

Doors Open

The Bridgeport Women's Institute volunteered to help with "Doors Open" at the Free Church and Memorial Cemetery in Bridgeport in Waterloo Region last fall. Doors Open offers a unique path into the rich stories contained within Waterloo's built heritage. Twenty-eight notable architectural and heritage sites across the Region, spanning nearly two centuries of construction, opened their doors for the inaugural Doors Open Waterloo Region event.



The Bridgeport WI Branch Tweedsmuir History Books were on display to the 138 visitors to the Church.

The Free Church at Bridgeport is reportedly the second oldest church building in the region. Decoration Day Services are held each year by the Bridgeport WI to commemorate the place of the church in the history of the former village of Bridgeport.

The Doors Open Movement began in 1990 in Glasgow, Scotland. Toronto hosted the first Doors Open in North America in 2000 and the Ontario Heritage Foundation launched Doors Open Ontario in 2002. A growing number of communities across Ontario host annual Doors Open events between April and October. For more information about Doors Open Ontario events visit www.doorsopenontario.ca

Submitted by Elaine McCutcheon, PRO, Bridgeport WI, Waterloo, Guelph Area.

Village History Plaque Unveiled by Belwood WI



Visitors to the village of Belwood can now read a synopsis of its industrious history thanks to the Belwood Women's Institute's unveiling of a new commemorative plaque. Last spring, members of the Belwood WI invited guests and community members to witness the unveiling of the cast plaque provided through the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The plaque project included fundraising by the Branch, as well as public support to cover the \$1,500 cost. Among the guests from left to right are Albert Blom - Belwood Lions Club, Derek Strub - Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA), Cindi Rabstein - Guelph Area WI President, Dianne Orr - FWIO President, Florence May - Branch Tweedsmuir History Curator, Margaret Asbury - Branch President, Russ Spicer - Centre Wellington Councillor, Mildred Lang - Wellington County Historical Society President, Myrtle Reid - Wellington Centre WI and John Gorwill - GRCA.

Extracted from an article by Wayne Robson, News Express.

Submitted by Florence May, Tweedsmuir Curator, Belwood WI, Wellington Centre, Guelph Area.

Golden Jubilee Medal Recipients Honoured by Perth South District

Marlene Archer

Marlene Archer has been an active volunteer for more than 40 years. Her list of volunteer activities is impressive and has included:

- canvassing for Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society
- working tirelessly for the Boy Scouts of Canada in many capacities, including Assistant District Commissioner and leader of Beaver, Cub and Venturer groups
- serving in various positions for the Avonton Women's Institute, including President, Secretary and Tweedsmuir Curator
- serving in various positions for the Perth South District WI, including Resolutions Convenor, President and Second Vice-President
- leading 26 4-H Clubs
- representing the London Area WI on the Auxiliary of the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario
- serving as President of the Toronto Grace Hospital Nurses Alumnae for the past 16 years and editing their newsletter for the past six
- many, many other volunteer contributions.



Jeanne Coulthard

Jeanne Coulthard has been a volunteer all her life. Jeanne's volunteer contributions to her community, Canada and fellow Canadians have included:

- helping to compile the Downie Community Club History, the community history of the St. Pauls area and family histories
- serving as an honorary and life member of the Women's Missionary Society of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Stratford
- sitting as a member of the Stratford-Perth Archives and Genealogical Society, the Stratford-Perth Museum and the St. Marys Museum
- serving the Women's Institute in various capacities for the past 67 years, including President of the St. Pauls Branch, President and Tweedsmuir Curator of the Perth South District, Secretary-Treasurer of the London Area Tweedsmuir Workshop and Board Director at the provincial level of the organization.
- Her accolades include recipient of the 1984 Bicentennial Medal for Ontario.

Jeanne continues to significantly contribute to many of these organizations.



Photo courtesy of the St. Marys Journal Argus.
Submitted by Marlene Archer, Avonton WI, Perth South, London Area.