrs. F. DeWeerd and Mrs. R. Yausie made the presentations. Recognition was given to 2 first year members, Mrs. W. Bickle and Mrs. F. W. Stock.

The first presentation of the Laura Hansuld Memorial Trophy was made to Linda Kaufman by Mrs. F. Stock.

Mrs. C. Wittig read the minutes of the meeting 25 years ago written by herself as secretary at the 1st meeting.

Our Tweedsmuir History was started in May 1954 when Mrs. F. W. Stock showed a cover for a book to hold the clippings that were brought. March 1965 a Tweedsmuir History Book was purchased and Mrs. F. Bickle compiled writings and pictures therein, receiving 1st prize for her book at the District Level. Miss Anna P. Lewis donated money with which a carrying case was purchased.

Our meetings in earlier years were held at members homes — the Christmas and Anniversary Meeting always being held at the home of our organizer, Mrs. E. Hansuld, until her death. Since then we have enjoyed a dinner at a restaurant chosen by the committee in charge. We have had a meeting in Old St. Paul's Church, Woodstock and the conference room of Sandpaper Plant at Plattsville, also the lawn of the Shakespearean Festival, Stratford, after attending a Matinee performance. The most historic and memorable meeting was held in the parlor of the Adelaide Hoodless Home after our tour.

Our meetings included demonstrations on bread making, jellied salads, cake decorating, making felt corsages, winter bouquets, short bread, folding table napkins, ironing a man's shirt, oil painting, metric system, creative stitchery by Mrs. DeWeerd, etched aluminum trays, copper tooling, candle making, planting african violets — all very interesting and informative.

We have catered for Weddings, Funerals, opening of the New Bank in Tavistock, County Plowing Match and Auction Sales. Euchre parties

have been held each winter and Court Whist party at Easter including a Bake Sale. In this way we have kept money in the treasury and enjoyed the fellowship of our friends in the community. We also bake pies for the Pork Barbecue and for Cancer Parties.

The 3 nursing homes in Tavistock have been visited by our members. We take some of our children and grandchildren along to help in a program, as the elderly people especially enjoy having children come to see them. We always take some treats. At Easter we took colored Easter Eggs and candy. At St. Patrick's time Kaye and Jane Bickle made favors for them which they all enjoyed; at St. Valentine's day we took cookies in the shape of hearts. We ask the nurse in charge and bring what is permissible.

We have had most interesting meetings at which time slides were shown with commentary on "Trip around the World", Florida, Scotland, British Isles, England, Japan, Africa, Spain, Portugal, Europe, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Canary Islands, Nova Scotia, West Coast, Yukon, the Highland Games at Embro and the Fair at Tavistock.

With K. Bickle as moderator and Mr. Don Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. John King and Collen Geldner taking part, a panel discussion on "The Dilemma of Farming" was much enjoyed. A debate "Resolve the New School System is Superior to the Old", the affirmative was ably upheld by Mrs. D. Roth and Mrs. F. Bickle and the negative by Miss Mildred Alles and Mrs. C. Wittig. Resolve the Youth on the Farm has a better opportunity than in Industry — those taking part were Mrs. J. Zimac and Mrs. C. Wittig, for the affirmative, Mrs. R. Townsend and Mrs. C. Winhold, negative.

Children who gave their winning School speeches included Sherrill Krug and Lorie Mosher.

We had a household shower for a family in the community who lost all their belongings in a house fire. When Ron McKay with small children lost his wife, our members took turns in taking in a hot meal twice a week which was much appreciated.

We have sponsored one or two 4-H clubs for many years. The leaders included Mrs. S. Scott, Mrs. F. Stock, Mrs. R. Yausie, Mrs. F. Bickle, Mrs. G. Pletsch, Mrs. M. Steinacker and Brenda, Mrs. M. Townsend, Mrs. J. Townsend, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Kroph.

The girls receiving Provincial and County honors are presented with a gift. The girls and their leaders are entertained once a year at a meeting.

Special speakers included Mr. Woody Lamb of Huron Park School, Mr. Pilgrim, director of Special Education for Oxford, Mrs. Bleay (the raising of mink) Mink Ranching, Joe Moss (farming in the 3rd world), Dr. Halliday, Dr. Fisher and Dr. Carey (Chiropractor).

Our Institute with Mrs. F. Bickle convener and Mrs. F. Stock and Mrs. S. Scott assisting arranged a special Homecoming at No. 8 School where we had held our meetings before it was sold as a dwelling. This was a most nostalgic event probably the last time many folks saw each

other as the school was the scene of many social functions including a Peach Social.

We have assisted in hosting two District Annuals, the first in 1965 at Trinity Church, Sebastopol and the 2nd in Hickson United Church. We were co-hosts with Princess Elizabeth Branch.

We have had many tours — including Whyte Packing, Kroehlers, Samsonite, Fram, Dominion Chain, Schneiders in Kitchener, Alcon Homes Woodstock.

We have always had a display at Tavistock Fair, also entered a float at 3 different occasions. We have had exhibits as a group at Tavistock, Drumbo and London Fairs. Mrs. W. Bickle received 1st on her rug at London Western and Anna McKay had the prize winning rug for Tweedsmuir Competition at Guelph.

For several years after 1955 we gave a subscription to Jack & Jill magazines to No. 8 and No. 15 Schools, which were situated in our community. This was to encourage reading and were looked for eagerly.

Bus trips are always enjoyed, going to Erland Lee Home, and Adelaide Hoodless Home, and FWIO Anniversary luncheon at the Royal York Hotel Toronto (1,600 women attended). This year we invited the Tavistock W.I. to accompany us to Grand Bend to see the play Oklahoma, which was very much enjoyed.

Of our 18 members there are 2 Charter members and 5 Life members which are Mrs. C. Winhold, Mrs. C. Wittig, Mrs. L. Rudiscella, Mrs. F. Bickle and Mrs. E. Steinacker. We have lost 7 members in death including our organizer Mrs. E. Hansuld, Mrs. R. Townsend, Mrs. S. Scott, Mrs. W. Bickle, Mrs. D. McIntosh, Mrs. F. W. McKay and Miss Mildred Alles.

We carry on adding new members to get new ideas as we carry on for Home and Country.

We always have poetry, music and recreation as well as our Motto, speaker or demonstration.

PRESIDENTS:

Mrs. E. Hansuld	1946 - 1948
Mrs. C. Wittig	1948 - 1951
Mrs. F. W. McKay	1951 - 1953
Mrs. C. Winhold	1953 - 1956
Mrs. R. Townsend	1956 - 1959
Mrs. F. W. Stock	1959 - 1962
Mrs. E. Steinacker	1962 - 1965
Mrs. H. Schultz	1965 - 1968
Mrs. F. Bickle	1968 - 1971
Mrs. H. Wilhelm	1971 - 1974
Mrs. E. Bickle	1974 - 1976
Mrs. F. DeWeerd	1976 - 1977
Mrs. D. McLeod	1977 -

SECRETARIES:

Mrs. C. Wittig	1946 - 1948
Mrs. R. Townsend	1948 - 1954
Mrs. E. Steinacker	1954 - 1960
Mrs. R. Townsend	1960 - 1965 March
Mrs. M. Snary	1965 - 1968
Miss M. Alles	1968 -
Mrs. R. Yausie	1969 - 1974
Mrs. G. Wilhelm	1974 - 1977
Mrs. R. Porter	1977 -

Braemar Women's Institute

The Braemar Women's Institute was organized on February 7th, 1907 by Miss Gilholm of Bright, and Dr. Bacchus of Aylmer. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Alex Sutherland, Braemar. The first officers were Mrs. Plowright, President; Mrs. Wm. Forbes Sr., First Vice-President; and Miss Lottie Sutherland, Secretary-Treasurer. There were eighteen charter members.

The earliest members were ladies living near Braemar, but the organization has spread to include the district four miles north of Braemar, four miles south-east to the tenth line of East Zorra, and west to the sixth line of West Zorra.

The largest membership was in 1926 when there were 108 on the roll. Mrs. J. E. McKay was president, and Marguerite Weir was secretary-treasurer at the time.

The Gospel Hall in Braemar was a focal point of the community. The W.I. provided many furnishings for the hall and in 1930 installed Hydro at a cost of \$53.50. They paid the hydro bills until 1969.

The District Annual was held in Braemar Gospel Hall in 1932. The 25th Anniversary meeting was held there on Sept. 29th, 1932, with Mrs. J. E. McKay in the chair. The 40th Anniversary was marked with a special meeting. This was held in April, 1947, in Braemar Hall with 100 present. Mrs. Lawrence McKay presided and Mrs. Hugh Ross gave an interesting history of Braemar W.I.

The 50th Anniversary was celebrated at Tavistock Memorial Hall. Mrs. Wm. Ewan was guest speaker, and an historical sketch, "50 years in Braemar W.I." was presented with members in costume depicting various periods of history.

The 55th anniversary was celebrated with a pot luck dinner at Hickson Township Hall in Feb. 1962. Mrs. Angus Forbes and Mrs. Herb Howe recalled interesting experiences as former officers of Braemar W.I.

A Tweedsmuir Tea was held August 14th, 1965 at Braemar School, S.S. No. 11, East Zorra to mark the school's closing. Mrs. A. S. Pearson, Tweedsmuir History Convener and her committee — Mrs. A. McKay, Mrs. H. Murray, Mrs. Roy Oliver, Mrs. Roy Ross, and Mrs. Robt. Knudsen — arranged interesting displays.

The 65th anniversary celebration was in Hickson United Church Feb. 26th, 1972. Mrs. Ken Hildreth was president, and Mrs. George McBurney was Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Charles Munro, Chairman of London Area; Mrs. Willis Matheson, Oxford North District President; and Mrs. Norman Coulthard, F.W.I.O. Board Member, were special guests for the dinner and the programme that followed.

In July 1973 was an important "first" for our branch when Mrs. Alex McKay and Mrs. A. S. Pearson were presented with Life Memberships for their faithful service.

Our 70th anniversary was marked by a special meeting at which Mrs. Herb Maluske, F.W.I.O. President, was a special guest. Guests were present at this meeting from Embro and West Zorra, and Harrington branches.

Much more could be written about the 73 years of Women's Institute in the Braemar Community. These are only a few of the highlights of the years the organization has served Home and Country.

1979-80 Pres.—Mrs. Howard Murray
 Sec.—Mrs. Lorne Walton

History of Brooksdale Women's Institute

1922-1953

At a meeting held in Baillies' Hall on December 14, 1922, Mrs. H. B. Atkinson, Embro, District President, organized the Brooksdale Branch. Mrs. Walter Ross, Embro, spoke on the subject: "The Institute, Its Aims and Opportunities". The officers elected were:— President, Mrs. Andrew Kerr; vice-presidents, Mrs. Angus Matheson and Mrs. Wilbert Smith; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Wilbur Youngs.

At the first meeting held on January 18, 1923, at the home of Mrs. Angus Matheson, the name Brooksdale was chosen and the branch decided to affiliate with the Local Council of Women, Woodstock. A membership drive resulted in one hundred and four members joining from the north-central part of West Zorra, from Fairview to Youngsville, and from Maplewood to Harrington. Baillies' Hall, Brooksdale, was the centre of activities until 1935 when the building was sold; since then, meetings have been held in the homes and the church basement.



Brooksdale's 55th Anniversary, honoring the above chartered members. Left to right: Mrs. Geo. Rowland, Mrs. Harvey Dunnell, Mrs. Lesley Hammond, Mrs. Gilbert Ross and Mrs. Emmerson Symons.

Agriculture has been stressed and the branch has co-operated with the Embro Agricultural Society and donated prizes for children's work at the fair. The educational work of the institute has included co-operation with the schools and teachers in the community. We have a "Teachers and Pupils Night" where topics pertaining to education are discussed. The branch placed sand boxes in the schools in 1953. There have been some entertaining and educational debates which included the men as participants. We were glad to share in the support of the Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund Scholarships.

The Brooksdale Orchestra was an outgrowth of a community activities project when the men were in charge of one meeting a year.

We formed six groups for war work and Red Cross during the years 1939-1945 and quantities of jam, knitting and sewing were done. We had a dinner for the veterans of World War II and presented each with a wallet.

Our life members are Mrs. John McDonald, Mrs. Angus McDonald, Mrs. Charles Lupton Sr., Mrs. Alvin Innes, Mrs. Wm. Innes, Mrs. J. J. McKay, Mrs. Wallace Gibb, and Mrs. Andrew Kerr.

Mrs. Andrew Kerr, our first president, served as a member of the Provincial Board.

During the past twenty-five years Brooksdale Institute has continued to flourish. Many of the members who belonged twenty-five years ago are still active in the ongoing work of the Institute. Added to these are many younger women, some of them former 4-H members, some of them more recently arrived in the community, who are also taking an active part in the organization.

The 4-H Girls' Clubs with the W.I. members as leaders continue to grow and flourish. For several years now there have been three clubs with a total of thirty to thirty-six members.

The Girls' Clubs take charge of one summer Institute meeting each year. With the help of their Leaders and Mothers they prepare and serve a meal. They display any clothing they may have made, or other work they have done, and put on the programme. The meal, the displays, and the meeting are all centred around the units they have taken during the previous year. At the conclusion of the programme each girl is presented with a silver teaspoon, from the Department of Agriculture, and the Institute for each unit she has completed, and the girls in their turn present their leaders with gifts. Many of these girls earn County Honours and some of them Provincial Honours as well.

Splendid thought provoking mottos are given at each meeting. One of the more recent, "We don't expect Perfection, we do expect Improvement" was prepared and given by Mrs. Terry Baker; an earlier motto, "It's all right to Pray but keep on Hoeing" by Mrs. Lorne Walters.

Brooksdale W.I. have co-operated with Embro Fair, entering a float and exhibits, as well as contributing money for prizes.

Money toward a plaque was given to the Zorra Highland Park School. The school also made use of the Tweedsmuir History. A programme at one of the Institute meetings in 1964 and considered to be the best programme of the year was a panel of five teachers, namely Mrs. J. J. McKay, the late Mrs. Marguerite Hammond, Mrs. Charles Lupton, Mrs. Robert Walters and Mrs. Leslie Shelley who discussed Education. There was audience participation as well.

The Tweedsmuir History now consists of two volumes and there is much more to add to it. They are passed around among the members from time to time as they request them and are enjoyed by everyone.

There have been debates, some amusing, some of a more serious nature. One that has remained in people's memories took place at one of the yearly banquets some years ago. Four people from Uniondale were guests. They debated, "Resolved that bald-headed men have more brains than men with hair." The judges were the late Alistair Clark, who was very bald, and Rev. Robert Sinclair of Embro who was not. After a great deal of merriment the judges declared the debate a draw.

The yearly banquet is always a highlight of the year. The husbands are invited, the members plan the evening and provide the food and the 4-H girls wait on the tables. A life membership is usually presented to one of the members at this time. At present there are seventeen Life Members.

From time to time 4-H Members attend the Institute meetings and favour the members with musical numbers or a prize winning speech.

Money is raised through Talent Sales, Dances, a Variety Night, but the largest amounts were raised by many Euchre parties and a Fashion Show which was held once a year but has recently been discontinued. More recently Brooksdale W.I. has assisted West Zorra and Embro Institute in providing food for, and serving for the Caledonian banquet each November in Embro. Here also the 4-H Girls of both Embro and Brooksdale wait on tables.

For many years members of the Institute canvass the area for the C.N.I.B. collecting quite substantial sums for their work. Money is given for mental health, the Retarded Children in Woodstock and Muscular Dystrophy. Sewing is done by some of the members for the Red Cross.

On Remembrance Days an artificial wreath has been placed on the Soldiers' Monument in Embro. Gifts are given to members, also to members of their families when they are in hospital, and each new baby in the community receives a silver spoon. At Christmastime all sick and shut-ins are remembered with gifts of fruit or flowers. Gifts are also given to members who move away from the area.

At Christmastime gifts of toys have been sent to the Sick Children's Hospital in London, and also to the Children's Aid in both Woodstock and Stratford. In 1978 the Christmas Gifts took the form of canned goods and baking. These were taken to the Women's Emergency Centre in Woodstock.

As one approaches Brooksdale from the north or south on the Embro road you will see road signs telling all and sundry that they are approaching Brooksdale. These were put up by the County after the Institute appealed to the Council to put up signs. Resolutions have also been sent to the Council concerning dangerous corners or blind spots on the roads in the area.

In the last twenty-five years Brooksdale W.I. has celebrated three Anniversaries. In December of 1967 the 45th Anniversary was celebrated in Brooksdale Church with ninety-nine present, nineteen of them being charter members. All former members were invited and all who returned were presented with a corsage. At the tea which followed the meeting the late Mrs. Walter Ross, who helped to organize the Institute

and the late Mrs. William Innes, the oldest charter member, cut the birthday cake.

The Fiftieth Anniversary was held in the Highland Park School in December 1972 with a smorgasbord luncheon at noon, with the meeting following. There were one hundred in attendance. The late Mrs. William Innes, the oldest charter member at the 45th Anniversary was among the ten charter members present. A gavel was presented to the W.I. by Mrs. N. Coulthard, Mrs. F. Ross and Mrs. M. Hammond in memory of their mother, Mrs. Donald Innes who had been president in earlier years.

At an earlier date a bell was presented to the W.I. by two Charter Members who are also Life Members, Mrs. Emerson Symons and Mrs. Leroy Innes.

The 55th Anniversary took place in December 1977 at the home of one of the members, Mrs. Hilton Morris, with thirty-four present. All charter members were invited and five attended, namely, Mrs. Emerson Symons, Mrs. Gilbert Ross, Mrs. George Rowland, the late Mrs. Marguerite Hammond and Mrs. Harvey Dunnell. The Institute was organized in this same house in December 1922. At that time it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Angus Matheson.

In the years ahead may we vigorously carry on with the work begun in 1922 and carried forward until to-day. As the older members fall by the wayside may there always be others to take over the work and may they have the vision to see new opportunities and put them into practice to serve their Home and Country.

President — Mrs. Hilton (Rosina) Morris
Secretary — Mrs. Bruce (Marie) MacLeod

History of Brown's Women's Institute

On April 17, 1936, thirty girls under the leadership of Mrs. Bolton Fitzgerald and Mrs. M. McIntyre of Thorndale Senior Institute and Miss Verna Lee of Thorndale Juniors were organized under the name of Nissouri Junior Institute at Brown's Corners with the following officers:— President, Miss Jean Brown; Vice-President, Miss Annie Rumble; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Susan Muir.

On May 6th, 1938, this organization became a Senior Women's Institute in the District of East Middlesex with the following officers:— President, Mrs. J. Hawkesworth; Vice-President, Mrs. H. Uren; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Elaine Showers; District Director, Miss L. Facey.

In May, 1943, with a membership of twenty, the name Nissouri was changed to Brown's and we joined the District of North Oxford. Some of the projects have been sewing and knitting for the Red Cross, book reviews, speakers, Glee Club, drama, exhibiting at St. Marys and Thorndale Fairs, and going on bus trips.

Aside from this we have corresponded with the Lady Tweedsmuir Institute in England, sending them a gift of a ten-pound cheese at Christmas; sponsored a course given by St. John Ambulance, St. Marys; compiled our favourite recipes into booklet form and sold 200 copies.

We were divided into five groups, each with a convener; through this effort four hundred dollars was given to St. Marys Memorial Hospital.

As each president finishes her term of office we present her with a Life Membership and Badge.

In 1954-55 we had forty members.

In 1955 an Institute Church Service was started with four branches participating, namely; Kintore, Uniondale, Lakeside, and Brown's. These services were held on Sunday evenings with a guest speaker, and continued for several years. The first one was held at Brown's.

We support our 4-H Club and present the leaders with a gift after each unit. We make a donation to the Children's Work of St. Marys Fair. A dictionary is presented to a graduating Grade Eight student as a Citizenship Award. An award is also made to a grade four student leaving Wildwood Park School for the A. J. Baker School at Kintore.

Bus trips have continued to be made to Kitchener, Brantford, Erland Lee Home, Kleinburg, Black Creek Village, and to industries in St. Marys and Stratford. We had car tours to industries in our own Township of Zorra.

During the Centennial year, we had a tea when Centennial dress was worn and old favourite tunes were played on a gramophone. Neighbouring institutes were invited.

The inside of Brown's School where we hold our meetings, was painted and renovated.

One member attended the A.C.W.W. in Lansing, Michigan in 1968, and three members attended the 75th Anniversary Luncheon at the Royal York in Toronto.

Over the years, pastry walks, auction sales, euchre parties, and cook books printed and sold, have all been ways of raising money for Institute work.

One year members, husbands and friends boarded a bus for the Ploughing Match at Sebringville and we parked cars and took tickets for a half-day and received a sizeable sum for our efforts.

In 1974 the U.C.W. and the Institute voted to combine for the Christmas meeting and invite the ladies of the community to a noon luncheon, with a Christmas program and an exchange of Christmas gifts.

In the last few years we have had a booth at farm auction sales in the community.

The last couple of years, euchre parties have been held on a regular basis. Bake sales have been held in St. Marys. Another year the members housecleaned their attics and cupboards and we had an auction sale with auctioneer and raised over \$500.

At the present time a handcrafted quilt has been made and will be sold shortly.

Our Institute has 32 members, with three Life Members — Mrs. Margaret McMurray, Mrs. Connie Switzer and Mrs. Wilford Rumble.

President — Mrs. John Conway
Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. George Towle

1980 Officers and District Directors Oxford North Women's Institute



Front row, left to right: Mrs. George Martin, Brown's WI; Mrs. Hugh Baird, assistant secretary- treasurer; Mrs. Gordon Knox, secretary-treasurer and Plattsville WI; Mrs. Bert Drenth, first vice-president; Mrs. John Richardson, president; Mrs. Harry Thornton, past president; Mrs. Isabella Whittaker, second vice-president and Lakeside WI; Mrs. Bill Timbs, public relations officer; and Mrs. Archie Armour, Grace Patterson WI.

Second Row, from the left: Mrs. Laverne Reibling, Princess Elizabeth WI; Mrs. Douglas McLeod, Anna P. Lewis WI; Mrs. Eva Sim, Innerkip WI; Mrs. Elston Pipe, Drumbo WI; Mrs. Donald Sharp, Harrington WI; Mrs. Rex Zomer, Braemar WI; Mrs. Ralph Wood, Kintore WI; Mrs. Irwin McKay, Hickson WI; Mrs. Hilton Morris, Brooksdale WI; Miss Belle Currah, Tavistock WI; Mrs. John Graham, Embro WI; Mrs. Roy A. Osborn, Woodstock N. WI; and Mrs. Jack McEvoy, Uniondale WI.

Drumbo Women's Institute

In 1905 the men of the Drumbo community organized a Farmers' Institute and their ladies formed their own Women's Auxiliary and carried on as such for about two years.

At a meeting of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid at the home of Mrs. C. K. Curry it was decided to form a branch of the Women's Institute which was growing throughout the province. The inaugural meeting was held in the Township Hall in May, 1907 and the first officers were: President, Mrs. Birley; Secretary, Miss Jennie Baxter; Treasurer, Miss Agnes Paxton.

All of our records up to the 1930's were lost in a fire which destroyed the home of the secretary, Mrs. W. Harmer, and it is difficult to find information about our early days.

Drumbo W.I. have always been active in any local movement, and during the Old Boys' Reunions of 1913 and 1950, did their bit to make these events the success they were.

The past twenty-five years have seen some changes in our branch. The passing of two of our Life Members, Mrs. J. Goodwin and Mrs. A. Balkwill was a sad loss.

In 1975 Mrs. Ray Harmer joined Mrs. H. Krueger as a Life Member.

In 1972 we observed our Sixty-fifth Anniversary with a pot luck dinner to which we invited former members. Mrs. W. Matheson was our speaker.

We are proud of our Tweedsmuir History and Scrap Book. This is kept up to date by our Convener, Miss Jessie Cowan and her committee. Several members have begun House Logs and some are completed to date. A tea was held to display our history and an invitation to the community to view and examine it has created an incentive for many family histories to be started.

Speakers on many interesting topics have attended our monthly meetings, and members have shared holiday trips and pictures with us.

The Drumbo Agricultural Society continues to receive our support, and a special memorial prize is awarded for a flower arrangement in memory of former members.

We conduct a very successful canvass for the C.N.I.B. and lend support to other worthy causes. A program and lunch was provided for a monthly birthday party at Woodingford Lodge. Financial support was provided for a 4-H Club and leaders recruited for a number of years. They are now on their own. Some help was given to a newly-organized Senior Citizens' Club, and they, too, are functioning independently. Monthly dinners are served to our Township Council.

The highlight of the past twenty-five years was in 1977 when we prepared to observe our Seventieth Anniversary. This involved almost three years of preparation, planning and research. We decided to erect a plaque in honour of the founder of our village, Squire Henry Muma. This

was placed on the corner of Oxford and Wilmot Streets on a building owned and built by the late Squire. It was unveiled by his great-grandson, Mr. H. Wilson. This event was attended by members of Federal, Provincial, and local governments, and many members of the Muma Family who came from points in Canada and the U.S.A.

After the unveiling ceremony, people were invited to the Agricultural Hall where a portrait of Squire Muma was hung. Many artifacts and mementoes, treasures of the Muma Family, were on display as well.

The Institute was instrumental in arranging, along with Blandford-Blenheim Council, for the erection of street name signs.

Our Tweedsmuir History and Scrap Book were on display, as well as other interesting pictures and papers of past village and school history.

Tea was served to all present by the members of our branch. The success of this occasion must be credited to Miss Jessie Cowan and her committee. Hearty appreciation is extended to them, also to those husbands who faithfully helped, members of the community who supported our efforts and loaned items for our display.

Now we are wondering how we can top this when we celebrate our Seventy-fifth Anniversary in 1982.

President — Mrs. Cecil Cadwell
Secretary — Mrs. Howard Vance
Treasurer — Mrs. Ray Harmer

Embroid and West Zorra Women's Institute

Prior to 1908 there was a flourishing Embroid and West Zorra Farmers' Institute. In January, 1908, the women were invited to a meeting to hear Dr. Bacchus of Aylmer who formed a Women's Institute, with Mrs. E. J. Cody as president, Mrs. G. A. Sutherland, secretary-treasurer, and 27 charter members.



Mrs. R. J. Sutherland
A branch life member and a member of
the first Tweedsmuir Book Committee (1947)

During the First World War, the Institute united with the Red Cross to provide comforts for the boys overseas. Since then we have cared for Memorial Park; erected fine pillars at the entrance to North Embroid Cemetery; made permanent plantings of evergreen trees at the cemetery; and bought seats for a room in the Public School. A wreath is placed on the Cenotaph each Armistice Day. Assistance was given to organize the local Well-Baby Clinic. During the second World War maple sugar was made each season and sent to our local boys, along with the regular sewing and knitting. A regular donation is made to Fall Fair; local relief and local needs have been met; worthy causes, and both local and world-wide crises have met a ready sympathy and a warm understanding.

Donations have been made to the Sick Children's Hospital; the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children; Byron Sanatorium; the Institute for the Blind; the Woodstock Hospital; The Children's Aid Society; the local Public Library; the Cancer Fund; The Mental Health Organization; the Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund; and our own Oxford County Women's Institute Scholarship Fund.

Junior Homemaking Club work began in 1938. Over the years, two of the graduates have each been awarded a trip to Chicago 4-H Congress. Many of the girls have achieved County and Provincial Honours.

In 1956 a bus load of Institute members attended the reception at Fanshawe Park Pavilion for Mrs. Alice Berry, President of A.C.W.W.

In February of 1957 the Women's Institutes of Western Ontario were featured on the Roy Jewell Farm Show Panel. Members included Mrs. J. D. Hossack of the Embroid branch in her capacity as Board Director.

We celebrated the Institute's fiftieth birthday in 1958 with a luncheon in Knox United Church. Mrs. J. D. Hossack presented a brass call bell to the branch in memory of her mother who was a charter member.

The members of the branch enjoyed a bus trip to the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1964 we joined in the Institute Farm Forum Broadcast.

We applied for a link institute Branch resulting in an exchange of correspondence with a branch in England.

The Embroid and West Zorra W.I. donated a Historic Plaque in memory of the Archdeacon Cody on July 18th, 1965. Archdeacon Cody was born in Embroid and later became an Archdeacon in the Anglican Church as well as Minister of Education for Ontario.

In 1968 we celebrated our 60th anniversary.

Our branch made quilt blocks for the Erland Lee Homestead.

We have donated to the new Community Centre in Embroid as well as renovating the Town Hall Annex.

We have four volumes in our local Tweedsmuir History. When a guide for teachers in Oxford County was written, the Embroid and Brooksdale Tweedsmuir Histories were sources of information.

Our Institute plans for the future are to uphold our Institute Motto: For Home and Country; we trust our community will be enriched by our efforts.

President — Mrs. Bruce McLeod
Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Charles Munro
Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. Ernest Bailey

Grace Patterson Women's Institute

(Mrs. S. Weir and Mrs. A. Armour)

In 1919 a group of girls met in Adams School House where they had been attending Sunday School, and they formed a club which they named the Grace Country Club in honour of Miss Grace Patterson, a local girl who was a missionary in India. The girls corresponded with Miss Patterson and among other projects, they adopted two orphans in her school.

The club continued to meet and work together until 1945 when the majority of the members felt that a change in organization should be made. Interest in Miss Patterson and her work was as alive as before but there was a desire to become affiliated with a country-wide organization. After much thought and discussion a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Earl Valentine, a niece of Miss Patterson, and Mrs. Jas. D. Hossack of Embro, Secretary of the District of Oxford North, conducted the organization and installation of officers. Officers elected at this meeting on October 9, 1945 were, — President, Mrs. Jack Shewan; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. D. S. McKay, Mrs. Jas. Calder; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Geo. Sutherland.

Forty members joined at this first meeting; the number increased to a high of seventy, but has decreased to a present membership of fifty-four. The name "Grace Patterson Women's Institute" was chosen and as the Grace Country Club had done, the new organization voted to send sufficient money to Miss Patterson to support and educate an Indian child. We continue to donate money each year to a student chosen by Miss Patterson. A few years ago a wedding gift was sent to one of our girls, Anu. We also assist in the support of two foster children sponsored by the District.

Besides creating a wonderful community spirit our branch assisted each month for many years with the pre-school Clinic sponsored under the Oxford County Health Unit. In 1978 Mrs. Walter Hutchison was remembered with a gift in appreciation of years of dedication to the little ones of this community when she supervised the Clinic. Each mother receives a baby spoon for her new baby. In early years each bride also received a small gift.

We are grateful to our members and to many community women who give freely of their time and talents to lead our 4-H Homemaking Clubs. From eight girls in 1951 when the Grace Happy Gang Club was formed, it grew steadily until a few years ago when we sponsored five Clubs with over sixty girls and ten leaders participating. We now have three enthusiastic Clubs with about 40 girls. Many of our leaders are former Club members. For a number of years a silver spoon was given to each girl after completion of each Unit. At present each Club girl receives a gift when she has completed six Units. Seven of our club girls have received Advanced Honours since the beginning of this recognition a few years ago. Once a year the girls provide the program and lunch at

one of our spring meetings to present what they have learned the previous year.

In early years baskets of fruit were sent to Mrs. Thornton's Nursing Home; books were donated to the Library; dishes and a stove were added to the Continuation School; and a television set was given to two area boys who were victims of muscular dystrophy.

Up until a few years ago we visited the patients at the County Home in Woodstock each March when we provided entertainment, gifts for each resident and lunch. Now individuals visit with the patients at the Nursing Homes each week. Our members have each adopted one or more residents at Oxford Regional Centre — those with no family or friends — to whom we are sending remembrances at special times of the year.

In keeping with our motto "For Home and Country" we have served the community in a variety of ways — picnic tables and waste cans were placed in school grounds, a bench was provided at the bus stop, picnic tables were donated to the Chamber of Commerce; dishes were supplied for school kitchen; a sewing machine was purchased for 4-H girls; food and clothing to the Rescue Mission; quilts, toys and clothing to War Memorial Children's Hospital; clothing for needy families. And we have helped with the lunch booth at Western Fair; supervised the lunch at the opening of the new Thamesford Public School; catered for banquets and lunch booths at sales; assisted with Fun Fair at Ontario Hospital and penny sales at Ingersoll Hospital.

In 1967 we all worked together at special projects to provide a picnic shelter with tables in Thamesford Park — our Centennial project. Oh, how we put our best foot forward to present a Fashion Show at Skee-Hi. We sold 500 pens at \$1.00 each and we appeared on CFPL-TV's "Take Your Choice". And how proud we were to officially open the picnic shelter in May of 1967.

Books are placed in the Library in memory of deceased members. We honoured Miss Patterson in 1964 by having her favourite personality 'Ting' from London Free Press as our special guest; and again at our 25th Anniversary in 1970 when she was presented with a Life Membership. To show appreciation to Mrs. Roy Ross for many years of dedication and hard work as Tweedsmuir History Curator she was presented with a suitably worded plaque in 1978.

Essay contests "Why I am proud to be a Canadian" and "My Opinion concerning a distinctive Canadian Flag and National Anthem", and Safety poster competitions were sponsored in Public Schools. Contestants are sponsored each year in the Farm Show Princess and Embro Fair Queen competitions. In 1972 Susan Clemens (Hunter) was the reigning Farm Show Princess, and the following year Nancy Armour (House) was crowned Queen of Embro Fair. A cup and saucer is donated every third year to the girl with the most points in 4-H Calf Club. Proficiency prizes are given to three Home Economics students each year at Ingersoll Collegiate.

Through the years contributions have been made to Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund, Cancer Fund, the C.N.I.B., Children's Hospital, Salvation Army, flood, tornado and hurricane relief, and more recently to the Library, Erland Lee Foundation Fund, ACWW Save the Sight, Pennies for Friendship, Cross Roads Africa, Arc Industries.

Handi-bags have been filled each year for Can Save, lead pencils were sent to Jamaica, and layettes were made for Unitarian Relief. In 1977 we received a Certificate of Appreciation from Unitarian Services for ten years contributions.

Our annual bus trips provide fun, fellowship and education. We have toured industries and visited museums, gardens, potteries, fish hatcheries, nurseries and greenhouses, Pioneer Villages, shopping centres, the W.I. Homes, historic sites and fabulous eating places. We have travelled the counties all around us, and then to towns farther away including Hamilton, Toronto, Midland, Port Huron, Frankenmuth, Kitchener and Guelph. We have shared and enjoyed short and long trips sponsored by the District to Ottawa, Letchworth Park, the East Coast, south to Virginia, Washington and Pennsylvania, Montreal Expo, to A.C.W.W. triennial in Lansing and to F.W.I.C. in Guelph one sweltering hot day.

In 1946 we formed a Friendship Link in Surrey, England, when for a time during wartime restrictions we sent clothing, canned goods, soap and cheese. We continue to correspond, exchanging news, ideas and gifts. In recent years exchange visits have been made.

Our members take advantage of attending District, County and Area meetings, Officers Conference, Tweedsmuir Open Houses, Workshops and Short Courses offered by Ministry of Agriculture and Food. Some of the popular courses where we learned by doing have been Hats for You, Baking with Yeast, Quilting, Needlepoint, Sewing with Knits, Festival of Dairy Foods. Two members attended the 80th anniversary of the founding of W.I. in Bingeman Park in 1978. A third member set up her W.I. Public Relations display in the foyer of the Ballroom. In 1968 we were proud to have Mrs. O. C. Powers attend the ACWW triennial in Lansing.

In the Tweedsmuir competitions of 1954 our Village History tied for third place in the FWIO competition. In 1956 the Tweedsmuir History won second prize in FWIC competition. In 1960 our hooked chair seat covers won first prize at Area Convention.

We have had many interesting demonstrations — smocking, First Aid, flower arranging, paper flowers, rug making, liquid embroidery, how to wear scarves and pins, dried apple dolls, making of sour dough, making the best use of the blender, microwave cooking, wood carving, pine wreaths and plaques, pork casseroles. Exhibits are entered each year at the Farm Show and Western Fair. Profitable enterprises include auction sales, hobby sale, Christmas Fair, euchres, catering, bake sales, fashion shows, selling spoons, selling tickets on quilts, Luncheon is Served.

Our comments on well-chosen mottos have been highlights of our programmes. Interesting displays have included old documents and family histories, family heirlooms, handicrafts — old and new, dolls, cookbooks, favourite vases, old school books. Armchair tours have taken us to Alaska, British Columbia, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Holy Land, Britain, Cuba. Neighbouring W.I.'s are entertained each year with an afternoon program beginning with a Dessert Luncheon. Family night with a pot luck supper is an annual event. Our Standing Conveners spend much time and effort in thought provoking programs pertaining to agriculture, Canadian industry, Family and Consumer Affairs, Education, Cultural Affairs, history, resolutions, public relations. For topics — you name it — and we've probably had it — land use, architecture, arthritis, electricity, pollution, metric, family history, crafts, Canadian Indians, china, tours of local plants, dutch auctions, hat show, picnics, school buses. All work and no play make W.I. members dull people so we add some spice with singing, contests, humorous readings, skits and fun times. How we enjoyed Mrs. Alex Hossack's book review of "Sadie Shapiro's Knitting Book".

We are proud of the members who have served on the District executive — Mrs. Bruce McKay as Secretary-Treasurer in the 60's, the late Mrs. O. C. Powers as president 1969-1971, Mrs. Archie Armour as president 1975-1977. Mrs. Fred Slater who has been a member of Grace Patterson W.I. for several years, was a member of Uniondale W.I. and president at the time of the District's 50th anniversary in 1955.

In November 1954 Miss Patterson returned to make her home in Thamesford. For years now she has been a dedicated "clipper" and has all the important local, national and international current events, as well as Ting's cartoons, preserved in dozens of scrap books. As she served for so many years to make her community in India a better place in which to live may we continue to keep her ideals in mind.

This is our history. "History" we are told "is gossip written in a nice way!"

Officers for 1978/79: President, Mrs. Archie Armour; Vice-President, Mrs. James Gill; Secretary, Mrs. Stanley Weir; Treasurer, Mrs. Angus Matheson; District Director, Mrs. Roy Ross.

Harrington Community Institute

The Harrington Community Institute was organized October 4, 1955. Mrs. Fred Slater, district president and Mrs. A. S. Pearson presided for the election of officers. The meeting was held in Harrington school.

Mrs. Alvin Morris was elected President; Mrs. Finlay Kittmer the first Secretary Treasurer. The monthly meetings have been educational and entertaining.

There have been numerous demonstrations; cooking, sewing, flower arrangements, hair styling, ceramics and Christmas decorations. Home extension courses taken included "An Ounce of Prevention", "What's New in Home Furnishings", "Baked in a Pie". 4-H Homemaking Clubs were sponsored and leaders and girls presented with spoons.

Bus trips were taken to points of interest, family nights were held, the members attended the Shakespearean Festival. Profitable enterprises have been talent auctions, euchre parties and bake sales.

Histories of farms with photographs were collected for the Tweedsmuir History Book. Shut-ins are remembered at Christmas. Many interesting speakers, music, current events were a part of our meetings.

Our Institute has been represented at District Annuals, London Area Conventions, Church Services and District Board Meeting. Our 1979 President is Mrs. Donald Sharp. Secretary-Treasurer is Mrs. S. Jensen.

Hickson Women's Institute

1919 - 1979

The Hickson, Ontario branch of the Women's Institute has been, during its sixty years of existence, a definite force of good in its own community, and through its affiliation with other institutes, a force for good in Canada.

The Late Mrs. J. C. Rowe and Mrs. T. J. Loveys, who were cousins of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, the founder, were for many years associated with the Hickson Branch.

The organization took place in February 1919 with a provincial official in charge. It was a direct successor to the Red Cross. This body, which had functioned so well during the First World War 1914-18, disbanded soon after the Armistice. The same officers were elected to head the new society, namely; the late Mrs. R. A. Webber was president and Mrs. Robert Bothwell (Detroit) was secretary-treasurer. There were thirty-seven charter members.

The programs have been well planned and presented. There have been speakers prominent in Institute work or authorities on health, law, social work and crafts.

In former years short courses were taught by representatives of the Department and in later years two local members have received instruction from the department and in turn taught ladies of the community. Courses in cooking, crafts and sewing were informative and instructive.

The Institute has sponsored 4-H Girls clubs; at least two groups for a course and on occasion four.

Displays were exhibited at Tavistock and Woodstock fairs. Floats were entered at Tavistock Fair and Hickson Lions Club, "Lions Daze" and a special float for Hickson Centennial Parade in 1978.

Bus trips to points of interest have been taken through southern Ontario.

Money for the various projects has been raised in many ways: euchres and dances have been held; hot dinners have been served for the Lions Club and others; catered for banquets; booths have been operated at school fairs, baseball games, auction sales and ploughing matches. There have been novelty contests and parties as well as bazaars. Many quilts have been made and sold. Antiques, quilt displays and tea were sponsored.

The money raised in these different ways has been put to good use. The sick, shut-ins and new babies have been remembered with cards, fruit or gifts, and the bereaved with flowers. Any in need in the community have been given assistance with clothing, bedding or money.

Funds have been donated to the Children's Aid, to hospitals and various drives having to do with health and welfare. Prizes were given at school fairs, county fairs and for poster contests in local schools. Flag

poles were erected at the school and township hall. A piano has been provided for the township hall for many years along with dishes, tables and chairs bought for community use. A skating rink was sponsored for many seasons.

In co-operation with other community organizations the Public Library was created. Regular donations were given and also a desk and chair were bought.

Perhaps the greatest venture was the park. Land was bought and fenced; trees were planted; a booth was built and swings were put up. Bleachers were made and placed. Finally a beautiful stone gateway was erected at the entrance to the park. Assistance was given in the erection of flood lights which were the first in south-western Ontario.

The Hickson Institute has been represented each year at the London Area Conventions, The District Annuals, The Institute Church Services, District Conventions and Officers Conference.

The Tweedsmuir History continues to collect and provide information of our community.

Much credit is due to all Institute members who have served so well and faithfully through the years. We are indebted to them. We would like to say "Thank You" to all charter members, to all who have served since and to those who continue to serve. Their work stands out as remarkable.

President — Mrs. Irwin McKay
Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. Lloyd Kinnaird

Innerkip Community Women's Institute

On May 19th, 1953, a meeting was held at "Waterhaughs", Innerkip, the home of Mrs. Alex Watson, for the purpose of organizing a branch of the Women's Institute in and around Innerkip, which is known as the Innerkip Community W.I.

Mrs. J. H. Lederman, President of North Oxford District, was present and organized the branch with the following officers:— President, Mrs. Alex Watson; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Frank Birtch; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Glover Ross; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Margaret Thomson; District Director, Mrs. McKay Birtch.

Thirty-two members joined at the charter meeting held at the home of Mrs. W. E. Thomson on June 24th, 1953.



Back Row Mrs. Marjorie West, Mrs. Verna Thornton, Mrs. Margaret Carter, Mrs. Mary Skillings, Mrs. Isabel Cruickshank.

Front Row Mrs. Eva Sim, Mrs. Nellie Malcolm.

The constitution meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Jean Watson who called the meeting.

Over the years the Institute has been very active and has initiated many worthwhile projects, some of which are listed below.

In 1955 members made the necessary arrangements to start a co-operative travelling library in Innerkip. This was opened in January in the Post Office.

In 1958 the Innerkip Community Branch won first place for a layette entered in the Salada Tea Competition at the District Annual and second place at the Area Convention.

A "Litter Bug" Contest was sponsored among the pupils of six schools.

Our Tweedsmuir History Book took first place in a competition at District and Area levels in 1961. In 1975 we sponsored a "Jean Watson" night, honouring her as "Woman of the Year". The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, a personal friend of Jean's, was in attendance.

In 1978, a booth at the Innerkip 125th anniversary helped to boost our treasury, also a quilt which sold for \$150. An afghan which was raffled also brought in a goodly sum.

On May 10th, 1978, the Tweedsmuir History committee convened a 25th birthday party.

We have exhibited at both Woodstock and Drumbo Fairs, had bake sales and bazaars, plant sales and auctions. We have canvassed for the Cancer Society and sponsored three 4-H Clubs. We have held euchres during the winter months, and compiled and printed 500 cook books.

The Institute has donated to many worthwhile organizations including the War Memorial Children's Hospital, the Red Cross, the Retarded Children's School, C.N.I.B., Children's Aid, Salvation Army, Muscular Dystrophy, and the Rotary Club's Crippled Children Fund.

In 1964 eight quilt tops were made for the Retarded Children's Training Centre. The children were to finish the quilts.

Our members have donated pies for the annual meeting of the Cancer Society and sent donations of food to the Women's Emergency Centre, and to the tornado victims in our own district.

We have sponsored bus trips to the Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the O'Keefe Centre, Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee Homesteads, and the Agricultural Museum at Milton.

Many of our resolutions have resulted in action being taken as in the case of the Blood Pressure Clinic at the Blandford Mall in 1975, street signs for the village, that trucks carrying gravel and similar materials be required by law to have coverings, Canadian Pension Plans be made available to farm wives, that Canadian products be marked as being approved in Canada, and that nitrates be left out of cheese.

A recommendation was sent to the clerk of the Council regarding low rental housing for senior citizens, and a resolution regarding the cutting of trees along the main street of our village.

President — Mrs. Ruth Skillings
Secretary — Mrs. Mary Skillings
Treasurer — Mrs. Eva Sim

Kintore Women's Institute

The oldest Institute in our District of Oxford North was organized in 1903 in the Methodist Church, with Mrs. Samuel Switzer as president, followed by Mrs. Alex McCallum. Miss Agnes Henderson (Mrs. D. Chalmers) was secretary. Institute Aims in 1903 were much the same as today, though perhaps women appreciated the privilege of Institute membership more than those of to-day.

The place of meeting has changed through the years. In 1909 the ladies voted to hold meetings in the Library Room, paying rent of 75c (organ included) or 50c without the organ. Later meetings were held in the Council Chamber of the old Hall. In 1920 it was decided to hold meetings in the Churches, alternating each month. Since we now have only one church, the meetings are usually held there.

During the First and Second World Wars, the Branch worked with the Red Cross to supply comforts for soldiers, and supplies for Britain.

The first demonstration recorded is the making of a Family Dessert by a Mrs. A. McMillan at the January meeting, 1928. That same year a committee met with the school teacher to plan the serving of hot lunches to the children. Demonstrations have continued throughout the years in home crafts and cooking. Contests were sponsored regularly at meetings with emphasis on cooking and baking.

In 1936 the first trip was recorded, when members visited the local cheese factory. Since then, many trips have been taken; a most important one to the Maple Leaf Gardens on Canada Day for the A.C.W.W. Convention, 1953.

Historical Research, with the compilation of a community Tweedsmuir History was undertaken in 1943, after direction was given by a speaker from the University of W.O. The first collection was the work of Mrs. D. R. Calder, and the first entries made by her daughter, Jean. Since then, farm histories and House Logs have been stressed by the W.I.

Work for the Juniors has been sponsored. In 1924 Miss Bessie Crellin had a sewing class of 14. In 1937 five girls displayed dresses made at the first class for Club girls, as we know it. Teaspoons were presented to the girls for each unit completed, until the latter part of 1960, when the Dept. of Agriculture & Food began to do the same. Since then, our Institute presents each 4-H member with a trillium cup & saucer for six units completed; a cream and sugar set for twelve; and a serving tray for eighteen units completed. Sponsoring continues, and this year we have two 4-H groups with a total of 20 members. We also take our turn in supplying the cup and saucer award to the girl with high aggregate in the 4-H Calf Club.

Our "Community Night", at first an annual affair, is always a big success. The neighborly get-togethers with varied programs including skits or numbers by each line are enjoyed by all. Proceeds from these go to supplement our money raising efforts, which also include catering to community banquets and Fair Displays.

Interest and concern was shown in Kintore, when in 1953 a tornado caused much loss and damage to area homes and farms. Besides individual contributions, the W.I. purchased lamps for each of the victims. In 1979 we again sympathized with 2 former residents, in their loss because of fire.

We have taken advantage of our special anniversaries like our fiftieth, sixtieth and seventieth, to welcome former members, and district and neighboring W.I. officers to our celebrations.

Our branch continues its interest and support of the local library. At first cash donations were given; then when the library expanded we donated furniture and books of special interest for school and community.

The Institute has always shown a good response to the Senior Courses offered by the Home Economics Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture and Food. This year 43 community women took advantage of the Quilting course.

We lend our support not only to Institute Projects like Erland Lee Home, Adelaide Hoodless Home, Helen McKercher Scholarship Fund, A.C.W.W. (Pennies for Friendship), U.N.I.C.E.F., but also to other organizations including Sudan Interior Missions.

Our Institute supported a foster child for many years, but now we have joined the District in supporting two foster children.

We remember our sick, shut-ins, and seniors in Nursing Homes, especially at Christmas, with plants and Christmas goodies. This practice dates back to 1944.

Concern for community health and nutrition was shown by participation in food forums, speakers, demonstrations in First Aid and food and meal preparations. The W.I. was instrumental in forming the Well-Baby Clinic in Kintore in the years following the Second World War.

In 1978 our Institute started two annual awards: a ten dollar award to a graduating student from A. J. Baker Public School, to be given at the discretion of the principal; and a twenty-five dollar "Pauline McGibbon" Award for Geography or History in year three or four at I.D.C.I.

The highlight of the past 25 years of our institute is our Seventy-fifth Anniversary, celebrated in Oct. 1978. The Lieut. Gov. of Ontario, the Rt. Hon. Pauline McGibbon was our guest at a luncheon for 100, which followed a tree planting ceremony at A. J. Baker School. At the school, a gold plated shovel and an autographed photograph of Mrs. McGibbon are a lasting memorial of the Kintore W.I. Anniversary. An afternoon of commentaries, fashion shows and songs of the decades ended with a birthday party complete with ribbons, whistles, hats, birthday cake and punch.

As we look to the future, not forgetting those who have gone before, we will continue to strive "For Home and Country",

President — Mrs. Ralph Woods
Sec. Treas. — Mrs. Douglas Spearin

A History of Lakeside Women's Institute

Our Institute was organized Feb. 10, 1911 when a group of ten ladies met at Linden Lodge the distinctive stone home of Mrs. Frank Seaton situated just north of the main corner of Lakeside. Honorary President, Mrs. Jane Seaton; President, Mrs. Frank Seaton; Vice President, Miss Greta Sutherland; Secretary, Miss Annie Murray. Other charter members include Mrs. Albert Baker, Mrs. Chas. Sutherland, Mrs. A. J. Murray, Mrs. Dan Cole, Miss Anna McDonald and Miss Mary Sutherland. The meetings were to be opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer. Membership fee was twenty five cents and the first Wednesday of each month was to be Institute day — as it is at the present time.

We have had three Life members — Mrs. James Matheson, Mrs. Charles Dawes and Mrs. Harry Munds. District Presidents from our Branch — Mrs. George Gates 1945-47 and Mrs. Roy McCorquodale 1966-67.

Over the years our members faithfully attended meetings of the District — County and Area and recently The Officers Convention in Waterloo. Support is given to W.I. projects at all levels — Pennies for Friendship, Save the Sight Fund, Ditty Bags and we were able to sponsor a child for ten years.

We celebrated our 25th Anniversary, our 40th, 50th and 60th. For our 50th and 60th we printed booklets recording some of our history with names and dates of Presidents and Secretaries. We have had 33 Presidents and 26 Secretaries.

Our first Tweedsmuir Book is dated 1946. Our curators — Mrs. Harry Munds, Mrs. Nettie Stevenson, Mrs. Lawrence Taylor and Mrs. Charles Holden have gathered a lot of information and pictures of historical value. One meeting during the year is devoted to the work of the Tweedsmuir Books.

During the "Seventies" we had a Hobby Fair, a Tweedsmuir Tea, a fashion show, Penny Auctions, Bake Sales, Plant Sales, Printed a Cook Book, made three quilts and instead of exchanging gifts at Christmas we have a Special collection for the James Purdue Workshop in St. Marys. This past year we contributed to their Building Fund.

Local Leaders Courses — very popular. This year 30 ladies of the community attended the Quilt Course. Other favourites were Needlepoint and Bread Making.

We sponsor an active 4-H club with money for the club and gifts and expenses to the Leaders. Mrs. Ross McCorquodale has been a leader for ten years.

Present Officers	—	President	Mrs. Alex Whittaker
		Vice President	— Mrs. James Zegers
		Sec.-Treas.	— Mrs. Allin Stewart
		District Director	— Mrs. Robert Holden
		PRO	— Mrs. James Morrison

Plattsville Women's Institute

October 1947 - Dec. 1979

The earliest records that can be found indicate that a Women's Institute was formed in Plattsville about 1904-05.

It is interesting to note that out of this group came the first District President, Mrs. D. Dewar; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Craig; and Secretary-Treasurer, Miss B. Gilholm.

That Plattsville W.I. disbanded in 1915 when it became a Red Cross group. The present Plattsville Women's Institute was organized October 2, 1947.

The District President at that time, Mrs. O. O. Smith, and Mrs. J. D. Hossack, Secretary-Treasurer, attended the meeting and explained the aims and conditions of Women's Institute, and conducted the election of officers. Mrs. J. H. Lederman was instrumental in beginning this organization and was our first president, with Mrs. R. C. Hallman as secretary-treasurer. Due to a serious accident within a month's time, Mrs. Hallman resigned and Mrs. Wm. Bell was appointed to this office. There have been twelve presidents and twelve secretaries since that time.

We meet the third Thursday of each month in Plattsville United Church Sunday School room at 2 p.m. We are honoured that two of our branch presidents became District Presidents, namely:— Mrs. J. H. Lederman, and Mrs. Gordon Knox. At the present time Mrs. Gordon Knox is secretary-treasurer for the district and Mrs. Hugh Baird, assistant secretary-treasurer. The membership has decreased considerably since our beginning but we still have a small but active group.

We support all Institute Projects. One of our more important community activities is our sponsorship of 4-H Groups. We often have two groups and each girl is given a pin at the conclusion of two units. We also support the C.N.I.B. canvass, Foster Child, Children's War Memorial Hospital, Library, Community Park, St. Monica House, and Shut-Ins at Christmas.

The main source of our income is our annual Geranium Tea and Bake Sale, and exhibiting at the Fall Fair in Drumbo.

Our 25th anniversary was held October 19, 1972 at which five charter members were honoured and presented with corsages. They were Mrs. E. Hewitt, Mrs. J. H. Lederman, Mrs. W. Lachman, Mrs. Wallace Brown, and Mrs. Wm. Bell. During this same program Mrs. J. H. Lederman was presented with a Life Membership in recognition of her many years of service to our organization.

Mrs. J. D. Hossack of Embro was a guest at this meeting, and was one of the district officers who had been present at our organization meeting 25 years before. Also guests at our anniversary were the District President, Mrs. Willis Matheson, and Mrs. Fred Arthur, Secretary.

We started Tweedsmuir History the year we organized and have been keeping it up to date. We had our books microfilmed last year so there will be a permanent record in Toronto in the Dept. of Agriculture Offices, Home Economics Branch.

Over the years we have had many excellent speakers, panel discussions, skits, travelogues, demonstrations, and Grandmothers meetings. We have had a bus trip every year to places of interest, tours of factories, potteries, scenic gardens, museums, a beef farm, O'Keefes, The Science Centre and the Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee homes.

We also had eight motorcades taken within a radius of twenty miles with a written commentary for each member, and these proved very interesting. They were convened by the Historical Committee, with Mrs. J. C. Woolcott as its capable leader.

We have at the present time one life member, Mrs. J. H. Lederman; three charter members, Mrs. Wilfred Lachman, Mrs. J. H. Lederman, and Mrs. Wm. Bell. We also have started the custom of having a President's Pin which is passed on to each new president when she takes office.

In conclusion, may we all treasure the memories of the past but look forward to the future and truly uphold our motto for "Home and Country".

The Officers for 1978-79 are: President, Mrs. Reginald Schrane; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Donald Harrison; District Director, Mrs. Gordon Knox.

This report compiled by Mrs. E. Bullock and Mrs. Wm. Bell.

The Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute

The Princess Elizabeth Institute is a fairly young Institute in the North Oxford District. We were organized in 1947. Mrs. Edgar Junker and Mrs. Harold Junker met at the home of Mrs. Carman Facey to make plans for the organization of a Women's Institute and the first meeting was planned for Nov. 26th, in 1947. There were 30 women and children at the meeting which was held at the home of Mrs. Harold Junker. Fourteen women joined that day. Among those present were the District President, Mrs. O. Smith; the London Area Vice-president, Mrs. E. Hansuld; and Mrs. Litt. A short program was presented, then Mrs. Litt presided for the election of officers.



Princess Elizabeth's 25th Anniversary Nov. 1972 honoring the above charter members of the branch.

Back row, left to right: (Mrs. H.) Elva Weil, (Mrs. D.) Ruth Reibling, (Mrs. N.) Hilda Wettlaufer, (Mrs. H.) Violet Wettlaufer.

Front row, left to right: 1st President (Mrs. H.) Elizabeth Junker and the first Sec.-Treas. (Mrs. R.) Ruthe Currah.

We are particularly proud of the girls' clubs which we have sponsored since our beginning. All our girls are rewarded with silver teaspoons when they complete each unit, and also extra gifts when they merit County and Provincial Honours. We donate a special prize for the 4H entries at Tavistock Fair. A child in Korea was sponsored for a few years.

Contributions in money to worthy organizations have been many. They include donations to the Sick and Shut-ins; Pennies for Friendship, Nutrition Education, Canadian Save the Children Fund, UNESCO, and the Cancer Society. We purchased dishes and chairs for community use.

We raise the money for these donations in various ways. We have catered for banquets, and at auction sales. We participated in a Bake Sale at the Blandford Mall.

Extension Courses have been very popular with the members. Our first one was Your Food and Your Figure, followed by Desserts, The Third Meal, Baking With Yeast, New Ideas For the Kitchen, Millinery, Block Printing, and Needlepoint. Demonstrations on Glove Making, Copper Tooling, Ceramics, and Icing Cakes were much enjoyed. A very useful course on What Makes a Good Officer was also given.

Our programs have been informative, educational, and entertaining. They have involved bus trips, special speakers, travelogues, and demonstrations. All have contributed to the cultural life of our community.

Our bus trips have been very popular with our members. We have visited Weston's Bakery, Schneiders, the Bell Telephone, and CKCO-TV in Kitchener; several nurseries, the sandpaper plant in Plattsville, the Hahn Brass Factory in New Hamburg, and Fanshawe Park and Pioneer Village to name a few. On a visit to Blossom Park School and Woodingford Lodge in Woodstock, we entertained them with a short program. One of our most interesting trips involved a tour of the three adjoining townships where our members live, and as part of the tour we visited eight cemeteries.

Our travelogues have taken us to Russia, Germany, Denmark, the United Nations, The Red Lake Gospel Mission, Moosonee, and on an agricultural tour of Europe. We were honoured to have Mrs. Diamond, President of FWIO, tell us about the FWIC Convention in P.E.I. and also give us a talk on Public Relations. Other topics of interest were Cheesemaking, Quilts, Your Doctor Your Hospital and You, Wills, Farm Safety, Dahlias and Gladioli, Oxford County, and World Affairs.

We celebrated our 10th, 20th, 25th and 30th anniversaries. Mrs. Hansuld and Mrs. J. J. McKay were with us on our 10th anniversary, and on our 30th a supper was catered to us and our husbands. This was followed by an evening of euchre.

Our membership is seventeen, and we are always looking and hoping to find some new members in our district.

President, Mrs. Carl (Mary) Nickolas
Sec. Treas., Mrs. Paul (Opal) Kevanick

Tavistock Women's Institute

The Tavistock Branch of the Women's Institute was organized in 1902 and was associated with the South Perth District. The first recorded District Annual of South Perth was held in Tavistock in 1907. Officers at this meeting included Mrs. A. T. Bell, president, Mrs. J. G. Field and Mrs. Valentine Stock as directors. In 1949 our branch asked to join the Oxford North District since our interests were becoming more involved in Oxford County.

At the Oxford North, District Annual meeting held in the Hickson United Church, June 1st, 1950 our branch formally became a member of Oxford North. To our president, Miss Adna Bell, words of welcome were spoken by Mrs. Ferguson, president of Princess Elizabeth Branch and a corsage of roses was presented by Mrs. C. Wittig, president of the Anna P. Lewis Branch.

The monthly meetings were first held in the homes of the members. The records show that these ladies were very active in all phases of Institute work. Our branch had three district presidents while belonging to South Perth. There were many evidences of their interest in town beautification as well as many contributions to the educational and cultural life of the community. Electric lights were installed in the school in the late twenties. Money was raised by holding garden parties and concerts in the Opera Hall. The teaching of music in the school was also sponsored by the branch and in 1934 a successful school reunion was organized. Money was raised to aid the Boy Scouts and the local band. Stone gates were erected at the entrance to the park.

During the first World War the local Institute was the only organized service group in the village and took the lead in forming a Patriotic Society which did valuable war work. In June, 1921, a bronze memorial plaque to the memory of all young men who had served in the Armed Forces was unveiled in the library.

During the second World War we organized "Miles of Pennies" drives to raise money for war work. Each Remembrance Day we cooperate with the local Legion by placing a wreath at the cenotaph.

In 1947 through the initiative of our president, Mrs. Chas. Vogt and our neighbour Mrs. Ed. Hansuld an annual church service was organized for neighbouring branches. These annual services were held for over twenty years. Miss Ethel Chapman was one of our guest speakers.

Between 1910 and the present our Institute has supported the local library, including the purchase and maintenance of kitchen equipment and the piano. The new Canadian flag was purchased and dedicated during Canada's Centennial year. The compiling of a Tavistock Tweedsmuir History, begun by Miss Adna Bell, was continued by Miss Belle Currah, curator for many years. Mrs. Ed. Matresky is the present curator. The Centennial project of the branch was a hand-made cabinet to house these volumes and other records in the Library. Mrs. Robt.

Gladding, one of our members won first prize for her cover design at District Tweedsmuir Book level. The branch hold their regular meetings in the Library Hall.

One of our former members, Mrs. A. B. Flach served for ten years on the town council. During her term of office we paid for the erection of name signs for the streets of Tavistock. Another major project was the donation of money for the equipment of the kitchen at the Memorial Hall, erected in 1952. Our branch held a beautiful violet show and tea in the new hall.

During Canada's Centennial year a few pages of the branch's work were re-enacted at the June meeting when a skit "Backward, turn backward, O time in thy flight" was presented, all those taking part wore Centennial costumes. We also sponsored a Strawberry Social in the Memorial Hall. Our Fall Fair display featured the 'Land of the Maple'.

Special occasions are celebrated in appropriate ways. For the 70th Anniversary of our branch in June, 1972, we entertained former members and representatives of the district and neighbouring branches at a luncheon in the Library Hall with Mrs. Clarence Diamond as guest speaker. In 1975, to celebrate International Women's Year we held a special International night when we entertained forty ladies from our community, who were born in fourteen different countries. Many of the guests participated in the program by telling about their native land, modelling native costumes, or singing native songs. In June 1977, for our 75th Anniversary over one hundred ladies enjoyed a dinner meeting in the Memorial Hall. Many former members and friends from five neighbouring branches celebrated with us. Our guest speaker for this occasion was Miss Helen McKercher. A church service was also held in connection with our Anniversary. 1977 was also the year of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. We planned a special Jubilee program and used the Queen's 25th Anniversary as the theme of our Fall Fair display.

Currently we are making plans to recognize the International Year of the Child.

Our branch has sponsored a Greek foster child since 1965, and we remember the child with a gift at Christmas. We sponsored the Oxford County Well-Baby Clinic from 1954 to 1975 when the clinic was discontinued. Since 1971 we have sponsored a 4-H Club.

Each year we assist the Council by preparing the refreshments for the Senior Citizens' Picnic. Annually we organize the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Ability Fund (March of Dimes) canvasses for the village. The members aid in canvassing for the latter.

Several of our members serve as directors of the Agricultural Society. Each year we put up an appropriate display. Our branch also donates money for two special prizes — one for the children's class and one for the Junior class.

In 1975 we were happy to present a stereo to Miss Babs Lemp at a tea held in her honour. The money was raised by holding a Tulip Tea and through donations.



Reception honouring Miss Lucille Lemp. Top of photo: Mr. Carl Siltzer and Mrs. Harry Nutall.

We have made sizeable donations to the Minor Softball Association and also to the Tennis Club when lights were installed.

Most of our money is raised by catering for local service clubs, by holding annual euchre parties and silent auctions.

We try not to neglect cultural and educational activities. Each year we enjoy a bus trip. We have visited art galleries in Stratford and Kleinburg; concerts at O'Keefe's and the Royal Alexandra; the Mohawk Theatre in the Forest and Pauline Johnson's homestead, Chiefswood near Brantford; the Shaw Festival and the Community Farm of the Brethren (Hutterites).

We give children of the community the opportunity to participate in our programs.

President — Miss Marguerite Caister
 Vice-President — Miss Helen Rudy
 Secretary — Miss Ethel Rudy
 Treasurer — Mrs. Anna Heinbuch
 District Director — Miss Belle Currah

Uniondale (Oxford North) Women's Institute

On Wednesday afternoon May 7th, 1941, a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Lee Barnes for the purpose of re-organizing the disbanded Lakeside Junior Institute into a senior institute.

Mrs. Fred Thornton of Kintore, our District President, took the chair for the election of officers. Mrs. Jack Wilson was elected the first president, and Mrs. Gordon Hutton the first secretary-treasurer. The new institute assumed the name of Uniondale Women's Institute, but in 1953 the words "Oxford North" were added to distinguish it from another Uniondale Institute in another part of Ontario. The meetings were held the second Wednesday of each month.

Mrs. Fred Slater was leader of the first Homemaking Club and this group contributed some interesting programmes on preparing meals, and canning home-grown foods for winter use. They also displayed the cotton dresses they had made.

A special feature of each meeting besides the topic and the demonstration, was the Poem-of-the Month contributed by a member. In 1949 this was dropped and replaced by the Motto, and these brief comments have proved to be very popular.

The group's first years as a senior institute were World War II years and like other groups the ladies "did their bit". They bought honey and yarn; knit socks and scarfs, and packed boxes for the boys overseas. They participated in a "Jam For Britain" project; and after the war had ended, the people of Britain were rationed long after food restrictions were lifted here in Canada, so an institute in Britain was adopted and boxes of food sent to supplement their meagre rations.

In 1942 the scarcity of sugar caused us to limit our lunches to sandwiches and a beverage, and when we entertained a neighbouring institute each of the members would donate a teaspoonful of her rationed tea to the hostess.

For a time a well-baby clinic was held in the basement of the United Church in Lakeside and institute members took turns in assisting Dr. Powers and his team of nurses as they gave needles and checked the health of the local pre-school children.

During the winter, meetings were often held in the evenings with husbands attending and taking part in the programmes. Many interesting visitors attended the meetings. District Presidents, Agricultural Representatives, local businessmen and women came to bring information and entertainment. A highlight in this respect was the visit from Mrs. Botts of Australia who told of life in the continent "down under".

Equally enjoyable were the contests and debates prepared by our own members. Were people happier in grandmother's day? Are bald-headed men brainier than men with hair? Can women do men's work better than men can do women's work? These topics were argued but

seldom proved. Homemade Easter bonnets were judged, and one lady once won a prize for talking four and one-half minutes without stopping.

Over the years large sums of money have been raised by catering to weddings, serving meals at the last Oxford County Ploughing Match, a Garden Party and Fashion Parade with the Uniondale Men's Softball Team as models, variety shows, euchres, and bake sales at meetings or local auction sales. These money-making projects have made it possible for us to meet our charitable commitments, but a more important benefit has been achieved by them — the resulting fellowship as members worked and planned together and shared each other's joys and sorrows.

Annual contributions have been made to Educational Scholarships and Bursaries; the Cancer Fund; Red Cross; Handicapped Children and Adults, as well as the sick and shut-ins and victims of fire and disaster. 4-H Clubs are sponsored with the leaders' expenses being paid.

In 1968 the School Area presented the Wildwood Park Elementary School with a plaque in memory of John Bolton, the Secretary of the Board who was killed in a tragic car accident. Each year the institute presents the child in Grade Eight who has made the most progress during the year with a gift, and the child's name is attached to the plaque. This is a very coveted award. Now a similar award is made to a grade four pupil as well.

A large jar is brought to each meeting to collect the contributions to the A.C.W.W.-sponsored "Pennies For Friendship" fund. This money is taken to the District Annual from where it is sent to headquarters and used to fund special A.C.W.W. projects.

For several years the organization sponsored an under-privileged child in Hong Kong, and now helps with children sponsored by the District.

The Uniondale Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary with the help of guests from the neighbouring institutes, past members, and charter members. The meeting was held in the East Nissouri Union Church. The theme was:

"Do what you can to think high thoughts,
To love true things and to do noble deeds."

A candle-lighting service was held with the first president, Mrs. Jack Wilson, lighting the candle for the past, Mrs. Ken Langford for the present, and Mrs. Allan Slater for the future. There was an attendance of 93. The 10th, 30th and 35th anniversaries were also recognized.

One of our members, Mrs. Bev Slater, spent four years in Zambia and kept up her membership all the time she was away. Many interesting slides, pictures, information and ideas were brought back and shared with us. Through Mrs. Elizabeth Clark there is a pen pal contact with an Institute near South Port, Queensland, in Australia. Interesting program material in the form of books, souvenirs, magazines and ideas has been received from there also.

The Uniondale Institute has a two-volume Tweedsmuir History as well as scrap books begun in 1966 which give an on-going history of the

community. Special attention is given to school and church activities. School children have made use of these records for school projects.



Life Members of Uniondale W.I. left to right: Mrs. James (Ina) Wells, Mrs. Roy (Ethel) Slater, Mrs. Murray (Mabel) Hopson. Front: Mrs. Jack (Elizabeth) Clark.

At the Christmas meeting, 1978, Mrs. Jack (Elizabeth) Clark was made the first Life Member of the Uniondale Women's Institute. Other worthy members were so honoured in March, 1980, namely: Mrs. Murray (Mabel) Hopson, Mrs. James (Ina) Wells, and Mrs. Ray (Ethel) Slater.

This year, one of Uniondale's own members, Mrs. Jack (Irene) Richardson, is District President, and all are very pleased and proud that she will have a large part in the plans for the District's 75th birthday. Another Uniondale member, Mrs. Fred Slater, was District President when the District celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Uniondale Institute is proud of its past achievements, and it hopes to continue its work with the same spirit of friendliness, helpfulness, and co-operation that has made it a successful organization. To-day it has 38 members, and that number includes eight Charter Members. As always, our meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend, and it is our hope that each meeting will have something of interest to everyone.

First President — Mrs. Marie Wilson
First Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. Eileen Hutton
1980 President — Mrs. Beverley Slater
1980 Sec.-Treas. — Mrs. Roberta Smith

Woodstock North Women's Institute

"On December 12, 1928, a large number of women met at the home of Mrs. F. W. Goble for the purpose of organizing a branch of Women's Institute" — so reads the opening sentence of the minutes of the organizational meeting of Woodstock North W.I. This group had belonged to the U.F.W.O. Mrs. Walter Ross, Embro, represented the department and explained the Institute set up. Mrs. Kerr, district secretary, told of the work being done in her own Institute at Brooksdale. The ladies voted unanimously to become an Institute and Mrs. F. W. Goble was chosen as the first president. Other officers elected were: 1st Vice President, Mrs. Willus Burton; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. C. H. Wilson; Secretary-Treasurer, Grace Osborn (Mrs. S. Foster). There were 23 charter members, and by the end of the Institute year there were 38 paid members.

During the first year the members felt they should have something special to work for, so they decided to buy a piano for Tollgate School (Nos. 4 and 9). This they were successful in doing and on October 18, 1929, at a "Community Night" at the school, the key to the piano was presented to the teacher. Money for this project was raised by social evenings, a garden party, a copper contest, a bazaar, and an autographed quilt. The next project was to provide a music teacher for the school. This project was carried on until the School Board took over.



Woodstock North W.I.

L. to R.:

Mrs. Russell Oliver — President Woodstock North W.I.
 Mrs. Harry Thornton — Oxford North District President
 Mrs. Roy Osborn — Convener 50th anniversary meeting
 Mrs. C. Diamond — President F.W.I.O.

Taken at the 50th anniversary dinner Dec. 12, 1978

Then came the war years. Memory brings back the fun as well as the work as members gathered at various homes and turned surplus fruit into jam. There were nearly 2 tons of jam made. Of all the sugar used for the jam, 100 pounds was given by the UCO and our branch paid for the remainder, which came from the "Central Sugar Fund". Completed for the Red Cross were 1,027 pieces of sewing and 1,170 pieces of knitting. Many boxes were sent to local men serving overseas. The minutes tell of Mrs. Harwood being given \$5.00 to make Christmas cake for the boxes. At the close of the war, "Welcoming Home" parties were held and the township council joined in these presentations.

In 1953-54 we were one of the branch hostesses to the A.C.W.W. meeting held in Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. Each member attending received a large maple leaf pin inscribed with 1953 A.C.W.W. In 1968 we journeyed to East Lansing, Michigan, to the A.C.W.W.

Through the years we have sponsored 4-H Homemaking Clubs, given banquets for 4-H Calf Clubs, given awards to the Township Music Festival, given an award to a rural student in the three Woodstock secondary schools, sponsored an adopted child in Africa, and have taken advantage of and thoroughly enjoyed the many short courses given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

In addition, branch members set for themselves two goals: (1) build a community centre and (2) help handicapped children. Money for these projects was raised by garden parties, catering to Grass Silage Day, winning a \$50.00 "housing contest" prize, and many other ventures. With the formation of a Township School Board and the additions made at the school, the need for a community centre no longer existed. The branch happily voted to invest \$411.30 in two dozen wooden folding chairs and six dozen nesting chairs to be kept in the school for the use of the community.

In March 1951, at the YWCA, Dr. C. E. Strothers from the Department of Education, Toronto, gave an excellent slide presentation of helps for handicapped children. Interest in such a program of auxiliary training for the rural school grew. From time to time such a project was discussed with the school board and inspector. The suggestion of a pilot project was accepted by the board, providing that a qualified teacher could be found. This took several years.

On May 9, 1956, a bursary of \$100.00 was offered to encourage a teacher to take the summer course in Toronto and return to East Zorra as itinerant teacher of auxiliary training. Two years later, and with a grant from the Strothers Exceptional Child Foundation, Donald Seaton qualified for the position. This project was followed closely by the directors of the Strothers Foundation, who expressed their satisfaction by the loan to the school board of the van known as the "Mobile School" from which Mr. Seaton assisted those pupils in need of special help and encouragement, and so the project which took a great deal of time was a reality.

The history of Woodstock North W.I. is set down in 11 record books covering over 500 meetings. On December 13, 1978, we celebrated our

50th anniversary with a special luncheon, with Mrs. C. Diamond, President of F.W.I.O., as speaker. Charter members and several long-time members were presented with corsages. Mrs. Mack Hart presented our history of the past 50 years which she, Mrs. D. H. Hart, and Mrs. W. MacKay had compiled.

President	— Mrs. R. Oliver
1st Vice President	— Mrs. L. Fleming
Secretary	— Mrs. D. Taylor
Treasurer	— Mrs. G. Jackson
District Director	— Mrs. L. Topham

East Nissouri Junior Institute

(Mrs. F. R. Thornton)

East Nissouri Junior Institute held its first meeting on January 24th, 1950, with Mrs. Isobel Tye as president and Donna Calder as Secretary-Treasurer. The average attendance for the 1950 meetings was about 15. The girls were given aid by Miss Summer King, Home Economist for Oxford County. Their topics were on Personality, Good Grooming, Table Etiquette, Gardens, etc.

They re-organized in January, 1951 with Mrs. I. Tye as president and Doris Robinson as secretary-treasurer. It was decided to make the Junior Institute Fund joint with the funds of the Jr. Farmers. Eight meetings were held during 1951.

On January 8, 1952, we re-organized with Viola McCorquodale as president and Gwen Tye as secretary-treasurer. The attendance at these meetings was about 17. In June of that year, Joan Garlick became president and remained president until January, 1954. At this time Mrs. J. Garlick became president and Gwen remained as secretary-treasurer.

A successful Hobby Fair was held in August, 1953. We joined with the Jr. Farmers for Variety Shows held in 1953 and 1954.

In 1953 we started a separate fund again. We started having our yearly programmes printed and handed out to each member at the beginning of the year. We donated to many worthy organizations including Cancer Fund, Help The Blind, etc.

In August, 1954, Jean Craig was made President and Norma Harris secretary-treasurer due to the coming absence of some of our members. We now have about 12 regular attenders.

Norma Harris, Sec.-Treas.

Lakeside Junior Willing Workers Institute

September 29th, 1931 — May 7th, 1941

On Tuesday, September 29th, 1931, the Lakeside Junior Institute was organized by Miss Petty from the Women's Institute Branch in Toronto, with Miss Alice Matheson as President, and Miss Dorothy Gregory as Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Robert Leslie was Honorary President from May 1936 to May 1940. Their meetings were to be held the second Wednesday of each month in the Orange Hall, Lakeside.

The seventeen charter members of this organization were as follows:— Misses Mayme Snell, Sophie Sutherland, Blanche Graff, Bertha McCorquodale, Marian McKay, Margaret Matheson, Dorothy Clarke, Sophie Clarke, Edna Kittmer, Myrtle Kittmer, Effie Kittmer, Dorothy Gregory, Alice Matheson, Nettie Stevenson, Christina Clarke, Anna Lawrence, and Dorothy Johnson. This active group of young ladies contributed much to the social welfare of the community during the next ten years.

Dances in the local pavilion was one method used to raise money to pay for the many worthwhile projects undertaken by the Willing Workers. One of these was the presentation of a lovely quilt made by the group to each member as she became a bride-to-be.

In the course of ten years, most of the members of the Lakeside Juniors had become wives and homemakers whose interests were more attuned to senior than to junior programs. Thus it was that at the regular March meeting, 1941, a unanimous decision was made to regroup as a senior institute. The majority of the members now lived in the Uniondale area, and in May 1941, the Lakeside Juniors became the Uniondale Women's Institute.

Thamesford Women's Institute

The Thamesford Women's Institute was organized during 1905-06. While the branch was active the members supported District projects and had educational and inspiring speakers at their meetings. Early records are not available but in 1914-15 the officers were: — President, Mrs. Dr. Babb; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. W. W. McLeod; District Director, Mrs. Kester. The receipts were \$60.41 and the meetings were held in the hall.

Mrs. Matthew Cowper was Secretary-Treasurer of the District for five years, 1909-1914.

During World War I the members were interested in War Relief Work and many meetings were devoted to that project. The last meeting of the Thamesford W.I. was held in May, 1917.

The Women's Institute 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.

The 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.

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 pretence and meet
each other face to face, without self pity and
without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment 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
straight forward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize that it is the little
things that create differences; 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.

Hymn of All Nations

"A Song of Peace"
(Tune: "Finlandia")

This is my song, Oh, 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 hearts 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.