

COMBERMERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

November 1974

The Combermere Women's Institute was organized on the 16th day of November in 1934. The Rev. R.H. Thatcher, the Anglican Church Pastor, was the Founder of the Branch. With some of the local women including Mrs. Doctor Sadler, Miss Kathryn Farmer, Mrs. Wesley Cram and several others, the first meeting was arranged in Combermere and organized by Mrs. John E. Miller of Goshen, the acting District President of South Renfrew.

The Branch has carried on without a lapse these 40 years, though some years the membership was very small. In checking back in the minute books, 8 in all, there were 22 names entered on the first night, all of which in that case would be considered Charter Members of the Branch. Seven of these and maybe more, still living in the community or not too far away. Some of these are the following :

Peg Schweig - Inwood	Olga Richter - Mrs. Small
Margaret McFarlane - Schweig	Faye Boehme - Lackey
Del McMahon - Schweig	Patricia Rose - Schweig
Carola - Drevniok	

The Branch apparently was first called "Riverside". This name is printed in the first minute book, however this name was not permanent and the members were asked to choose a new one. Only six of the members submitted a name at the next meeting with the name "Pine Grove" being chosen, but as there was already one Branch by that name in McNab Township in the South Renfrew District it could not be accepted. After the first six meetings recorded, the name "Combermere" was used in the books. In checking back there is no reference as to why Riverside was dropped nor is there any suggestion as to why or when it was changed to Combermere.

The first President was Mrs. Doctor Sadler, the first Secretary was Miss Kathryn Farmer. Since that time there has been 13 secretaries and 11 Presidents. The secretaries were also treasurers; these offices being held for many terms by the same members.

The dues for the Institute were :

1934.... 35¢	1950.... 50¢
1954.... 75¢	1964.... 1.00
1980.... \$2.00	

(When you figure that the increase over 40 years has only been 65¢, it does not seem out of reason, comparatively speaking.)

During the world war years of 1939 to 1945 the women of Combermere contributed a great deal towards the needs of the men overseas and others in need.