

Laurentian View WI, Renfrew North

Laurentian View members organized the October Birthday Party at the local seniors home, Country Haven. They hired local entertainer Brad McCumber to show off his piano expertise as the residents enjoyed the sing-alongs.

Nelson WI, Halton

The Nelson Women's Institute won the best "Chickens" theme display at the Milton Fall Fair. Mary Campbell, Marilyn McKinnon and Helen Whaling set up the display. Several members from this Branch were also busy knitting 25 hats, which were donated to McMaster Neurological Centre operating room for cancer patients. The hospital staff and patients refer to the knitters as the "Nelson WI ladies." The Branch recently honoured 70-year member Frances Clements.

Snake River WI, Renfrew North

Joyce Layman with the Information Outreach Program in Renfrew North recently spoke to members of this Branch about the underlying causes of cancer and its prevention. At another meeting, a Registered Nurse, Shirley Hill demonstrated various aids to help the elderly and people with disabilities. These aids included items to help people get things out of cupboards, put socks on and make cooking easier. The group also reported entertaining residents at the Lakeview Nursing Home and raising \$65 towards FWIO's Focus High for WI fundraising project.

Louth WI, Lincoln

The Louth Women's Institute enjoyed the publicity of a full-page spread in the Real Life section of *The Standard Spectrum*, a St. Catharines paper. The article bemoaned the plight of the WI as an organization relevant to today's women. But Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario*, was quoted as saying the Women's Institute has "to figure out the needs they could be addressing. What do women want in 2003? If they do that, they'll survive..."

Brigden WI, Lambton North

For the Branch's International Affairs Meeting, Karen DeLong presented a skit entitled "Women of the World." Members gained knowledge of other people and their way of life, traditions and culture. Branch members Jean Ellenor and Dorothy Neal dressed in suitable costumes. The Branch also held a "Home and Gift" Party at the Fire Hall with proceeds of \$250 going to the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead.

Coningsby WI, Wellington Centre



A group of 45 folk dancers from Holland, known as *Brabant Bont*, visited Ontario to celebrate their silver jubilee and to say thank you to Canada for their country's liberation. During their stay, members of the Coningsby Women's Institute served the group breakfast buffets, packed travel lunches, baked and generally coordinated the group's meals. At the same time, Coningsby members enjoyed the talents and performances of the dance group, ranging in age from 2 to 68.

Submitted by Myrtle Reid, Coningsby WI, Wellington Centre.

Bethany WI, Durham East

The Bethany Women's Institute was proud to have a brief history of the Branch included in the winter newsletter of the Manvers Township Historical Society. A picture of the group (circa 1914 - 1918) knitting for the war effort made the front cover of the publication.

Locksley-Rankin WI, Renfrew North

This Branch enjoyed a visit to SS No. 2 Admaston, a one-room schoolhouse/living history museum in the community of Admaston in Renfrew South. With the help of an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, the Balsam Hill WI has restored this one-room school to its original state, complete with outhouse. Locksley-Rankin WI arrived to see children in period costume using straight pens and inkwells and slates and chalk in preparation for a spelling bee. Members also gathered together to enjoy a scenic tour of the fall leaves in the Foymount area, including lunch at a local tea room and craft shop.

Lookout Bay, Prescott

Lookout Bay WI had four Tweedsmuir History or Community Record Books, dating from 1954 to 2001, bound for deposit in the Hawkesbury Public Library. The Library has also microfilmed the Record Books. As well, one was made into a CD. What a great idea to work with your local library to preserve this valuable history!

North Renfrew District WIs

The Branches in North Renfrew - Alice Beachburg, Greenwood, Queen's Line, Snake River and Zion Line - held many interesting programs in the last several months. Programs included:

- touring the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery System
- a guest speaker Jim Labow who spoke about over the counter drugs and herbs
- update of the Branch Tweedsmuir History, including the history of a local church
- a discussion of the FWIO Provincial Conference in 2004
- creating a decorated candle at a craft meeting
- a guest speaker Bridget McEwen who talked about her father's sheep farm in the outback of Queensland, Australia
- a video of a trip to New Zealand taken by two retired local school teachers Caryl and Richard Yokale of Beachburg

Kemptville WI, Grenville



John and Luisa Ross are shown with a basket of pennies they donated to the Associated Country Women of the World at the Kemptville Women's Institute's Christmas Dinner. Total pennies donated - \$24.

Submitted by Florence Frukaj, President, Kemptville WI, Grenville.