

Wellington Women's Institute History- excerpts Sep. 2007/Gail Ellsworth

WWI

Tweedsmuir Book 1 by Elizabeth Nind 1967-1975

(Microfilmed Oct. 2002/Cunningham House; Copied @ Wellington Library-2007)

The book cover for these Tweedsmuir Histories was designed and handmade in leather by Elizabeth Nind of Wellington , a member of Wellington Women's Institute since 1937 and curator for the Tweedsmuir histories for the Village of Wellington from 1967 - 1972.

Location:

Women's Institute began in Ontario in 1897 and Wellington Women's Institute was the first branch to be organized in Prince Edward County- Jan. 20, 1908. The first meetings were held in the **Masonic Hall on West Street**. Next meetings were held in **The Fitzgerald Block** owned at this time by a descendant of Harold Nash. Meetings were moved to **the Alexander Hotel** until it burned in 1917. Next meetings were held at **Wellington Consolidated School** until 1928 when the **Wellington Library** offered the use of its lower committee rooms. In 1939 these rooms were required for recruiting purposes for the Second World War and thence the **Wellington Town Hall** was made available free for The Wellington Women's Institute. **On Nov. 18, 2003 we moved to our present home (back in the basement room of the Wellington Library)**

Community Contributions:

In its early years, the Wellington Women's Institute raised funds mostly by teas and bazaars, concerts, banquets, plays, rummage sales and catering special lunches and dinners in the community. 1911-1912- Pres. Mrs. G. J. Montgomery.

The following list notes some of the considerable contributions made by the Wellington Women's Institute in their community and beyond: During the Great War (1914-1918), The Wellington Women's Institute knit over 1000 pairs of socks to send to the soldiers.

1. Fed and clothed children in the community.
2. Furnished medical supplies and paid nurses salaries
3. 1919- When the Prince Edward County Hospital opened in Picton, the Wellington Women's Institute donated \$1000.00 to furnish the operating room in memory of our soldiers.