

Bluewater WI, Grey North

The Bluewater WI held a Strawberry Tea, inviting five nearby Branches and members of the surrounding communities. Grey County Archivist Paul White spoke to the group about the history of the three local townships. He also recognized the WI for their tremendous efforts in compiling Tweedsmuir Histories, noting that 26 books were already stored in the archives. Branch President Lois Urstadt spoke about the origins of Tweedsmuir books and the achievements of the WI.

Nelson WI, Halton

A \$700 donation from the proceeds of an Annual Spring Lunch and Dessert Euchre and a bake sale were presented to the Rotary Club of Burlington for the building of the Burlington Hospice. A time capsule from the Nelson WI, along with others, will be placed in a cairn at the Joseph Brant Museum in Burlington.

Winterbourne WI, Waterloo

Winterbourne WI members recently honoured Ruth Aberle for her many years as Branch Secretary. Branch member Janny Swijters presented Ruth with a copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul*.

Cherry Valley WI, Prince Edward

This Branch organized the "Big Debate" on genetically modified foods (GMOs). They invited Dr. Ann Clark and Dr. David Hume from the University of Guelph to discuss this controversial topic at the community centre in Picton. More than 300 people attended, including organic and non-organic farmers, naturalists and members of the general public keen to find out more information on the subject. The local newspapers and a cable company covered the event. The group charged \$2 for admission to cover the cost of the hall. Branches in the District and local businesses provided baked goods and refreshments. And area organizations and individuals made donations to cover the speaker's expenses. The group is working on a follow-up resolution.

Burgoyne WI, Bruce Centre

This Branch enjoyed doing the "Fun 31-Day Fundraising Idea" that appeared on page 12 of the Summer 2000 *Home & Country*. They collected \$97.13 and donated the money to Walkerton's Emergency Fund.

"Snowbirds"

The fourth annual meeting of the "Snowbirds" was held at the Sun and Fun Resort in Sarasota, Florida, in February. This gathering of WI members vacationing in the sunny south was attended by 35 people, including husbands and guests. The guest speaker was a member of the WI of Nova Scotia.

Mono Road WI, Peel North

Mono Road WI presented a new education award - The Most Improved Student, with a focus on Special Education - to Caledon East Public School student Lisa James.

Second Line of Drummond WI, Lanark South



The Second Line of Drummond WI, in cooperation with EcoPerth, participated in a program to re-green the Second Line as part of local millennium celebrations. Last May, over 400 sugar maple, spruce, ash, pine and birch seedlings were distributed to residents of the Second Line for planting along the roadside. Original settlers planted sugar maples, but they have declined over the years from road widening and the 1998 Ice Storm. It is hoped that the new seedlings will flourish and restore the beauty of the Second Line.

Submitted by Shellee Evans, PRO,
Second Line of Drummond WI, Lanark South.

Bellhaven WI, York North



Belhaven WI is proud to announce that five of their members were recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Awards. These five ladies total over 100 years of WI service. A letter, certificate and pin were presented to each of them at a special awards ceremony in Aurora. From left to right are David Tabuchi - MPP for Markham, Julia Munro - MPP for Durham-York, Phyllis Yorke (12 year WI member), Helen Pegg (35 year member), June Fairbairn (20 year member), Edna May (8 year member), Ruth Mundy (25 year member) and Frank Klees - MPP for Oakridges.

Submitted by Debi Johnson, PRO, Belhaven WI, York North.

Highgate WI, Kent



Members of the Highgate WI planted an oak tree at the Orford Central School in Chatham during Education Week to recognize long-time members Margaret Fenton (seated left) and Doris Ford (seated centre). In 1937 both women were members of the Muirkirk WI, which planted an oak at the Muirkirk School. This oak originated from an acorn from the Buckingham Palace grounds. The oak grew, but was eventually cut down. When the Muirkirk WI disbanded, the two ladies joined the Highgate Branch. Members thought it fitting to honour them in this way, as well as carry on a tradition.

Submitted by Isobelle Lethbridge, PRO, Highgate WI, Kent.