

Dunchurch Women's Institute

It's Your

90th

Birthday!



From left, Janice Bray, Lois Allander, Lenny Nickelo, Ilda Macfie, Mona Bray, Lynda McArthur, Sylvia Pillon and Renee Crossman celebrate the Dunchurch Women's Institute's 90th birthday in June 2004.

Mona Bray photo

Keeping a record of history

BY STEPHANNIE JOHNSON
Beacon Star Staff

DUNCHURCH - Local curators Tweedsmuir Histories will be receiving the esteemed Scadding Award of Excellence for 2004 at the Parry Sound District Women's Institute meeting in Emsdale today.

"Lady Tweedsmuir suggested that the Women's Institute make a recording of local history because at that time there were women's institutes in most villages," said Mona Bray, past-president of the institute.

The Dunchurch branch still has existing records of the early settlers and they have three books that were compiled from the organization's original notes.

The notes themselves have been preserved by the ladies, who take them to history fairs across the region.

The award is given in recognition of an outstanding contribution in the field of history.

The local branch of the Women's

Institute has been around for more than 90 years. It was founded by a Ms Markham in 1914, however, ironically, her first name has never been recorded.

Family life

"She actually lived in the Maple Island area and came to Dunchurch and organized the Women's Institute," said Ms Bray. "They worked a great deal in war work to send things to the soldiers during World War I. After that, they went on with the objective of educating themselves and making a good family life, and helping out in the community."

Dunchurch's Pitch-in Day was started by the ladies around 1993 and has been an annual event ever since to help keep the region clean.

"We have speakers on all sorts of women's issues and the law where it affects women - as well as different aspects of health, encouraging leadership and participating in things that affect the other facets of the community," she said.