

BROMLEY W. I. BRANCH HISTORY

Continued From Volume I

In 1967 the school boards for the township were amalgamated and the children from the country were bussed to their schools. S.S. #9 (Wolftown) now had grades one, two and three, S.S. #8 (Barr Line) had grades five and six, and the Third Line School had grades six, seven and eight. In 1968 Opeongo High School, on the Egansville Road opened for students who would have attended the Cobden High School and the Egansville High School. The country schools were closed and public school students bussed into the former Cobden High School, now the Cobden & District Elementary School. The former country schools were put up for tender. Members of our institute, headed by Rosa Lockwood and Peggy McLeod, petitioned the Bromley Township Council to have the Barr Line School retained as a community centre. With the closing of the Barr Line Church and the removal of the Church Hall, there was no building left for the use of the Community. The Bromley W. I. were successful. The township purchased the school for the token sum of \$1.00. The maintenance would be the responsibility of the Bromley W. I. In 1968, the Bromley Community Centre was officially opened with a dinner. During the next years, the membership of our W. I. rose to above 25 as ladies from the Village of Douglas and surrounding area took out memberships. The branch was busy doing catering, having eucharist and bridge parties to raise money to maintain the community centre. Then about 1976 the membership began to wane with the introduction of the Senior Citizens in Douglas and as a result of deaths and members moving from the area. The Bromley Council began to use the Community Centre for their meetings and as a result gave a grant each year towards the upkeep.

In 1982, Bromley hosted the District Annual at the United Church in Douglas. This was a very successful event. Shortly after this, a vote was taken by members to see whether the Branch would disband. Many members were dissatisfied and were leaving. Katie Stokes and Eva Dick campaigned for new members and were successful in getting nine new ones. So our Branch carried on minus many valuable former members.

We still do catering to raise funds. In August of 1984 a special event was when we catered for the wedding dinner of our President Patsy Stuart when she married Dave Stewart.

In October of 1984, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary with a banquet in the Community Centre. (See Volume I for write-up about this event.)

We enjoy the Branch exchange visits. For entertainment for our visitors we generally have a speaker show slides on travel to another country. Each year, usually for our International Meeting in February, we entertain members of the Bromley Council and their spouses.

Three of our Branch members, Mrs. Rosa Lockwood, Mrs. Katie Stokes and Mrs. Peggy McLeod served as District Presidents. Peggy was also Provincial Board Director from 1990-1992 and Area President from 1992-1994 and in October of 1996 became Area Secretary-treasurer.

In October of 1994 we celebrated our 60th Anniversary by travelling to Algonquin Park's Visitors' Centre which was quite interesting to see. We then had dinner in a Whitney restaurant.

Our Branch hosted the District Annual in May of 1995. It was held in St. Paul's Anglican Church, Cobden. Desserts were served in the Parish Hall prior to the beginning of the meeting. Each person attending was presented with an annual plant.

We relinquished our duties of maintaining the Bromley Community Centre in April of 1996. That winter an addition was built onto the centre to be used as the Township Municipal Office. In May of 1996 the ribbon cutting for the official opening was held and we catered the luncheon on this occasion.