

LAKE DORE W.I. BRANCH HISTORY

The origin of the name Lake Dore is debatable. Whether it was named Lac Dorè by a Frenchman who saw it at a time of its transcending beauty or by an Indian who loved it for its abundant fish. Regardless of how it obtained its name, we find it was made famous by Robert Ripley, in his column, as being the largest body of fresh water in the world without an Island. The settlement around the lake gained the distinction of having the first white child born in the district--Mr. William Dennison, in the year 1840. The first girl baby being Ann Clarke, born in 1841.

On a beautiful Monday afternoon on the eastern shore of Lake Dore, on September 3rd, 1934, a very busy group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. Herb Miller (nee Pearl Green) to decide if a Women's Institute be formed. The first meeting took place that afternoon. Mrs. Gordon Hamilton, District Representative acting as chairman, was ably assisted by Mrs. Leslie Davis, both of the Locksley Rankin W.I. It was decided the branch would be named the Lake Dore Women's Institute. First officers were: president, Mrs. Herb Miller; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Thos. H. Green; 1st vice-president, Miss Esther Hunt; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Lawrence Warren; 3rd vice-president, Mrs. George A. Warren, Jr. Directors were Mrs. Frank Warren, Mrs. Wm. Warren and Mrs. Alex Stuart. Other members were Mrs. Sam Leech, Sr., Mrs. Thomas Martin, Sr., and Misses Edith Warren, Margaret Martin, Edna Green and Susie and Katie Leech.

The first project undertaken was a Hallowe'en programme and chicken supper at the Club Hall at S.S. No. 2 Wilberforce, which proved a great success. This provided funds to start our work. At Christmas we packed boxes of Christmas Cheer for all the shut-ins; also provided winter's wood for a widow. The first outside speaker was Rev. James Taylor, United Church minister of Eganville, on "Peace". In 1935 Mrs. Frank Warren was elected president; all other officers were re-elected. This year a bale was packed for drought sufferers in the west under a Relief Committee consisting of Mrs. William Rutledge, Mrs. Walter Lett, Mrs. William Warren and Mrs. George A. Warren, Jr. A library was started by each member donating a book, also a large donation of used books from Mrs. Sam Milligan of Eganville. Donations of money were received from Hon. George P. Graham and John Labatt for books. A number of second-hand books were purchased from Micksburg; by the end of the year we had a hundred and thirty-five books in our library which has now reached the two hundred mark. Mrs. Lawrence Warren was appointed the first librarian after which Mrs. George W. Lett took it for several years, which was moved then to Mrs. Thos. H. Green's where it remained until 1949. It was then moved to the home of Mrs. Charles Lett. Exhibited at both Cobden and Beachburg fall fairs; also had a short course at the Orange Hall at Lake Dore on "Woollen Mats and Glove Making". In 1937 we were pleased to be invited and attended the Lady Tweedsmuir's visit to Westmeath. Several showers were made for members who were married. Mrs. George Lett was made president, Mrs. George A. Warren Jr., secretary, and Mrs. Thos. H. Green, treasurer.