

MRS. DUNCAN McDONALD

Mrs. McDonald, born Elizabeth Ann Christie, was born July 7, 1860 at Whitby, Ont., the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. James Christie. She was the oldest of a family of ten children. She lived on Amherst Island part time when her father, Rev. Christie, was appointed first incumbent of Christ Church, Emerald in 1877.

While her father was incumbent at Emerald, she attended Normal School at Ottawa and taught school for several years before returning to the Island. When she came back to the Island, she married Richard Duncan McDonald in 1885. They lived on a farm on the front road beside his parents in a newly built home and engaged in mixed farming. They had one son, Edwin, born in 1891.

The Amherst Island Women's Institute, first in Lennox District and 4th in the province of Ontario, was partially organized in November 1900 and completed March 21st, 1901. Mrs. McDonald was elected President - a position she held for 26 years. The meetings were held monthly at the Town Hall in Stella village. In her inaugural address on April 25, 1901, Mrs. McDonald stressed the value of education for children and adults alike, and was very interested in schools and the probability of consolidated schools and this was discussed at the W.I. meetings. In Nov. 1903, Mrs. McDonald was sent as a delegate to Guelph Winter Fair.