

CASTLEFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Castleford Women's Institute was organized in July 1913 in Lochwinnoch Presbyterian Church by Mrs. James Stringer and Mrs. McLeod of Burnstown, with 17 Charter Members. At the May 1915 meeting the name was changed from Lochwinnoch Women's Institute to Castleford Women's Institute because most of the members lived in the community of Castleford.

Before World War 1 papers and demonstrations related to home improvements. Later they helped the Red Cross by knitting and sewing. Boxes were packed and sent to all soldiers from this community.

After the war the priority once again was home and community. The local school was the receiver of an organ. A stove and other equipment was also supplied to provide hot lunches for the students in the winter. Later a First Aid Kit was donated and replenished as necessary.

Castleford WI donated towards the following hospitals; Renfrew Victoria, Arnprior and District and St. Francis in Barry's Bay. We also assisted in providing an organ for Bonnechère Manor in Renfrew,

In 1950 a Recipe Book was compiled and 1000 copies were sold. Suppers were served and wedding receptions catered to. Various special anniversaries were celebrated, with Teas and Dinners.

In 1979 many past and present members joined to celebrate our 66th Anniversary at the Horton Sportsplex, Entertainment was provided by local musicians George and Alex Taylor and Cory Ferguson.

On May 18, 1983 we celebrated our 70th Anniversary at a special dinner at Hennessey's Restaurant in Renfrew. Life Memberships were presented to Edna Humphries, Ina Humphries and Doris Humphries. We now have five Life Members, all are Mrs. Humphries.

On June 11 1983, our 70th Anniversary Tea was held at the Castleford Women's Institute. Some of our recent projects are - we provide a Canadian Magazine to Horton Public School and we have also catered to the Horton Public School Grade Eight Graduation Dinners.

We support the Horton Recreation Sportsplex financially and prepare and serve suppers during the Winter Carnival each year. We took part in the Horton Township Bicentennial Celebrations also. We exhibit at Renfrew Fair. We attend many workshops, short courses and demonstrations offered by our Rural Organization Specialist, Susan Humphries, who is a resident in our community. Delegates regularly attend district Annual Meetings and the Ottawa Area conventions.

Our Member Margaret Ferguson has had some of her art work displayed, in "Home and Country" while member Doris Humphries has provided many poems for our meetings and In Memorials at our District Annuals,

Doris Humphries was District Secretary in Renfrew South in 1957-58, Mae Craig is 2nd Vice-president of Renfrew South District and Convener of Citizenship and World Affairs in the Ottawa Area at present.

Our present priority is to compile a record of the people and events of the Township of Horton. Doris Humphries is the Editor, Juniper Books the Publisher and all members will assist with the Horton History. Money for this project will be raised through the sales of Regal products, dinners, teas and card parties. We work together for Home and Country

Most of our members live along the Ottawa River Parkway or County Road 3 between the Castleford store and ICO Inc., (boom), along the 8th Line, County Road 20 and the Thompson Road, We meet the third Tuesday of each month rotating to members' homes. We live in a farming tourist area on the fringe of Timbertown.