

## Castleford WI 79th anniversary lunch

Castleford Women's Institute celebrated their 79th anniversary by enjoying a luncheon at the Quality Inn restaurant before beginning their June meeting.

After the call to order by president Agnes Frank, Margaret Ferguson introduced guest speaker Sandra Franetski from Burnstown.

Sandra and her husband have dual citizenship in the USA and Canada. She told of their experiences in achieving this happy state. In 1977 Sandra and her husband applied for work visas because of her husband's job transfer to Canada. They were investigated for police records, given thorough physicals and had to provide complete financial statements. They had a final interview and were landed immigrant status. In 1986 it became easier to obtain dual citizenship so they began the process to obtain Canadian citizenship.

They had to go to Pembroke for an initial interview and were given a book, "The Canadian Citizen" and a map of Canada to study for their final interview which would determine if they would be accepted. After much studying they had their test and passed. On June 10, 1991 they and 38 others of 13 different nationalities were sworn in as Canadian citizens. Sandra was impressed with the ceremony held in Pembroke. Representatives from the Mounted Police and the OPP were on hand as well as government officials including Len Hopkins MP who gave a speech welcoming the new citizens.

Sandra said she loves Canada and the Ottawa Valley is a particularly beautiful place to live in. She urged everyone to appreciate what we have since we are the most fortunate of people.

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Castleford members Averil McLeod and Moira Shaw, who both emigrated from Scotland, Averil in 1948 and Moira who became a Canadian in 1970, told of their experiences in entering Canada. They had an easier time as British subjects. Maureen McEachern who was born in England, had a similar story. Each one said it was still an impressive transition and were pleased they had made it.

Agnes Frank thanked Sandra Franetski for her interesting talk and presented her with a gift in appreciation.

The roll call was name a government official and tell something about him. Len Hopkins MP impressed one member because he once read a poem at a meeting and at that time it was unusual for men to do such a thing. He had been a teacher and believed discipline was necessary to guide children into useful lives. Len also sends Castleford a new flag each year for our Bell Plaque area. Leo Jordan MPP had sent out calendars to each family and it was noted that much useful information is provided in it on government procedures and uses. Criticism was rife for the NDP's Bob Rae and his policies which appear to penalize the elderly with more confusing red tape and changes in their tax refunds.

Doris Ferguson gave a vote of thanks to all the Canadian Government officials who have kept Canada together for 125 years and forever we hope. She celebrated this with a quilt called the Confederation Star. It has the bright red of the maple leaf and each tiny piece of various prints and colors coordinate and co-operate to make a cohesive whole much like Canada.

## Getting a fresh viewpoint

Mae Craig hosted the August meeting of the Castleford Women's Institute. **1992**

Why farm wives need a day from home was the roll call. Fellowship, rest and relaxation, to get a fresh viewpoint, to get away from the chores and routine, and to have a conversation with someone who listens were some of the answers.

During the program the fair items were shown and plans made for the display. Once again much fine talent and imagination was shown. The crafts ranged from a cozy knitted lap robe to an heirloom quilt made from sugar bags.