

Hillier WI

The Members of Hillier WI (Prince Edward District, Trent Valley Area), celebrated their Branch's 100th Anniversary in June. A speech given at the celebration recalled the numerous trips taken by the Branch over the past seventy years – all of which were documented in a diary kept by Doris Wright, who will be 97 this year.



Pictured holding the cake are Marilyn Rennie, Rebecca MacKellar and Catherine Sutherland. Middle row: Gerrie Jenkins, Doris Wright, Carol Haagsma, Grace Clements and Lorraine Fullum-Bouchard. Back row: Mabel Wright, Carole Harrison, Jean Alexander, Peggy Burris and Rosemary Istead.

The original Branch Members were country women who did not have the advantage of easy access to places of interest. To broaden their horizons, trips were organized to places Members would not otherwise visit. This became a regular event, usually in the autumn after harvest. Trips were not just around the corner, they were to places all over Ontario, and sometimes even to the States. Visits were to Lake Placid; to Corning, NY to see the Corning Glass Works and Corning University; to Vermont to visit the Shelburne Museum and a trip across Lake Champlain; to Detroit, Michigan to tour the Ford plant at Dearborn; and one trip via the Ivy Lea Bridge to Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, and right around the lake and back to Hillier via the Peace Bridge at Fort Erie!

These trips were never just about site seeing; they were all designed to fulfill the purpose of educating rural women. Every place visited had a museum, a factory, or was an historic site: Kodak works in Rochester; Fort Henry in Kingston; the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa; a Shakespeare play at Stratford; Quaker Oats Plant and Canada Packers in Peterborough; The Martyrs Shrine and Simcoe County Museum in Midland; a tour of the nickel district in Sudbury; a woollen mill and Red Cross Hospital in Bancroft; Kemptville Agricultural College; Stoney Creek Battlefield and the Shredded Wheat Factory in Niagara Falls.

But of course there was lots of fun on these trips. Imagine a bus load of excited women - free to chat, sing and laugh. At most destinations there would be time for shopping: something for "Show & Tell" on the return trip.

Lately there have been day trips: Loyalist College Cooking School; the RCAF Museum in Trenton, the Agricultural Museum at Sterling, the Ontario Water Buffalo Park, the Casino at Ganonoque, Ottawa at Tulip Festival Time, with a visit to the Governor General's residence. But nothing like the trips that were taken in those "Glory Days".

Rocklyn WI

On May 13, 2014, Rocklyn WI (Grey Country District, Grey-Bruce Area) celebrated their 100th Anniversary at the Rocklyn Community Centre with Members, former Members and visitors from other WI Branches. President, Marion Genoe welcomed the guests and presided over the day's program.

Grey Highlands Mayor, Wayne Fitzgerald offered congratulations and Lynne Silverthorn presented a scroll to the Branch. Greetings were presented from federal and provincial officials. Several Members displayed their Life Membership Certificates and other awards. Manuals from a number of short courses the WI had participated in and samples of the work done, as well as 4-H projects were shown through a PowerPoint Presentation.

Entertainment for the afternoon included a display of Victorian clothing by Marilyn Bergman, assisted by Nancy Breadner. The Maple Meadow Line Dancers performed their routines. One hundred year pins provided by FWIO were presented to the Members by Helen Thompson and a memorial list of former Members was read.

Tweedsmuir Coordinator, Nancy Breadner presented highlights of the Branch's work over the years and had the two volumes of Tweedsmuir History Books on display.

A specially decorated anniversary cake was cut and served to those attending, along with fruit and beverages.



Pictured (L-R): Marion Genoe and June Falls cut the anniversary cake.