

Digitizing Update

We digitized 85,000 pages of Tweedsmuir, Minute Books and other WI material during the first full year of the three-year Library and Archives of Canada grant.

Our focus for Year One has been Northeastern Ontario and we received content from the following Districts: Cochrane (including Temiskaming), Nipissing, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Renfrew North. To complete the required number of pages needed, we contacted Branches that expressed interest from the following Districts: Renfrew South, Carleton, Victoria West, Ontario, Peterborough, Northumberland East and Frontenac.

We are currently working on making previously digitized content open to the public on our Virtual Archives. This includes some interesting scrapbooks from the Erland Lee Museum and local Branch Tweedsmuir Histories from Peterborough, Middlesex East, Hastings, Prince Edward and Oxford.

Preparations for Year Two are already in progress and the focus will be Southern and Hamilton Areas, with the furthest away given priority. Thank you to those who have reached out and are preparing their items for digitizing. We will be in touch as pickup dates approach.

Instructions and forms for the digitizing project are available in the Member's Section of the FWIO website under the Tweedsmuir drop-menu. A copy of Irene Robillard's presentation from her 2017 AGM workshop is also available. It explains the Virtual Archives, gives an overview of what you need to do to have your books digitized and shows how to submit a WI 120 contribution.

Are you prepared for digitizing?

- 1) Do you know the location of your Tweedsmuir and record books?
- 2) Is the Branch name on each book?
- 3) Does each minute book or Tweedsmuir have a volume number or date?
- 4) Can more names and dates be added to photographs?
- 5) Do you know which books are in need of repair?
- 6) Do you want to get a head start on privacy reviews? If so, contact Alyssa Gomori.

Regardless of where you are in the province, if you are interested in having your books digitized, please contact Alyssa Gomori at digital@fwio.on.ca or 905-662-2691 and your Branch or District will be added to the list.

Celebrating Our Community Involvement

WI 120 and Canada 150 may be over, but you can still submit your photos to our Virtual Archives to showcase the many ways that we have been Women Involved. Did your Branch do something special in your community to celebrate either our 120th Anniversary or Canada's 150th? If so, share a photo to collections.fwio.on.ca. We are about to hit 100 submissions, so thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in this special project.



One of the most recent submissions is the Coningsby road sign, erected in 2005 to celebrate the Branch's 100th Anniversary. This photo was taken in 2015 when Coningsby WI's twin WI group from Coningsby, Lincolnshire, England visited to celebrate the UK's Centennial Year, as well as the 110th Anniversary of their sister Branch in Ontario. Coningsby WI is part of Wellington-Halton District in the Guelph Area.

Saving Your Minutes for Future Generations

By Irene Robillard

Are your minutes being written in a bound minute book? No? Is your secretary typing them on her computer? If your Branch is like mine, this has been happening for 10 or more years. Do you know where all these minutes are? Are some on a former secretary's computer? If you have not already done so, now is the time to find these minutes before they are lost in time. Once found, print them off and have these minutes bound into a book or two every so many years. Keep the computer files too as, in the future, these minutes don't need to be scanned as they were 'born' digital. Let's make a concerted effort to save these minutes for future generations.