

Sydenham Women's Institute hosts annual craft show

(SYDENHAM) If you're still in need of tasty sweets for tea time or a warm pair of woollen socks for the winter, then you must have missed out on the annual fall craft show organized by the Sydenham Women's Institute (WI), held on Sept. 27.

"It's a fundraiser for the WI and we rent tables to the vendors and the WI runs the bake sale tables," explained Marion Blackadder, a long time member of the WI and

one of the primary organizers of this year's sale. In addition to helping put the show together, Blackadder also rents a table where she sells her own hand-knitted goods.

This marked the third year that the WI has held the crafts show which, according to Blackadder, looks to be doing quite well.

"We have 16 vendors here today. It's been very active," said Blackadder, adding that the Sydenham Royal Canadian Legion Branch Auxiliary was running the canteen. The show was held in the Legion Hall.

Inda Spafford, another organizer for the WI, was pleased with the number of vendors showing their wares at this year's sale. She noted how important the event was as a fundraiser for the WI, which has been part of the Sydenham community for a long time.

"I think this branch is almost 85 years old. The [membership] fee when they started was 25 cents and we've had as many as 85 members. I like the WI because it is community-oriented."

In preparation for the craft sale, Spafford baked two pumpkin pies, as well as cookies and other sweet goods which sold like hot-

ANTHONY S.C.
HAMPTON



FRONTENAC THIS WEEK

cakes from the bake sale table.

Among those vendors displaying their wares was Kelly Whan, who recently turned her artistic hobby into a small business called Kelly's Kreations. Whan produces made-to-order items with floral and other patterns on them. Many feature butterflies or incorporate natural artifacts such as leaves. Whan also makes brightly-coloured earrings that were on display, along with candle holders, boxes, and even a large antique milk can.

"I do all kinds of different things, anything you can paint on; glass, milk cans, wood."

Whan began experimenting after taking a painting course. Six of the women in her family then began holding an annual arts and crafts weekend, and from there she continued to experiment with her designs.

"I enjoy that it never looks quite the way I thought it was going to when I'm thorough. I find it a release and it's a goo pastime," said Whan, who added that the craft show was a good chance to show off her artwork.

Mike Dumbleton was there selling preserves he and his wife make for their business, Judy's Jams, Jellies & Jarfuls. He stood behind a large table covered in mason jars of every preserve imaginable.

"We keep pretty busy doing it. It's probably been about 10 years now. All the recipes come



Kelly Whan, owner of Kelly's Kreations, displays her handpainted crafts and jewelry at the Sydenham W.I. fall crafts sale. Whan was one of 16 vendors in attendance.

PHOTO: ANTHONY S.C. HAMPTON

from my wife's mother. They are old family recipes. Altogether we do about 84 different kinds of stuff."

Dumbleton said that he has found his brightly-coloured mustard relish to be his biggest seller from the pickled side, and cherry and strawberry jam to be the leaders out of the sweet spreads.

According to Blackadder, the WI may expand the craft sale depending on the feedback they get from the vendors this year.

"We're considering one in the spring or early May."

For more information on Judy's Jams, Jellies & Jarfuls, stop by the Verona Farmers Market, call 613-353-1275. For more information on the made-to-order creations of Kelly Whan, call 613-374-5622, or see her at her booth at the Verona Farmers Market.