

Oxford North District

Lakeside

Lakeside branch extended invitations to all former members, members from disbanded branches, local council, Federation of Agriculture director, local minister and personal invitations to family and friends to celebrate our 100th Anniversary at Lakeside United on Feb. 19, 1997.

The anniversary cake was cut by our oldest member Merle Kirk, 99 years of age.

During greetings our M.P.P. for Oxford presented the branch with Certificate of Congratulations. The branch presented Certificates of Merit to 2 members, whom we had nominated for Centennial Awards. One lady was honoured to be chosen. The Tweedsmuir books were on display. One member brought her button collection.

Musical entertainment was Old Tyme music by a trio of friends. A video was taken of the day's events.

A project the branch helped with was the County Firemen's "Fire Safety House", a mobile home taken to schools and other events to demonstrate fire safety.

President Helen Holden and Merle Kirk our oldest member.



Brown's

We met on Feb. 19, 1997 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute with 16 members and 9 guests present. Brown's W.I. began in 1936, first as a Junior branch, later changing to a Senior branch. We will celebrate 60 years on May 6, 1998.

We had a luncheon of beef stew with tea biscuits, apple pudding and gingerbread with whipped cream. The Centennial programme was followed with many memories from our own branch, such as quilt courses, hat making, silk scarf tie dyeing, etc. Also displayed were remembrances of Ploughing Matches - parking cars, serving meals at Woodstock. We were much involved with 4H work also HOBOTeas or "Come as you are" with games and lunch all for dropping 25 cents in a dish and winter meetings coming by team and sleigh. A collection was taken for the Headquarter's Fund.

South Oxford District

South Oxford District held a picnic in June of 1997. The picnic was part of our Centennial Programme. A cheque was sent to the Headquarters Fund.



Mount Elgin

The members of Mount Elgin Women's Institute celebrated the founding of the W.I. at the Community Centre on Feb. 19, 1997 with 47 members, past members and guests present. The lighting of a centennial candle opened this special meeting followed by the Institute Grace before a delicious pot luck supper. A couple from Simcoe favoured the gathering with music through the evening. Banners decorated the walls depicting 100 years of W.I., as well as history clips of the community. Tweedsmuir scrapbooks and minute books were on display.

Roll Call was a W.I. memory, and a childhood memory from guests. Township of Southwest Oxford proclaimed Feb. 19th as W.I. Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary. Congratulations came from the Mayor of the Township, Fanshaw Museum and from a sister W.I. in England. The planned programme was used. Tidbits of branch doings were: sponsored the building of sidewalks in the community, responsible for Decoration Days at the local cemetery, tornado cleanup and donations, picnic tables in the corner park, community Halloween parties, 4H sponsorship.

It was announced that one of our members had won a Centennial Award. All enjoyed anniversary cake and coffee.

Jean Allison & Vera Hartnell cut Anniversary Cake.

Summerville

Our Centennial Celebration was held at the home of Anna Treffry, who has been a member for 67 years. She had decorated her home appropriately for the occasion. Members were asked to bring an antique and tell its story, and to describe what W.I. had done for them. Many experiences were remembered and related. A member read some of the Institute's history from the new history book. Anniversary cake was enjoyed.

Anna Treffry - long time member

