

I accompanied Clarice Madigan to Dunchurch on Saturday, June 19 to attend the opening of the Whitestone Nursing Station and to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Dunchurch Women's Institute. The institute rose was planted in the Horticulture flower bed, next to the nursing station. This was done by Mayor Bill Church, MP Andy Mitchell and MPP Norm Miller. West Parry Sound Health Centre chief executive officer Norm Maciver was also in attendance. We then all went to the Dunchurch Community Centre for a lovely lunch and a piece of anniversary cake. I met a number of old friends, one of which was Irene England, who used to live in McKellar and was a faithful member of the Women's Institute.



A FAMILY AFFAIR: Whitestone Mayor Bill Church was all smiles on Saturday morning, June 19th, when his wife, Beverley, had the pleasure of ceremoniously presenting him with 'the key to better health' for the community — the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station. The Municipality of Whitestone now becomes the proud owner of the nursing station, taking over the asset from the Volunteer Working Group. The presentation, a family affair, was all part of the grand opening ceremonies for the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station on the weekend.

2004

Photo by Nancy Barner

equipment and furnishings, as well as to cover any unforeseen expenses in operating the nursing station for the communities of Whitestone, McKellar and Magnetawan.

WI Marks 90th

The grand opening festivities for the nursing station piggy-backed onto the 90th Anniversary celebrations of the Dunchurch Women's Institute (WI).

To commemorate the occasion, a rose bush was ceremoniously planted in the garden at the new nursing station in Dunchurch.

Founded by a group of Dunchurch women on June 18, 1914, the local branch of WI continues to carry out important volunteer work in the community.

Dunchurch WI President Renee Crossman told the crowd gathered for the dual celebrations, "Today, we plant a rose bush to commemorate our 90 years. When deciding

Indian Affairs Andy Mitchell, and Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Norm Miller were also thanked for their efforts in helping to bring the community health care project to fruition.

The Station becomes a municipal asset now, with operations directed by Nancy Mace, director of the Parry Sound Community Care Access Centre and Programs.

West Parry Sound Health Centre remains the corporate sponsor, with the Ministry of Health covering 100 per cent of the operating costs.

Don Carter, along with Edythe and Morley Moore, Kay Tod, Jenny DeGrow, Wayne Heels, Bill Church, Diane McTrivish (HRA), Mary Anne Beck (McKellar Senior Citizens) and Lois Wager, will carry on with fundraising efforts.

As the Volunteer Advisory and Fundraising Group, they will look after raising money that will be needed to purchase

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Hagerman Ratepayers' Association (HRA), and the McKellar Senior Citizens' Centre, Memorials and other community groups were paid special recognition, also, for helping to make the nursing station a reality.

West Parry Sound Health Centre CEO Norm Maciver was also lauded for having the vision that the community's health care needs would best be served by a nurse practitioner, rather than the one-day-a-week visit from a physician that was first sought by the group, led by Carter.

Maciver told those assembled at the grand opening that the key to better health is found in community-based health care facilities, like the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station, which is now staffed by nurse practitioner Melanie Montpetit and administrative assistant Mary Smith.

Local politicians Bill Church, mayor of Whitestone, Parry Sound-Muskoka MP and Minister of Northern Development and

where to put it, as we wanted it to be where its beauty would be seen day to day, we worked with the horticultural society in choosing the new garden at our new Nursing Station — a fitting place, as it was one of the worthwhile projects we did a fundraiser for."

Dunchurch WI's eldest members Mona Bray and Ilda Macfie ceremoniously placed a commemorative plaque at the base of the rose bush, which was planted by Whitestone Mayor Bill Church, with assistance from Dunchurch WI Secretary Janice Bray, President Crossman and district MPP Andy Mitchell and MP Norm Miller.

Dunchurch WI hosted an anniversary tea at the community centre, immediately following the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the grand opening of the Whitestone and Area Nursing Station.

June 19, 2004 marked a significant day in this community, it is one that will go down in the Dunchurch history books.