

The Renfrew South District Women's Institute held their District Annual on May 15, 1999 at McNab Public School with approximately 75 members and guests present.

Dewars Women's Institute was this year's host.

Displays of Stewartville's Tweedsmuir History, Pictures of the RSDWI 85th Anniversary Tea, P.A.C. information for Eastern Area as well as the craft table were set up around the gymnasium. The tables were beautifully decorated with blue and gold tablecloths and each member received a special canded rosebud.

President for the District, Mrs. Betty Comba, presided over the morning activities and the latter part of the afternoon session. This included the Ratification of District Directors, Roll Call, Election of Officers for the coming year and reports from many of the executive representatives. These reports showed that all 15 Branches have been very busy over the year and have been involved in many community, provincial and national events.

The Motto - for Home and Country - was well observed during the past year with the many activities the members were involved with.

A beautiful memorial service was conducted by Beth Fraser (1st Vice President) and Jo-Anne Camelon (PRO). Those remembered during this service included Alice Amaron, Balsam Hill WI; Mary Lester, Bonnechere Valley WI; WillaBelle Merrifield, Calabogie WI; Isobel McGregor, Lochwinnoch WI; M. Elizabeth Campbell, Pine Grove WI; Edna Crozier, Rosebank WI; Ruth New, Rosebank WI; and Eva Mitchell, Stewartville WI.

There was a short acknowledgment given of the work that these faithful members contributed to Women's Institute over the years as a candle was lit by a member of their branch.

Mrs. Dwyla Pilgram, P.A.C. representative for Eastern Area, spoke to us of all the events that are happening in the Area.

WI are involved in the PhoneBusters Program in associating with the OPP. Meetings are being held to inform the public how

phone scams happen and how to handle them. Meetings are to held in the Pembroke area and anyone wishing to attend are asked to contact a WI member for more information.

A resolution was presented to the floor on the Name Change from Women's Institute to a more modern name for the year 2000.

This resolution was questioned as to being a part of the District Annual as it did not pass as an Emergency Resolution before being presented at our meeting. It was voted on by the members and was lost.

The afternoon session started with Mrs. Beth Fraser presiding, who continued with reporting after the guest speaker.

The guest speaker for the afternoon was Dr. Leonard Levine from Pakenham. Dr. Levine is a graduate from Dalhousie University, Halifax, and has Post Graduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Public Health - Preventative Medicine and Acupuncture. He has been a Medical Missionary for many years stationed

around the world and is presently practising in the Ottawa area in Nutritional Preventative Medicine and Counselling. Dr. Levine led us through a very informative talk on 'Old Fashioned Remedies' that reminded the membership of what their mothers and grandmothers used to cure what ailed them before prescription drugs became so easily available. He also told of how these remedies were so valuable in some of the underdeveloped countries, where pharmacies were not just around the corner.

The New Members Award was presented to Glasgow WI who reported two new members joining this year.

Special Guests included Faith Nelms (1st Vice President of Eastern Area WI), Peggy McLeod, (Eastern Area Secretary and Renfrew North Secretary), and Dwyla Pilgram, (P.A.C. Representative).

Appreciation for the day was given by Horton South and an invitation for the Renfrew South District Annual, 2000 was given by Rosebank, concluding a very informative day.

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