

December 11, 1985

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While the winds of change, sweeping over the countryside in the last half of the 20th century, have removed many of the long-time institutions, the Women's Institute has remained, giving continuity and stability to rural communities. Actually this great group of countrywomen has grown stronger over the years of promoting "better homes for a better country."

True to the outreaching and compassionate characteristics of the organization, Sydenham Women's Institute has prepared and served a Christmas dinner to the senior citizens of Loughborough Township for the past 23 years, beginning Dec. 6, 1962.

For the past few years the event has been co-sponsored by Branch 496 (Sydenham) of the Royal Canadian Legion, which also donates the use of the beautiful Legion Hall for the festive occasion.

The Legion is to be highly commended for maintaining and beautifying an important historic local landmark, known in its earlier years as Wesley Hall, lending a significant nostalgic note for this year's participants.

Lillian Charlton who, with her brother Ted Day, played violin duets, recalled hearing their father Bailey Day play the same tunes on the same violin 60 years ago at the sacred Christmas concerts held in Wesley Hall.

"My father's old violin is precious to me, actually worth many times more than a Stradivarius to me," she said.

Ted Day was later joined by his friends Norman Ritchie and Bud Edmunds of the famous Kingston District Oldtime Fiddlers' Association to play the toe-tapping country, folk and railroad songs. Mary Lloyd-Jones contributed vocal solos, accompanied on the organ by Kenneth Sigsworth, and Carol Faires brought her music class from Loughborough School to sing special songs.

Bill McDonald, who was also master of ceremonies, sang the beloved carol O Holy Night and read a poem written by the late Mabel Curtis. Thelma Ennis, a senior-citizen guest, recited the The Taming Of Eli Hopkins and Diane Brett, president of the Women's Institute, welcomed the guests, as did Lillian Huggard, vice-president of the Legion, while Reeve Rein Vandewal of Loughborough Township extended a civic welcome.

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SYDENHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWS

Joyce Coupland

Our recent meeting of the Sydenham Women's Institute was held on Tuesday November 21st at Fairmount Nursing Home at Glenburnie. We began our program at 7:30 p.m. with the Jug Band from Sydenham High School. They played and sang many numbers and were warmly received by all. The group included: Karrie Barr, Joanne Barr, Angela Compton, Robert Beazer, Dave Lees, Mike McLaughlan, Jim Tregenza and Mark Sands.

Mrs. Donna Thomas, on behalf of the Sydenham Women's Institute, presented a gift to Mrs. Leah Hartman for her 10 yrs as a leader and her outstanding work with the Sydenham 4-H Club. She has devoted so much time and effort to this group and everyone loves her!

We then had a sing-song of old tyme songs, led by Mrs. Joyce Coupland with Mrs. Hilda Campbell accompanying on the piano. The ladies of the W.I. served delicious refreshments and while the residents retired to their rooms, the visitors held their business meeting.

Arrangements were made for the Sydenham Women's Institute float on an Old-Fashioned Christmas theme -for the Santa Claus Parade on Sat. Dec. 2nd.

Plans were finalized for the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner Party on Thursday Dec. 7th at 12:30 in the Legion Hall.

The Sydenham Women's Institute Home and Country Cook Book is now available from members for \$2.50. This would make a lovely Christmas gift!

The "Spotlight on Bread" Course will be held at the home of Mrs. Hilda Campbell on Tuesdays Nov. 28 and Dec. 5th. Our leaders will be Mrs. Ileen Kemp, Mrs. Lois Peer, Mrs. Hilda Campbell and Mrs. Dorothy Thomas. We are going to have another Spotlight on Bread Course in January for those who were unable to attend and this is open to anyone, not just members. You are presented with a wonderful cookbook - no charge for the book or course. Watch for the dates!

Our Christmas Meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Ileen Kemp on Mon. Dec. 18th. You are asked to either Make or Bake Your Gift for the gift exchange. If you would like to attend, please call Joyce Coupland at 376-3809 for transportation - we have an enrolment of 60 members and we are always looking for new members.