

LAURENTIAN VIEW WOMEN'S INSTITUTE - HISTORY TO JULY, 1991

Laurentian View Women's Institute was organized March 19, 1951, by Mrs. A. Coughlin, District Secretary, and several members from Zion Line Institute. This gathering met at the home of Mrs. Stanley Wilcox. Mrs. Robert Kenney was to be the first president with Mrs. Owen Kidd as secretary, and Mrs. Owen Kidd as treasurer. Mrs. Coughlin suggested our name, Laurentian View Women's Institute.

At our second meeting, Mrs. Doug McKecknie showed slides, featuring Junior 4H and showing two local boys. Flowers and shrubs were donated to the local school. Mrs. W. McLaughlin demonstrated the proper way to iron and fold a tablecloth.

Mrs. Robert McIntyre, District President, was guest speaker at a meeting, and suggested useful ideas for information programs.

During the first year, old woollens were shipped for 34 blankets and 12 motor rugs. Eighteen dollars was donated towards furnishing a room in the Cottage hospital, ten dollars to purchase dishes for hot lunches for the school children, and ten dollars to the Children's Aid Society. Farm histories were started by members. Members agreed to sew for the Cottage Hospital.

Laurentian View Women's Institute joined the Perreton Farm Forum to sponsor a Conservation program with the Zone Forester showing pictures.

During our second year, W.I. pins were ordered. Donations were made to Beachburg Fair, the Children's Aid Society, and Save the Children Fund while thirty-five cents per member was paid towards the ACWW meeting in Toronto.

A strawberry supper held in Beachburg proved very disappointing, our profit being \$9.36. In our third year, we bore all expenses for a play put on by Westmeath, and received half the profit. A letter was sent to County Council regarding the posting of school signs and a resolution to the District WI Annual meeting regarding the dumping of garbage on township roads was made. We had an entry in the Cobden Square Dance competition. A picnic was held at Wright's Beach, and a crokinole party hosted in the Hall. Several 4H girls were presented with a silver spoon for finishing a project and attending Achievement Day.

We held our first grandmothers' meeting in 1954, and also sent our first delegate to the Guelph conference. Handbooks were ordered for all members. Mr. Russel Fraser was guest speaker; topic - bulbs and the making of corsages. Mrs. Alvin Johnson demonstrated needle point and petit point at another meeting. We entertained Roche Fondu W.I.

A Tweedsmuir History was started in 1955. Fifty people, including the Perreton 4H Club enjoyed a picnic and lunch at Wright's beach. Mrs. H. Veals was guest speaker at one meeting, her topic, China, proved most interesting. Mrs. Owen Kidd and three Beachburg W.I. members attended the Institute in Kemptville. Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Cameron were given a gift on their 60th Anniversary. In 1956, a gift was presented to Mr and Mrs. D. Cotnam on their 25th Anniversary, and to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wilcox on their 36th Wedding Anniversary.

In 1956, Mrs. Herb Rutz, District President, attended our fifth anniversary celebration. Mrs. Delmar Cotnam was the first woman from this vicinity to be called to the Jury. Guest speakers included Mrs. J. C. Wright, Mrs. C.L. Griffith, Mrs. C.E. Hennessy, Mrs. Clark, Home Economist, and Mrs. Des McGonegal, each providing much information on their subjects.

In 1957, Laurentian View Women's Institute won the Davis Cup for our Tweedsmuir History. Mrs. Carl Price received a certificate for completing 10 years as 4H Club leader. Several members took the St. John's Ambulance course, sponsored by the Beachburg W.I. Two guest speakers; Mr. McClelland, Beachburg Bank President spoke on Banking, while Mrs. George Stevenson talked on Civil Defense.

In 1958, the usual donations were continued, also the yearly picnic, the sending of old woollens for blankets and the presentation of spoons to deserving 4H Club members. Laurentian View W.I. had a float in the Parade in Beachburg. Mrs. Emerson Young gave a demonstration on making donuts. Mrs. A.F. Cameron was given a gift on her 90th Birthday.

In 1961, members attended Cobden W.I.'s 50th Anniversary. We catered to the Farm Union banquet. Members enjoyed supper at a Pembroke hotel. Mrs. Elmer Hawthorn attended the Guelph conference, while Mrs. Carl Price was our delegate to the Area Convention. About forty people attended our pot-luck supper. The short course, "Window Treatment" was enjoyed. Members attended a tea at Mrs. Wallace Krause's sponsored by Alice W. I. A coffee spoon will be presented to all retiring presidents of our Institute.

Our Institute started serving refreshments at the Pembroke Sale Barn on August 19, 1963. This was discontinued in 1965. A box of jelly and jams was sent to Bonnechere Manor in Renfrew. A \$10.00 donation was given to the Perreton 4H Club. A layette was donated for Arab children.

A committee composed of three of our W.I. members approached the Westmeath Township Council regarding the naming and erecting of name signs on all township roads. This was later carried out by council.

Mrs. Walter Kilby, Mrs. Dan James, Mrs. C. Zieroth, Mrs. Lulie Fraser and Mrs. Peggy Hampel each attended a meeting of our Institute as guest speakers.

In 1965, Mrs. Herb McLaughlin was presented with a corsage for being our only great-grandmother. A skating party was held. Christmas baskets were delivered to the sick and shut-in.