

## HISTORY OF QUEEN'S LINE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Come with me on a journey back through the by gone days and picture this land of ours in its virgin state covered with giant trees and criss-crossed trails of the Indians.

In 1613 Champlain travelled over one of these trails from a place now known as Portage Du Fort (then called De Portage) to the Muskrat Lake. This was proven by the fact that an Astrolabe was found near Highway No. 17 between Haley's and Cobden. Thus the first white man to see this part of the country was this great explorer.

Fire swept over the land and cleared away the trees making it easier for settlers who came in search of land for farms. These people coming from Lower Canada came by the same route. This old Indian Trail was later straightened and built into a road. This being built in the reign of Queen Victoria was called Queen's Highway later known as Queen's Line.

A new day dawned for the women of Queen's Line in Ross Township on June 15, 1907, when a meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Pettigrew and the Queen's Line Women's Institute was organized under the able leadership of Mrs. John Bennie of Beachburg. Eight members joined at the first meeting which chose Mrs. Sam Wallace as President and Mrs. James Rankin as Secretary. Much information was told us by Mrs. Guest and Mrs. Moore of the first years where good times were enjoyed. Truly an outstanding characteristic of our Institute has been its sociability and its devotion to service. These pioneer ladies were sincere in their efforts and practical in their ideas. Thus their Institute proved a friend to those in joy and sorrow sending flowers or fruit to the sick or bereaved families in the community. During two world wars our Institute co-operated in every way it could

to help the Red Cross. Food parcels were sent to the boys in the forces. Knitting was done and letters written to our boys. Help was sent to Refugees in Belgium & France and to fire sufferers in the North. Donations were sent to Sick Children's Hospital, Children's Aid, Blind, Local Hospitals, a barrel of fruit was packed for the Chelter. Donations and clothing sent to flood areas, and a \$100.00 bale was sent to Saskatchewan Relief.

An interest in our local school has always been taken by our Institute and first aid kits were given to the schools. School Fair was held at Ross No. 8 and the Institute ladies made the day more pleasant by serving lunch in the school. A new floor was put in the school financed by the Women's Institute. They also helped buy a piano for the school. A Medical Inspection sponsored by the Women's Institute was given the school and a clinic for tonsil and adenoids was given all school children in this locality. Cars, hospital and doctors were paid by our Women's Institute.

Homemaking Clubs and Garden Brigades were always carried on under the able leadership of an Institute member. Some of the girls have been awarded trips to different fairs and conferences for their outstanding work. Our Institute has enjoyed a wide variety of Short Courses on Clothing, Nutrition, Health, Education and Home Crafts carried on pleasantly and efficiently by members of the staff of

