

Seymour West WI

On September 19, 2012, Seymour West WI (Trent Valley Area) celebrated its 100th Anniversary. To mark this milestone, Members from District Branches, District President Mary Shortt, Area President Cecilia Maines, FWIO President-Elect Evelyn Peck, Trent Hills Mayor Hector Macmillan and the press were invited to the WI Hall. President Marion Hay opened the celebration saying, "Women teach us how to find spiritual fulfilment, creative expression and deep satisfaction in life. For 100 years, Seymour West WI has helped us to do that."



Pictured (L-R): Seymour West WI Members Marion Hay, Faye McKelvie, Phyllis McCulloch, Grace Wynn, Lois Brown, Helen Pickens, (behind: Gayle Fox, Gwen Coombes), Connie Quinn, Lucille Joss, (behind: Shirley Little), Pat Lloyd, and Gerane McConnell.

A short program consisted of greetings from dignitaries and presentation of special 100 year pins and certificates. Classical trained singer and harpist, Angelica Ottwell, entertained with her storytelling and music. Soloist, Pauline McMillan, was accompanied by her mother-in-law, Marilynn, on piano. Faye McKelvie, a Member for 69 years, cut the Anniversary cake and Lois Brown (46 years) poured tea. The hall was decorated with balloons and live flowers inside and outside.

Seymour West WI is located in Northumberland East District and has 15 Members. Eight chartered Members organized the Branch on July 6, 1912 with Mrs. Chas. Macoun as President (1912-1924). Mrs. Macoun also served as District President (1918-1920) and went on to be Provincial Correspondent. Although smaller in number, Seymour West WI still participates and promotes the concept of Home and Country and the tenets of the Mary Stewart Collect.

Highgate WI

On September 5, 2012, the Members of Highgate WI (Southwestern Area) held a celebration in honour of their 100th Anniversary. On display were WI memorabilia and Tweedsmuir History Books. Guests included WI Members from the District, former members, auditors and dignitaries.

Greetings were brought from Chatham-Kent Mayor, Randy Hope, along with Councillors Jim Brown and Steve Pinsonneault and MP Dave VanKersteren. WI greetings were brought from Eleanor Williams (FWIO Board Director), Martha Gammage (Southwestern AVD), Muriel Hotham (Kent District), Holly Scott (Lambton North District), and Michelle Loosemore (Lambton South District).



Pictured (L-R): Lois McLean, Dona Waite, Muriel Teetzel, Marion Garrod, Alice Manning, Anne Goens, Annie Nuttall and Bev Sanborn.

Eleanor Williams presented 100th Anniversary pins to each Member. Everyone enjoyed Ron Fleming, a local musician who provided entertainment. Guest speaker Ruth Dudley spoke on the Underground Railroad and displayed 2 quilts, one depicting her African Heritage. On the second quilt, she described each block as it pertained to the Underground Railroad.

The cake was cut and fellowship enjoyed by all!