

Branch Profile

WEST SHORE WI

West Shore WI (Simcoe East District, Simcoe Area) was formed in April 1997 with four WI Members who transferred from another Branch and four new Members joining the organization. Currently, the Branch has four Members with a total of 98 membership years in the Women's Institute.



Pictured: West Shore and Pine Grove WI Members working on a ROSE Session together.

West Shore WI welcomes Members from the city of Orillia and the surrounding communities.

The Branch is pleased to have had three generations of Members from one family: Ethel Mallett, her daughter Jeannette and granddaughter Jeanne. Dorothy Duncan is the newest Member and she is a food historian and author of many books.

West Shore WI has volunteered with Block Parents, Neighbourhood Watch, Community Policing and Pitch-In. They are proud to continue to donate money to the Breakfast Club at Cumberland Beach Elementary School in memory of their Member, Diane Robinson, who obtained grant money for the West Shore WI to start this program.

West Shore WI keeps busy with an Exhibit at the local fall fair, something that has been carried on by Members for 17 years. Members also knit and donate items to other organizations.

The main reason for the Branch's success is the fact that Members have had the opportunity to hold offices at the Branch, District, Area and Provincial levels of the Women's Institute. They have attended FWIO and FWIC Conferences. These educational experiences have made a strong impact on their Members to continue their membership. Overall, the Members enjoy belonging to the Women's Institute and work well together at meetings and on WI projects.

Members of West Shore WI would like others to know that being a small Branch does not keep them from hosting an event or organizing a ROSE Session and they have also partnered with another Branch to host ROSE Sessions. With their hard work, they have held many successful programs such as, Dial 911, Seniors and Fire Prevention and From Garden to Table celebrating Ontario produce.

The Branch's dear Member, Ethel Mallett, who passed away in 2013, had been a WI Member of several Branches for nearly 50 years. When Ethel became a resident of Trillium Manor, the Branch decided to hold their monthly meetings at the Manor so Ethel could attend. Ethel was a dedicated WI Member, attending meetings well into her nineties, and Members were pleased to celebrate her 100th Birthday with her and her family at the Manor.

Special thanks to Branch Secretary, Wilma Carter for telling us about West Shore WI!

Meet the Members

Introducing...

Joan Mansell

Joan Mansell has been a Member of Yarmouth Glen WI (Elgin District, Southern Area) for 43 years and has held executive positions and coordinated



annual programs. During her youth, she participated in 4-H clubs sponsored by WI and achieved County, Provincial, and Advanced Honours from the Department of Agriculture and Food.

As a WI Member, Joan taught several 4-H clubs and WI workshops demonstrating domestic skills of cooking, canning, gardening, health and environmental issues. She continues to volunteer with annual WI projects such as the Winter Picnic, Cancer Tea, Tweedsmuir History, convening and assisting with food events and promoting WI at local fairs, Plowing Matches and Steam Shows. Joan also assists with county projects by setting up exhibits in the community.

Joan is Past President of Elgin County District WI and presently Secretary. Elgin hosted the 100th Anniversary of London Area Women's Institute Convention in October 2014 at Shedden (London and Southwestern Areas have since amalgamated to form Southern Area). Joan is Secretary-Treasurer of historic Kilmartin Cemetery (1850) in North Yarmouth which has been maintained by Yarmouth Glen WI for about 30 years. She is a member of Elgin County Museum Advisory Committee representing Women's Institute issues and volunteers regularly at the museum for special events, setting up exhibits and "Doors Open".

In October 2014, Joan received the Central Elgin Volunteer Service Award and, in March 2015, she received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award along with 4 of her fellow Branch Members.