

Also in 1913, sent first delegate to the Provincial Convention in Toronto.

In 1916 when the village bought the Ridge View Park, the Institute raised about \$75.00 by means of an autograph quilt in aid of that project, for which we were granted the privilege of naming the park which we named Ridge View Park. During the years the school fair was held here at Cottam, the W.I. served lunches and refreshments to the children at a minimum cost, and also gave a prize to the pupil making the highest marks on the Entrance Exam. For several years, we furnished first-aid kits to the ten schools in the Township.

Early in the 1920's, the W.I. undertook to clean up the two cemeteries in the township which were in a very bad state by means of bees. A little later, Essex Branch took the North Ridge Cemetery off our hands, but by means of Township grants and donations from some of the plot owners, we are still carrying on the work of the Cottam Cemetery.

In 1925 & 26, the cemetery fence was erected at a cost of \$1,000. Cash and most of the stone and all the hauling were donated. A few years later, the cement walk was laid in front of the cemetery and a small building built at the back to house the equipment used in the cemetery. In 199, the Institute received a bequest of \$100.00 from the late Caleb Burke for the perpetual care of his plot in the Cottam Cemetery and the W.I. voted a \$100.00 for the perpetual care fund which was invested in a Township Debenture. As Jack Miner used to sing, "Every little bit added to what you had before makes that little bit a little bit more." The perpetual fund gradually increased until in 1952 we received another bequest of \$100.00 from the late Mrs. Jessie Ash. Now the fund is over \$1,100.00. About 1924, we had road signs placed at the crossroads along the main highway through the township. Our W.I. sponsored the first Library in the village which was afterwards taken over as a Public Library. This branch has made several generous donations to hospitals and other charities. During the two World Wars, we did all kinds of war work, especially in the first War when we had no Red Cross. Since the last war due to the untiring efforts of the late Mrs. J. Ash, during the time she was President, we now have a beautiful memorial plot in the cemetery, with a center tablet and a white marble cross to the memory of each of the boys from this township who lost their lives in both wars.