

Warkworth celebrates with older sister

by John Campbell
THE INDEPENDENT

THEY'RE TWINS BORN FOUR years apart, who go by the same name, and are well on their way to reaching 200.

No, they're not in the Guinness World Book of Records. They're in Canada and in New Zealand. Warkworth is their name and the one in Trent Hills is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. Its kiwi counterpart marked its sesquicentennial in 2003.

A group of people from the local village traveled to New Zealand to join in those celebrations and the person who made it all happen in the first place returned the favour by making the trip to Canada this month to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the younger community.

"You have no idea how



Dave Parker, representing Warkworth, New Zealand where he's a justice of the peace and promoter of tourism, and Trent Hills Mayor Hector Macmillan, on the right, exchanged gifts last week at the council meeting.

thrilled I am to be here," David Parker told Trent Hills council at its meeting recently.

It was Mr. Parker who

initiated contact between the two communities in 1984 that led to their becoming twinned. Writing at the time as the public relations

officer for the distant centre, he invited Percy Township to enter into "a sister town relationship." The connection was formally made as one of the final orders of business Percy carried out before becoming part of Trent Hills. Bill and Jane Osmond were appointed ambassadors and were in the audience when Mr. Parker made his presentation. Also in attendance were nine other Percy ward residents who have visited Warkworth, New Zealand.

Mr. Parker, a justice of the peace who has earned a Queen's Special Mention for his efforts to promote his community, said he looked forward to seeing "stronger links" being forged between the two Warkworths (and another one in the United Kingdom) through tourism and student exchanges.

Roseneath WI's 100th

Many good things for the community through women's organization

by Ray Yurkowski
THE INDEPENDENT

IT'S BEEN 100 YEARS for the Roseneath Women's Institute and they are celebrating.

And everyone is welcome to drop by the Alnwick Civic Centre at Roseneath to join the festivities on Aug. 16, between 2 and 4 p.m.

Club historian Eileen Adams tells the tale of how the Women's Institute came to Roseneath.

"An agricultural representative came to Roseneath in January 1907," she said. "He brought a lady with him and she met with the women while he met with the men.

"There and then, they formed the Women's Institute (WI)."

The first meeting of the local club was on Mar. 7, 1907.

And that year, the WI won a knitting exhibition at Roseneath Fair. Their efforts were rewarded with the presentation of the T. Eaton trophy, named in honour of Eaton's, a major Canadian retailer for 130 years, founded in Toronto in 1869 by Timothy Eaton.

Ms. Adams continues, chronicling a brief history of the local group.

In 1908, the WI started the first public library at the town hall, organizing socials in town to raise money to pay for books.

In 1911, a social raised funds for sidewalks in the

village. "And I think they were wooden sidewalks," she added.

In 1914, the group donated \$25 to have the school-rooms painted, a "drop in the bucket" by today's standards said Ms. Adams, laughing.

In 1924, plumbing was installed at the school, allowing the luxury of running water, thanks to the Institute membership. The same year, seven gas lanterns were furnished for the town streets as well as hiring a caretaker to look after them.

Town council paid \$50 toward the caretaker's wage, a princely sum of \$10 a month.

As well, two lanterns were installed in the Presbyterian church shed and one at the Methodist church.

"They used to get to church with horses," explained Ms. Adams. "A caretaker was paid \$2.50 to light them."

In 1937, two trees were planted by the group at the agricultural fair grounds in celebration of the coronation of King George VI.

In 1939, two Australian cedar trees in front of the town hall in commemoration of a visit to Canada by King George and Queen Elizabeth.

Village signs at both entrances to Roseneath were funded by WI.

"We've had them painted and repaired many

times over the years," she said.

First aid kits were purchased and presented to three area schools by club members.

During the war years, the club sent packages to soldiers from Roseneath as well as clothing and other goods to the children in Britain.

"And they sent prisoner of war boxes too."

With the founding of the local 4-H Club in 1956 WI funds paid for the leaders to go to Brighton to get their training. The group sponsored the 4-H homemaking club and now sponsor the 4-H calf club.

"We've donated to many, many things over the years," said Ms. Adams. "This is what we do. We do things to earn money and give it away."

The club continues to do good work on behalf of the community despite their small membership.

"You try to do as much as you can," says club member Jean Wilson. "We're all more mature, I won't say we're older, just more mature."

Currently, only 10 women are enrolled with WI, half aged 80 years or more.

In years past, Ms. Adams says the Roseneath membership numbered "40 or even more."

The group meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Alnwick Civic

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