

Bruce East District

A mild day brought 55 women out to celebrate the Women's Institute on Feb. 19, 1997 at the Walkerton Lutheran Church hall. The pastor of the church displayed a plate and bowl that her grandmother had received as a W.I. member many years ago when welcoming the ladies. She extended a welcome to the members and wished them many more successful years.

Area and District presidents were in attendance. The four branches who were there and participated in the program were: Solway, Southline, Walkerton and Brant-Greenock. Elda Threndyle made and decorated the anniversary cake, which was enjoyed at lunch. The District assembled a large poster and had it displayed in a local store window. There were toasts and a poem to honour the event.

On April 24, 1997 a variety concert was held when all eleven branches in the District gathered and each branch presented an item of entertainment. Songs, readings, skits and a fashion show were enjoyed by a good crowd, including some men. The eldest lady there was Roxy Young at 91 years. She was presented with a plant.

The four presidents - Doris Osterdorff, Solway; Janet Eindiguer, Walkerton-Evening; Joan Grubb, Southline and Lois Freiburger, Brant-Greenock.



Chesley

Chesley Women's Institute celebrated on Feb. 19, 1997 by inviting women from the community to their meeting. In June, in commemoration of the centennial the branch donated a copy of the history book "For Home and County" to the Chesley Library. On hand for the presentation were: District President Marion Schlorff, Edna Hetherington lifetime member, Chesley President Dorreta Phillips, Iris Gateman librarian and Donald McClure from the Bruce County Historical Society.

In June, Chesley branch attended a Centennial Tea in Paisley Town Hall. In July they enjoyed a picnic at the District celebration "Buckskins and Bows". To further celebrate, the members planted a yellow rose at the W.I. cairn, and a Blue Spruce in Riverside Park.

A special thanksgiving meeting was held to emphasize the centennial with the members donating non-perishable food items to World Hunger. In November, a member laid a wreath at the Cenotaph.

Eden Grove/Cargill

Nineteen branch members got together for a pot-luck supper to celebrate the W.I. Centennial. The decorations were fabulous and a beautifully decorated cake made by a member was enjoyed for dessert.

As a centennial project, members decided to construct a monument in the center of a flower bed at the village library. Once the size, style and location were decided on, the donations poured in, in the form of material and labour. The upkeep of the bed will be the responsibility of the members. It really makes us proud working among the flowers remembering the man and woman who began it all 100 years ago.

Monument Project ▶



Gillies Hill

Gillies Hill invited Malcom W.I. to participate in our Centennial Celebrations Day on Feb. 19, 1997. We rented an old schoolhouse, more in keeping with the historical idea. Everyone looked special in period dress. We used the programme suggested with members taking part.

Entertainment consisted of a W.I. monologue, geography match, musical numbers, poems and a singsong. Lunch was as suggested but having mint tea as beverage. Another activity was a W.I. display in a downtown store, including our banner, a quilt with all Bruce East branches named, W.I. tablecloth and mug, and a large 100th Anniversary poster.



Photo: Members of branch.