

Women's Institutes are more than just jam, pickles and pies

In light of declining membership, Iris Walker of the Wellington Women's Institute, wants women of the County to know W.I.'s are more than jam, pickles and pies!

Wellington's was the first branch in Prince Edward having formed in January, 1908.

"By 1919 they had donated \$1,000 toward the Prince Edward Hospital in Picton and have been generous with donations to various local groups ever since," Walker said. "In 1921 they provided the Cemetery gates, and later the lighting in the park. Seeing the need for books to read in the community they invested \$200 in books and gradually added to the stock, prior to the building of the public library."

Gleaning from some old W.I. membership books, Walker reports membership ranged from 30 in 1926 to 50 in 1937.

"Now in August 2001 membership is 10. It would be sad to see the group close. People may not know that any woman can join - whatever background, age, political or religious beliefs. The W.I. believes in friendship, truth, tolerance and justice and members have worked together to improve the quality of life in the community and have enhanced the position of women by developing their skills and talents."

Visitors are welcome to attend the meetings every third Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the town hall. The fall to spring program is posted at the library.

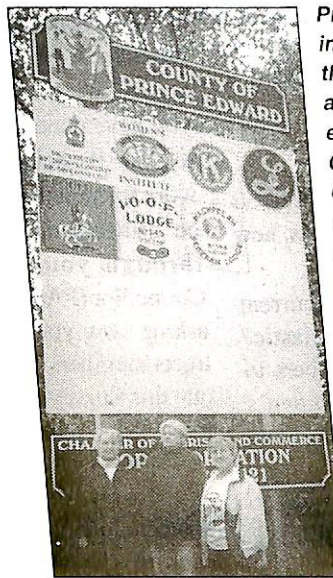
"As you know, Wellington is a delightful village, and a great community - but we have to work at it," Walker said. "So don't let us lose our W.I., now a world-wide Country Women's organization with nine million members. Have pride that it started in Canada."

For more information on the Wellington W.I., call President Laura Sharpe at 399-2065; treasurer

Betty Cronk at 399-3035 or secretary Iris Walker at 399-3749.

SPRING 2001 - Home Country.

Signs of the Times



Prince Edward District wanted to increase the visibility of the WI in the county. As part of this initiative, a sign was placed at each of the four entrances to Prince Edward County, with the distinctive WI logo. Other fraternal organizations and service clubs heard of the plan and sought to join the WI. The results of this cooperative effort are visible at the Loyalist Parkway entrance. Pictured beneath the sign from left to right are Prince Edward District officers Joyce Brown - PRO, Margaret Vanderveide - Past Secretary-Treasurer and Evelyn Peck - President.

Submitted by Joyce Brown, PRO,
Prince Edward District.