



## Diamonds are a Women's Institute's best friend

The Southline Brant Women's Institute hosted an open house at the Walkerton library last Saturday in honour of its 75th diamond anniversary. Current members of the group include, back row from the left, Ruth Pletsch, Gail Poechman, Anna Oehring, Florence Birr, Joan Grubb, Marlene Montag, Cathy Van deVyvere, Darlene Waechter, Phyllis Poechman, Joan Hundt and Caryle Hickling. Front, Eugenia Zettler, first vice Joan Ernewein, president Mary Poechman, past president Phyllis Siegner and secretary Brenda Meyer. Missing, treasurer Joan Stroeder, Laura Hergott and Leona Francis. See story page 11.

Christine Brandt photo

# Women's Institute turns 75

BY CHRISTINE BRANDT  
WHT Reporter

Wanting to spend more time with neighbours and friends is the reason most current members joined the Southline Brant Women's Institute.

The group celebrated its 75th anniversary with an open house at the Walkerton Public Library last Saturday. President Mary Poechman, who has been a member for 27 years, said leading the local chapter isn't a big job when she has "all these wonderful helpers".

"They're a real good bunch of neighbours, and a great bunch of friends," said Poechman. "We're always learning something new together."

Walkerton's Anna Oehring is one of Southline's longest-serving members, having joined in 1960.

"I had two little kids then, and three neighbour ladies kept saying, 'Bring your kids and join'," reminisced Oehring. "I'm so glad I did - they are a lovely bunch of women."

Although the chapter is celebrating its 75th year, its shared Women's Institute motto of 'For Home and Country' hasn't changed. The 18 members who are currently active with the Southline group raise funds to sponsor ROSE (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) programs, and have partnered with other organizations such as the Arthritis Society, the Hanover Police, Kucan Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Homeopathy Clinic, and the Alzheimer Society to present information to the community. To raise money for their seminars the members host charity barbecues at Grant's Your Independent Grocer in Hanover.

The Southline members also raise funds for various community projects and plan social events such as bus trips, Christmas parties and summer picnics.

One of their most important tasks, said Poechman, is recording and keeping up the Tweedsmuir History Volumes.

"It's a history of our community and the world; a lot of the information came to us from asking people for the history of their farms and their families," she said. "We also try to feature special events and keep track of all the officers and members through the years."

Southline has 10 Tweedsmuir volumes, all of which were on display at the Walkerton library last Saturday. Copies are also available for viewing at the Bruce County Museum in Southampton.

Anyone interested in finding out more information, or in joining the Southline Brant Women's Institute, can call membership chair Eugenia Zettler at 519-881-1069.