

Castleton
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Century of service, friendship, learning

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nutrition, literacy, marketing, small business, agriculture, housing and the environment.

WAR CONTRIBUTIONS

During the First and Second World Wars the members of the Women's Institute across the nation, including the Castleton branch, were busy helping the war effort by working with the Canadian Red Cross.

During the First World War, ladies of the Castleton WI put on plays on fair nights and they were able to raise \$289, which went toward the erection of the Castleton cenotaph.

At the first meeting of the Castleton WI in November, 1905, Mrs. Raymond Walt was elected president and Mrs. J.L. Gerow, secretary.

By the following year, 1906, the Castleton branch could boast 40 members and by 1912, 69.

In 1931, as the Great Depression really took hold, the Castleton WI and the Dramatic Club together established the Castleton Public Library.

Since that time, the WI has supported the library with donations and volunteerism, working in the library and even running a story hour for children from 1972-83.

The current librarian, Sue LaBerge, is a member of the Castleton WI.

LEND SUPPORT TO 4-H

With their own considerable and growing expertise in farming and housewifery, the WI members in Castleton and elsewhere supported and led 4-H clubs and their predecessors, the Boys and Girls Clubs, teaching cooking, sewing, crafts and home management.

And WI members also offered the same courses to adults in the community.

It has become a tradition with the WI to enter crafts and cooking in the Warkworth Fair where they have won numerous prizes and where they donate the of the prize for the best pineapple upside-down cake.

COMMUNITY HISTORY

One of its most valuable

contributions to the community has been the WI's devoted maintenance of the Tweedsmuir History Books, local histories compiled of newspaper clippings, personal photographs, local writings and reminiscences.

Beth May of Castleton is the curator of the Castleton WI's Tweedsmuir History, which has been used as a source in the preparation of other township historical publications.

Members ask the public, if they have any documents, handwritten, or printed, photographs of bygone years, farm histories or house logs to consider contributing them to the Castleton WI's Tweedsmuir History, where they will be preserved for future generations.

If you have such mementoes, Sue LaBerge would appreciate a call at 344-7232.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

This year, to mark the 100th anniversary of their organization, the CASTleton WI will hold a special meeting Feb. 19, at which they will light a candle in celebration of 100 years, answer the roll call with "What have I accomplished with a Women's Institute life skill?" hear the minutes of the first Institute meeting, sing the centennial song, and reflect on the centennial motto: "Celebrate the past, challenge the future."

As well, the members of the Castleton WI plan to celebrate in June with a tea for members and guests at the home of member Irene Osborne.

In addition to the Osbornes' other lovely garden displays, the specially-bred Women's Institute rose is expected to be in bloom and on view there at that time.

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