

## Balsam Hill

My name is Gail Reid, and I'm Lynn Clelland, we are from Balsam Hill Women's Institute, located in the geographic area known as Admaston in the Township of Admaston Bromley. Many of our members live in a farming area about 7 miles west of the town of Renfrew.

Our branch was organized in 1946 with 36 charter members, 8 of whom are still living in the area. It was named after the first post office in the community. That post office is gone, but its namesake our institute branch is strongly carrying on. One of our community projects was the Admaston Heritage Book. It was resolved by the members after the year of the child in 1979 to preserve the community heritage as a legacy for the children. One-hundred and fifty years after the first settlers arrived, the Admaston Heritage Book was completed (copy on display)

(Gail) As we prepared for this event and dug deep into our histories, we found that Lynn's Great-Great Aunt married my Great-Grandfather's third cousin, so in addition to being life-long friends and neighbours, we are cousins of a sort. But that is part of the value of studying our heritage, we find common ground where there was none before.



Now you may have wondered about this ratty looking old blanket covering the table in our display, and speculated that those poor folk in Admaston couldn't scare up even one tablecloth between them. But no, there was some method in our madness, this old and well-loved blanket, is a family heirloom in the Reid household. It started out as the fleeces of sheep in pastures scattered across what is now Admaston and Horton, all brought to Great-great -great cousin Ephraim Reid's woolen mill in Ferguslea. Ephraim