

# New Liskeard WI History Outlined

By CHRISTENE McDONALD  
NEW LISKEARD

This week, I was getting pretty low on material for my column and in going through some of my old notes and write-ups, I found an old review of some of the work done by the New Liskeard Womens Institute during their first 50 years and I thought perhaps, at least some of the W. I. members in the district might be interested in reading it.

And I also would like to get a resume of the work done by all the Institutes in the district. So will some of the Tweedsmuir curators or some of the older members please dig into their records and share their experiences with us.

Fifty-eight years ago, at Heaslip, near Englehart, I first became a member of the Federated Womens Institute of Ontario.

I was only 16 and knew nothing about the Institute or what was required of either officers or members, but at the first meeting I was made secretary - treasurer, (this was in April) and the former secretary didn't give me the books until June. And in the meantime the arrangements for the district annual should have been made including meeting the speaker from Toronto and bring her to the hall where the meeting was to be, and this according to the speaker, whose name I have forgotten, was the exclusive duty of the secretary treasurer. And Wow, did she tell me off!!

### I SURVIVED

Well, anyway, I survived it and finally learned a bit about the workings of the Institute and am still enjoying being a member.

I think being a member of the Provincial Board has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, that and the trip to Scotland to attend the ACWW Conference there, when women from 32 countries reported on what had been done, meeting together for almost two weeks, morning afternoon and evening, with never one word of dissension or strife, during the entire time.

Following my marriage in 1917, I lived too far away to attend the Heaslip W. I. so a few years later I got Mrs. McAulay of Charlton to come and organize a branch at Toms-town, then when we bought our farm at Heaslip I joined the United Farm Women of Ontario, as the W. I. had folded up.

Then when I came to Liskeard in 1946, Mrs. William Raymond invited me to join the local branch.

Some time later I was asked to become president of the branch and refused, because I didn't feel that I had enough experience. However, Mrs. Raymond told me something that I have tried to remember ever since. She said "You go on and be president, follow your Handbook, never mind if people get mad at you, because some of them will, but as long as you follow the Handbook, you can't go wrong." And I still think it's the best bit of advice I ever got.

Now this seems to be practically all "I, ME and so I'll go on to the story of the Institute, from 1910 up to 1960.

### FORMED IN 1910

In July, 1910, the New Liskeard branch of the Women's Institute was formed, and since that time it has been an active organization, holding 12 meetings each year, plus many executive and committee meetings.

A review of the projects undertaken and carried out by the branch during the first 56 years include the furnishing and upkeep of a ward in the old Lady Minto hospital, complete with linens, dishes, drapes and all other necessities; payment of the rent for a Clinic room for the VON nurse and layettes for the Clinic; food, clothing and quilts for needy families, in the outlying district as well as in the town; members were instrumental in water lines laid to the cemetery and paid for the cost of laying them; paid for a coffee urn for the HMCS

New Liskeard; helped pay for eavestroughing for the public library; went to the town council to instigate the clearing of the lakeshore for a public beach; presented a petition to council against the establishing of a brewery in the town; donated to the \$2600 fund to provide a District Women's Institute Ward in the present New Liskeard and District hospital and toward its upkeep; bought an audiometer at a cost of \$396, which was placed in the New Liskeard public school for the purpose of testing hearing and is available for use by anyone in the district; provides gifts for patients in the chronic ward in

the Haileybury Hospital and a nursing home; sponsor three 4-H Homemaking Clubs and entertain the girls and their leaders at an annual supper; have sponsored short courses in rug making, quilt making, millinery, block printing, sewing, sandwiches, desserts, a Food Forum and other homemaking projects which are available to all interested women as well as Institute members; sponsored a Conference and Fashion Show in co-operation with the Department of Economics and Development; had an exchange program with Abergele Institute in Wales; paid visits to local ice cream and butter making plants, bottling works and Rexwood chipboard plant;

held open meetings with members of other branches as guests; visited the Provincial School of Mines at Haileybury, the Cobalt Mining Museum and nursing homes; sponsored talks on Safety and T. B. and educational programs with slides of other countries; provided a display of handicrafts made by the members at the Spring Fair sponsored by the Recreation Commission; have a booth at the Fall Fair and make cash donations to many others worthy causes.

This month, members are visiting the Home for Senior Citizens at Kirkland Lake with a gift of fruit, and then will enjoy a picnic lunch at Airdie Creek park on the way home.

## Savard W.I. hold meeting

A meeting of the Convenors of the Standing Committees of the Savard Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. John Arts on Tuesday evening March 28, 1972. Convenors attending were Mrs. Herman Demarell, Mrs. Orville McAuley, Mrs. Tom Demarell Jr. and Mrs. John Arts and President, Mrs. Jack Warren and secretary, Mrs. Allen Ryan. Reports were made to be presented at the April meeting of the Savard Women's Institute.

## TOWN OF KIRKLAND LAKE PROCLAIMS CANADA

That the week of June 25th hereby proclaimed "Canada Week" in the Town of Kirkland Lake.

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Town