

Springford WI Publishes Tweedsmuir History

The Springford Women's Institute, with the help of the Norwich Historical Society, launched the publication of their Tweedsmuir History Book. The 256-page hard cover book, including 250 photographs, was the Branch millennium project and was made possible through a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Tweedsmuir History Curator Lena Fox first compiled Springford's history in 1950. In the late 1960s, Curator Lillian White researched and wrote much of the village history, as well as the history of many local farms. In 1995, Joyce Pettigrew became Curator and continued the work increasing the farm histories to 54. This research traces the history of these farms from the Crown to the 1990s, describing the development of agriculture from the one-horse plow to current ginseng production. The village history is described from the earliest settlers of 1807 to the present day.



Standing from left to right are Joyce Pettigrew – Tweedsmuir History Curator, Springford WI, Nancy Lester – Co-President, Springford WI and Ernie Hardeman – MPP, Oxford. Seated are Marlene Archer – President, Perth South District WI and Pauline Lindsay – President, London Area WI.

Submitted by Sherrill Babbey, Springford WI, Oxford.

Be a Royal Volunteer



The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) Committee is very excited this year about the Women's Institute Booth. The WI has a great story to tell. And volunteers will happily greet visitors to the Booth to tell that story. The Committee is also hoping to have some new items to sell at their sales table.

Volunteers are needed to help out at the WI Booth at the Royal. So please consider joining us for a day. Let's make it a fun and worthwhile venture! If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Chair of the Committee, Donna Willows, at 519-393-6455, or fax her at 519-393-5034.

Nominations Sought for Excellence in Agriculture Award

Once again, in partnership with the RAWF, FWIO will present their Excellence in Agriculture Award to a woman who is a Canadian citizen residing in Canada and has contributed to the RAWF in an outstanding manner over a period of time. Do you know of a woman in your community or elsewhere who fits this criteria?

The deadline for submission is September 1, 2001. Mail all nominations to FWIO at 7382 Wellington Rd. 30, RR 5, Guelph ON N1H 6J2. The recipient of this Award will be honoured at the Opening Night of the Horse Show at the Royal. More information on the Excellence in Agriculture Award is available from the FWIO Provincial Office at 519-836-3078, or on the FWIO Website at www.fwio.on.ca

Welcome to Pakenham

The Pakenham Women's Institute proudly completed their millennium project. The group initiated the production and installation of four "Welcome to Pakenham" signs, one at each approach to the hamlet. The signs are intended to beautify the quaint little hamlet, home of North America's only five-arch stone bridge. At the same time, the project has reassured senior residents and reminded the youth that even during the process of amalgamation, their beloved Pakenham remains an active, close-knit community of Mississippi Mills in Lanark County.

The \$12,000 project was realized by tremendous effort from the members of Pakenham WI. Branch Tweedsmuir Curator Corinne MacFarlane produced a historical booklet entitled *Pakenham, 1900-2000*. Greeting cards, bookmarks and bridge tallies designed by member Dorothy Deugo were sold. And one completed sign was promoted at the Pakenham Spring Home Show last year.

The Municipal Millennium Funding boosted the start of the project and a letter campaign to local businesses solicited further funding. Three local men volunteered their time to install the signs. This year, the Pakenham Horticultural Society will be enhancing the sites.

Submitted by Marg Ferguson, Pakenham WI, Lanark North.



Members of the Pakenham WI seated in the front row from left to right are Frances Downey, Esther Timmins – Secretary-Treasurer, Lillian Cavanagh, Marion Timmins, Darlene Bourne and Hilda Saunders. Standing from left to right are Edith Schraeder, Corinne MacFarlane – Tweedsmuir Curator, Marg Ferguson – President, Mary Paige, Marjorie Wilson, Dorothy Deugo, Beth Gillan and Peg Timmins.