

Local History Now Online with Virtual Book

The Women's Institute Branches in Wellington County were recently honoured at one of a number of events organized to celebrate the County's 150th anniversary. The official launch of Wellington County's Virtual History Book took place on April 7 at the Wellington County Museum and Archives.

The virtual history book project involved scanning, indexing and computerizing thousands of pages of Branch and District Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History Books. While the Tweedsmuir Books have been an informative resource for local history, they were not easily accessible and were often overlooked by researchers, historians and genealogists. Until now, the original books, or microfilms of them, were available only in an archive or library setting. The Tweedsmuir History Books belonging to Women's Institutes in Wellington County are now available online at www.wcm.on.ca.

The Ontario Library Strategic Development Fund of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Libraries



Photo courtesy of Mike Robinson

Branch funded the project. The project included an educational component for elementary school children who can use the site to research a wide range of topics relating to Wellington County history.

Museum Administrator Bonnie Callen stated that "staff took on the daunting task" of borrowing the various histories from across Wellington County. Sherri Cockerill (shown in photo) was hired to do most of the work in the eight months prior to the launch. The project also involved manually

indexing and cross-indexing names, locations and subjects noted on the various pages. More than 11,000 pages from the volumes of 68 Branches, some active and some inactive, were scanned. While the web images are copyright property of the Wellington County Museum and Archives, local Branches hold the copyright to the original documents. The project is not yet fully completed and is still a work in progress.

Extracted from an article by Mike Robinson appearing in the April 16, 2004, edition of the Wellington Advertiser.

A Blanket of Love

The Cold Springs Branch celebrated Women's Institute (WI) Week in February with their "Blanket of Love" Project. The group knitted, crocheted and quilted baby blankets for newborn babies at the Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg. In addition, in honour of the founding of the WI, a new mom was presented with a \$25 Gift Certificate, as well as a blanket. Twelve blankets were presented throughout the week. Presenting the certificate, from left to right in the back row, are Dorothy Beedham, Laura Bowman and Aletha Dickinson. In the front are Dorothy Harnden, four hour-old Thomas with mom Chasity Best-Dyson and Nurse Marilyn Lambert.



Submitted by Dorothy Harnden, Cold Springs WI, Northumberland West, Trent Valley Area.