

Guthrie

Guthrie Women's Institute met in the evening of Feb. 19, 1997 to hold their Centennial meeting. Reta Caldwell was invited to light the Centennial Candle, following which it was announced that she was one of the 100 members across Ontario to be given the special Centennial award. Reta and another member, Myrle Mason each have 45 years service to the W.I.

Members were attired in dresses from previous decades dating back to 100 years. They also brought recipes and food items from that era.

Members toured Provincial Offices at Guelph in May. Then on to the Erland Lee Home at which Reta Caldwell presented a silver cruet set dated 1892 in memory of her grandmother, Gertrude Smith of Monteith W.I. and her mother Sylvia Ward and mother-in-law, Lillie Caldwell, both of Guthrie branch.

Several branch members attended Celebrations in Hamilton. On July 9, 1997 Guthrie planned a Garden Party in celebration of the Centennial. This garden party was held at the home of Reta and Jim Caldwell. The weather was perfect for the attending 65 guests. Many of the District and Area Executive attended.

Guthrie Life members, Beatrice Caldwell and Myrle Mason poured tea from an antique silver tea service which belonged to the late Sylvia Ward. Photos were taken under a decorated arch. Many ladies wore long dresses and decorated bonnets. Guests played croquette and others enjoyed a rose garden tour.

Quilts were on display, some over 100 years. Tweedsmuir, local history and scrapbooks were also on display. Strawberry shortcake, punch, coffee and tea were served. It was a memorable day!



Little's Hill

Little's Hill Women's Institute celebrated the forty-fourth Anniversary of their founding in 1997 and also celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute in Ontario with Kempenfeldt District, on Feb. 19, 1997.

For their P.R.O. meeting they were interviewed by Autumn Davis, manager of a community newspaper, "Life Begins at 50 plus". She described to the members the method used to "put a newspaper together". They answered questions about the W.I. and their own branch, the Provincial and the world wide organization and it was printed in the newspaper.

The branch has eleven members and their President is Ann Hiutema. Other members are: Grace Howard, Hazel Cameron, Luise Alle, Nancie Willis, Gladys Fisher, Ann Campbell, Marie Halifax, Florence Downing. Absent were Denise Kenwell and Lucille Emms. One of their members, Florence Downing was chosen to receive one of the 100 Centennial Awards in the province.

Mitchell Square

In the evening of Oct. 2, 1997, the members of Mitchell Square Women's Institute celebrated the Centennial year of the W.I. with a meeting at Oro-Central Presbyterian Church. Members from Guthrie, Rugby and Hawkestone branches were our guests.

A musical interlude was provided by Katie McIntyre and friend Kaleigh Fendley. The guest speaker was Beth Carter, R.N. from the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie, who spoke on Organ Donation. A computer link keeps a daily list of people who are in need of a transplant. Mrs. Carter suggested we sign our donor card.

The audience adjourned to a larger room for an auction of treasures and a friendly chat over lunch.

Thornton

At their regular meeting the members followed the planned programme. A candle was lit in honour of this special day, the Women's Institute's 100th Anniversary.

Marie Marling and Leona Darlington brought old dresses and hats to show from yesteryear. Because the waists of the dresses were so tiny, they didn't model these but did try on a few hats. One comment, referring to the dresses was that "those were the days of corsets".

Anne Wilson brought magazines and newspapers from the early 1900's. The lunch was from the suggested menu of 1897. A special collection was taken for the Headquarters' Fund. A bake sale was held and proceeds from that was added to the collection of the day.

Simcoe North District

Lady-Grenard

On February 19th, we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute with 13 members and 2 visitors present. Lillian Bell, from Barrie, Evelyn Robertson from Orillia and Helen Walker from Midland, all are life members joined us for a pot-luck dinner before starting our meeting.

Lillian Bell, 96 years of age, read the Valentine poem that she had written for Valentine's Day 1997. We enjoyed our Centennial Celebration with poetry readings and old time fashion show.

At our Christmas Party on December 10th, we had an anniversary cake to celebrate the 100th Anniversary.