

## Bervie community news Local birthdays feted

by Margaret Harkness  
Bervie Correspondent

Edna Stanley and Helen Smith of London visited Marjorie Thompson in Ripley on Sunday.

Friends, neighbours and relatives gathered at the Bervie W.I. Hall last Saturday night to celebrate Mac Nicholson's and Marjorie Nicholson's birthdays, which fall on January 18.

Sympathy to Marilyn and Don Reid for the passing of her mother, Mrs. Josephine McLavish.

The Bervie W.I. meeting will be held at the home of Lyla Allen in Kincardine on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Every member is to bring an article

for a silent auction.

There was a large turnout to the benefit dance on Saturday night for Lyla and Marjorie Hodgins, who lost their barn by fire in December. Isobel Brook and Margaret Harkness enjoyed a visit with Gladys Arnold on Saturday night in Ripley.

The Kincardine Agricultural Society is having a pot luck dinner and the annual meeting at the Bervie W.I. Hall on Saturday.

Mildred Griffith and Wilda Thompson attended the planning meeting for the Bruce Presbyterial U.C.W. in Clifford on Monday.



Bervie Women's Institute is 85 years old. At a special celebration meeting Wednesday some members were presented with pins to remember their years with the W.I. From left are: Emily Bushell, 40 years; Isabel McConnell, president; cutting the cake, Gladys Collins, 50 years; Mildred Griffith, 40 years; and Frances Johnson, 40 years.

# Afternoon fire destroys Russell Street home

By Kiel Edge

A thick cloud of smoke hung over Russell Street last Wednesday afternoon as the Kincardine fire department battled a stubborn house fire.

Emergency crews responded to the 456 Russell Street home of Barry and Lynn Collins after a neighbour called the fire department at 12:30 p.m. All four of the department's trucks and 18 firefighters arrived at the scene within six or seven minutes of receiving the call.

Kincardine fire chief Jamie MacKinnon said the fire was under control and contained by 3:45 p.m. but extensive damage had been done to the structure of the house.

"The house was gutted," MacKinnon said. "It will have to be torn down."

Work to put out the flames was complicated by high winds and the buildings double-brick construction. MacKinnon said the bricks helped to keep the heat inside the building, causing the fire to escape through the roof, while the winds continued to cause flare ups throughout the day. The thick smoke also made it difficult for crews to see throughout the afternoon.

MacKinnon said all of the department's resources were used effi-

ciently to prevent the fire from spreading and the quick response time to the initial call was very good for a department of volunteers.

"From our point of view, we're satisfied with how the call went," he said Friday morning. "Our equipment worked well and it was put to proper use and our fire (crews) got the job done to the best of their ability."

Several weeks ago, the department conducted training exercises on a pair of soon-to-be-demolished homes at the intersection of Highways 9 and 21. The training was done in similar double-brick homes and MacKinnon said the skills and techniques learned were put to use effectively during the actual fire call.

No one was in the home when the fire broke out, although one of the owners was working in a nearby barn. MacKinnon said no injuries were reported, but estimated the damage to the house at \$180,000.

Although it is believed the fire started in the kitchen, an exact cause has not yet been determined. An investigation into the fire will continue if the building is deemed safe enough to re-enter. MacKinnon said the house had working smoke detectors and he is not treating the fire as suspicious.



Kincardine Fire Department crews work to contain a house fire on Russell Street Oct. 31. (Kiel Edge photo)