

BAYSVILLE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Institute was organized in July 1904 by Mrs. Schwoob. Twenty members enrolling with Mrs. P.E. Bastedo as president and Mrs. Schwoob as Secretary-Treasurer. When Mrs. Schwoob left for the west Miss Alberta Langford took her place.

The meeting were held in the old school house which is now the Anglican Parish Hall. One of the first demonstrations was on boning chicken.

One of the earliest entertainments was a concert in the Town Hall when Mrs. Schwoob accompanied by the Rev. Hazelhurst sang a solo, "Bluebird in the Willow." At first social activities were stressed. Meetings were held at the members' homes and these were a gala occasion. Houses were cleaned and redecorated, lavish afternoon teas were enjoyed, recipes and new ideas were exchanged.

Many public activities for the good of all were carried out financed by the W.I. The present bathing beach was dredged out and two large bathing houses built on the shore, as in the early days it was unthinkable that any one parade the streets in bathing attire even if it did cover one from neck to ankle. Building a community kitchen on the Town Hall, taking care of the cemetery, sewing and quilting bees and helping with the spring cleaning of members who were sick were some of the other activities.

At one time the ladies decided we needed some public toilets for the good of the passing public. This was passed on to the Township Council. Results were two very prominent buildings near the approach to the bridge. This was soon rectified by the indignant W.I. members.

Visits to the District Annual were always popular and in the early days quite an event. One trip to Port Carling in Karl Campbell's mail truck (open type), I think it was called the "Black Maria" in the early days of motoring is still talked about when old timers get together.

During the war years Red Cross work was taken care of and parcels sent to the boys overseas. Parties were given for the boys going away and welcome parties to those returning.

In 1931-1937 the Institute became inactive and a Junior Branch took over until 1941 when the Junior members began to leave for war work, etc.

In 1946 the Branch, through the efforts of Mrs. T.M. Armstrong and Mrs. J.J. Robertson was reorganized with thirty-nine members and Mrs. Armstrong as president and Mrs. George Robertson as Secretary-Treasurer.