

Branch Profile: Yarmouth Glen WI

Established on March 9, 1959, Yarmouth Glen WI (Elgin District, London Area) is proud that two of the 21 Charter Members, plus 6 others, are currently active Members.

Past Accomplishments:

- Restoration and stewardship of Kilmartin Pioneer Cemetery,
- Tweedsmuir History Books compiled, indexed and digitized; available at www.elgincounty.ca/archives,
- Assisted with establishment of Elgin Pioneer Museum, now located at Elgin County Museum.

On-going WI activities supported by Members:

- Winter Picnic, Daffodil Cancer Tea, District Annual, executive positions on District board, annual Agriculture Farm Tour and basket draw,
- London Area Convention, Tweedsmuir and special workshops, involvement in SOS, a society of ACWW (Women Walk the World),
- Members enjoy attending FWIO, FWIC conventions and some ACWW ones.

Yarmouth Glen WI is small in number but active in the community. As WI Members, they volunteer in local events and activities such as: tuck shop at Elgin Manor, annual Dan Patterson Steam Show, Elgin Plowing Match, Christmas Shoppe, Historical Society and display at Aylmer Fair.

The Branch makes financial donations, when possible, to selected local charities. When planning meeting programs, they enjoy including local artists and organizations, as well as sharing their personal talents and interests. They love to arrange trips to visit places of interest in the area such as Barn Quilt Tour, theatres and restaurants, museums, art galleries and host at least one ROSE Session per year.

When there is a need, Yarmouth Glen WI Members are ready to help by preparing baskets for shut-ins, or making quilts for victims of the Goderich tornado.



Pictured (L-R): Joan Jackaman, Marion McKenzie, Joan Mansell, Joanne Erickson, Bernice Taylor, Pauline Lindsay, Ruth Davis and Jean Gooding.

Clover Valley WI & Richards Landing WI

The Clover Valley and Richards Landing Women's Institute's 25th Anniversary Quilt Show and Sale on August 2, 3 & 4, 2013 at the St. Joseph Island Central School in Richards Landing was one of their best shows yet! There were over 355 visitors through the doors who viewed 171 quilted items.

Native Artist, Naomi Smith, of "Black Tulip Designs" did a Native Strawberry Emery Pincushion Workshop on Friday. She shared her knowledge and her passion, introducing the art of native beading. Her display at the entrance held examples of native beaded work over one hundred years old.

Norah McGuire-MacLeod of "Sew Little Time" ran two quilting workshops called Strip Tubing. Participants went home eager to complete their projects after learning techniques to make a complicated looking quilt block with a triangular ruler. Quilter Extraordinaire, Carol Sawchyn, demonstrated hand quilting on her 1812 "Cot to Coffin" quilt during the show.

There were several quilts on display that were in the very first quilt show. The St. Joseph Island Museum lends these heritage quilts kept in their loving care. The signature quilts attract attention as visitors search for relatives' names

among the quilt blocks.

Although the show is important for quilters throughout the area, it is the only fundraising event the two remaining Island Women's Institutes run each year. Monies earned at the show are returned to the Island Community through donations. Some of the recipient organizations include the 3 local Volunteer Fire Departments, the Children's Library, the Elementary School Healthy Snack Program, All Tribes Camp and the local Food Bank.

Plan to visit lovely St. Joseph Island and take in the Women's Institute Quilt Show this August 1, 2 & 3, 2014. For more information, contact Carol Smith at 705-246-3942 or by email at carol.wlodarczyk@gmail.com.

Pictured: Ruby Donaghue, Life Member of Richards Landing WI (North Central Area), and a friend look at a signature quilt.

