

Branch Profile:

Camilla/Hockley Valley WI

Until 2013, Camilla WI and Hockley Valley WI coexisted quite amicably within the Town of Mono. With memberships declining in both Branches, Members chose to amalgamate, thus becoming Camilla/Hockley Valley WI.

Camilla WI had an inception date of June 1902, while Hockley Valley WI was November 1949. The newly amalgamated Branch retains the earlier date of 1902. The Branch currently has a membership of 10, which includes one Member who has belonged for 77 years and a junior Member (13 years old) who is following in her grandmother's footsteps. The Branch is extremely proud to have 3 Members who are recipients of the District Woman of Excellence Fair Award.

Camilla/Hockley Valley WI (Dufferin-Peel District, Central Area) welcomes Members from Mono, Orangeville, Hockley Valley, Shelburne and Markdale. Even a change of residence does not deter its Members – they will still make the commute to attend meetings.

Over the years, both groups have been very active in fundraising to support the many causes they believe in, such as: local hospitals, local food banks, bursaries,

elementary school awards for history & geography, the Salvation Army, local milk fund, Family Transition Place, Foster Parents Plan, the Red Cross, disaster relief, Orangeville Fall Fair prizes, and the list goes on.

The Branch is also quite active at the District and Area levels. Members often sit on both boards and attendance at Annual Meetings is usually 90 – 100%.

Members try to keep a balance of WI activity and enjoying social times as a group. Most have known each other for a very long time and truly are a "sisterhood". The Branch tries to keep Members coming back by planning interesting meetings and outings. Most meetings will be held in a Member's home, but they always manage to work some fun stuff into the schedule e.g. Christmas shopping trips, hay rides, visits to the local museum, a trip to the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead or lunch meetings at a local restaurant.

Amalgamation has been a large success for Camilla/Hockley Valley WI and they would strongly recommend it to other Branches who are considering disbanding.

Standing: Barb Kovacs, Brenda Shirley, Helen Brett, Jessica Anderson, Vi Belrose and Linda Smith. Seated: Wilma Young, Ruth Halbert and Mary Coulter. Absent: Phyllis Rennick.



Renfrew North District

Congratulations to Ethel Dagg and Dorothy McGregor, both Members of Zion Line-Beachburg WI (Eastern Area), on receiving the 2013 Woman of Excellence Fair Award, presented by Renfrew North District.

Ethel Dagg has belonged to the needlecraft department for numerous years, helps in preparing the fair list for the fair book, cleans and prepares the hall prior to the fair, and assists the judges on judging day. She has been committee chair of the needlecraft department over the years, and is always willing to help with whatever task she is given.

Ethel's quilts have hung on display in the exhibition hall, showcasing prize winning ribbons and "Quilt of the Fair" distinctions. She continues to support and volunteer at the fair and takes great pride in making your visit an enjoyable experience.

Dorothy McGregor, the second recipient of the District Woman of Excellence Fair Award, has been involved at the local fair since the 1960's. The dining hall is where you would see her peeling, washing, cleaning, baking and selling meal tickets, all of which she could do while surrounded by a big hive of people!

In 1990, Dorothy had a change of pace, becoming a member of the ladies department committee, which is responsible for the judging of sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery and quilts. For the 1991 fair, Dorothy became committee chair. Throughout the years, Dorothy has learned so much that she has become an exhibitor, winning many ribbons and prizes for her handiwork skills. Dorothy is also a member of the Horticultural Society and her green thumb has won her many ribbons in the Fair Flower Show. Zion Line-Beachburg WI is so pleased and honoured that two of the hardworking ladies from their Branch were nominated and accepted for this award. Congratulations, Ethel and Dorothy!

