

slides of a farmers' tour to study ways of farming, irrigation and conservation. At the same meeting there was a talk on the Shakespearean Drama Festival. One of **Northgate's** favorite programs was on conservation and reforestation. **Rosslyn** found most interesting a representative of Thunder Bay Nurseries talk on conservation and what can happen without trees to protect the soil. At **Dromore's** "men's meeting," four men debated the question "Resolved that totally mechanized farming is more profitable than partially mechanized."

—WI—

Christmas programs were popular. **Park Head's** report says: "The gift exchange with an unknown friend and the whole program brought out the true spirit of Christmas. There were displays of homemade Christmas gifts and decorations, with explanations. The motto was, 'I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it through the year.'" **Inman Road's** Christmas program included carol singing, a display of decorations, a candy demonstration, gifts for the Children's Aid; and for a topic, the Christmas story. At **South Cayuga's** Christmas meeting the story or sermon "Let Us Keep Christmas" by Peter Marshall was read.

**Pelham** says of its Christmas meeting: "The music and friendliness and the fact that a gift of money was sent to a needy family and a parcel to a New Canadian who had recently suffered a bereavement made it a pleasant and satisfactory afternoon."

### Community Activities

Reports recorded a vast amount of community work done, including organizing community social events, providing special equipment such as first aid kits and playground equipment for schools; recognizing the births of babies with a gift such as a spoon, blanket or a dollar bank deposit; sending cards, flowers or fruit to the sick and shut in; assisting victims of fire, sickness or other misfortune; contributing to the building of halls, hospitals and community centres; taking an active interest in Children's Shelters and Homes for the Aged; promoting and assisting libraries; getting the people of the district to come to chest X-ray surveys; sponsoring baby clinics; subscribing funds to an endless number of causes within the community and beyond it. One of the newest Institute movements is an interest in providing opportunity classes and special teachers for retarded children. It is impossible to report all of this work here, but the following notes from some branches may offer suggestions to others:

In the way of providing a good community social life: **Brown's** held its family night on St. Patrick's Day and had an Irish Concert. **Grace Patterson** branch had a variety program for their family night with educational and entertaining films, a magician, music, children's square dancing and a local girl's prize-winning speech. At **Grandview's** family night

each family contributed a number. **Kohler** had four family nights during the year, including a Hallowe'en party. **Lion's Head** provided a tennis court for their young people. **Park Head** bought basketball equipment for the community park.

Many branches had an illustrated lecture provided by a nursery firm on beautifying home surroundings given at an evening meeting open to the community. **Amherst Island** sponsored a social evening and art exhibit, held in the school and featuring local talent. **Glen** took over the local arrangements for a local couple's sixtieth wedding anniversary party, providing the home for the reception and the food for the occasion. **Mount Pleasant Pioneers** branch maintains a hall for the use of the surrounding district at a small fee. **De Cew Falls** is considering buying a projector for the use of all non-profit organizations in the township. **Union Hall** members prepared a play and variety concert and took it to four other communities. **Appleton** also put on a variety concert and had a family night with the men giving the program. **St. Helen's** had nine "community nights with whole families in attendance." They usually have a program or games followed by lunch and a dance. **Caledonia** chaperoned a "teen-age canteen." **Tottenham** sponsored a recreation service or leadership course for young people. **Chesterville** provided dancing classes for children. **Coulson's Hill** provides social get-togethers for members and their families with square dancing and games for the children.

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**Zephyr** reports a "Fire Cracker Party" on the twenty-fourth of May. (We suppose this was for the children and that it had the same object as a Hallowe'en party—to give children a good time and have them under supervision and safe. Ed.) **Mountain on St. Joseph island** held crokinole parties with special invitations to young people. **Cameron** had a special meeting for mothers and young children of the community. **Huntley** had a party for pre-school children—a good way to interest young mothers. **Lucan Juniors** helped to sponsor a barn dance "for a member whose barn had been burned." (This must have been to raise funds for the owner. Ed.) **Greenock**, working with the National Film Board, arranged for a showing of moving pictures in the school once a month. The Institute served refreshments after the pictures, making the evening quite a social event. **Haystack Bay** in Muskoka had a community turkey supper and a Christmas tree with gifts for seventy children. **Dwight** lets the young people have the use of their hall for badminton.

**Billing's Bridge** started a community bowling league; **Little Rapids** a women's broom ball team; **Grace Lane**, skating parties for teen-agers and younger children; **Shanty Bay**, a recreation club for young people. **Patricia East** in Algoma reports having "built a community hall with the aid of a Government grant." **East Korah** reports: "Our most impor-