

Bluewater

Four Ontario Women's Institute members held a 100th Anniversary celebration at Citrus Hill, R.V. Camp, Dade City, Florida on Feb. 19, 1997. We invited the women in the camp and served cake and ice-cream to approximately 40 women. Some of the guests were familiar with the Institute and those who weren't knew of our accomplishments when the program was over. Lorraine Bailey and Barbara Meunier are from Essex County and Dorothy McLeod and Lorraine MacKinnon from Grey County.

L-R Dorothy McLeod, Barb Meunier, Lorraine McKinnon, Lorraine Bailey



Grey West District

Kemble

Kemble branch enjoys the distinction of being the oldest active branch in the world. It was organized in 1897, so celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1997. This seems to be quite an achievement, as the village is officially listed as a hamlet, north of Owen Sound. On Aug. 12, 1997, 126 W.I. members and friends gathered at the Kemble United Church to mark the occasion. The entrance and basement were decorated with old-fashioned items, such as quilts, antique dishes, clothes, dolls, early home utensils, butter churn, etc. At the front of the sanctuary were two large bouquets of garden flowers in china pitchers set in china wash bowls which were a part of early bedroom necessities.

Tweedsmuir books and scrapbooks of clippings and photos of happenings of the Kemble area from newspapers from 1930 onward, were on display. Greetings and congratulations were received from the Governor-General of Canada, Prime-Minister Chretien, MP and MPP, local politicians and W.I. District Presidents. Branch President, Grace Sutherland was honoured to assist in cutting the anniversary cake at the Convention in Hamilton.

Eileen Danard, Ruth McNally, Florence Edmonstone are granddaughters and Marion Rourke and Janice Taylor are great granddaughters of the founder of the branch, Mrs. Joe Gardner. Members in photo L-R Marion Rourke, Eileen Danard, Ruth McNally, Grace Sutherland, Helen Kirk, Florence Edmonstone and Janice Taylor.

Grey East District

Rocklyn

Members of Rocklyn W.I. enjoyed harking back to the original meeting, at the home of the president, June Falls, on Feb. 19, 1997. Two members answered a roll call visually by wearing decorations of things used and learned at the Institute, such as sewing notions, fruit, vegetables, flowers, quilting blocks, etc.

The candle used in the ceremony, a golden one, was one that belonged to the president's mother, a long time member, who was born in 1897. Lunch was tea biscuits and homemade preserves. It was good to reminisce.

Members



Walter's Falls

In February, our branch presented a copy of the history book of the Women's Institute to the Holland-Chatsworth Library. Two members attended the 100th celebrations in Hamilton. In December we celebrated with a "Victorian Christmas" at the home of Bryan and Betty Granger, where the first meeting of the branch was held in 1908. We gathered around the large antique table before the burning fireplace, set with Betty's great-grandmother's dishes. The menu was venison sausage, wild goose, chicken, root vegetables, cabbage salad, plum pudding and mince pie. One member wore a period costume, another a beautiful lace shawl worn by her husband's grandmother. Our program consisted of readings, singsong and a roll call of past Christmases. Popcorn, homemade fudge and hot beverage brought our meeting of memories to a close. All 10 members were present.

Branch members - Standing L-R - Marion Dunlop, Dorothy Willan, Jean Madill, Margaret Quinton, Eva Manning, Louise Long. Seated L-R - Cora Seabrook, Betty Granger, Doris Rennie, Lillian King.

