

Kemble WI

Ten years ago, Kemble Women's Institute (Grey County District, Grey-Bruce Area), the longest active WI in the world, created the Women's Institute Parkette at the S bend on Grey Road 1, just south of the village of Kemble, between Owen Sound and Wiarton in Ontario.

It is a popular destination for tourists and neighbours alike and features a view of neighbouring farms and beautiful Georgian Bay. The highlight of the parkette is the cairn, a block of limestone from a local quarry, with the table set and ready for tea. A memorial plaque tells the story of Clara Gardiner, who in 1897, went by horse and buggy from farm to farm in the community, to encourage ladies to meet together to support one another. The gardens, maintained by the Kemble WI ladies and their families, include the new Women's Institute Rose and other flowering bushes.

Each year, Kemble WI has a community fundraiser where the proceeds go to support the maintenance

of the parkette. For many years, the Branch had a successful crokinole tournament and this past fall, they had a progressive euchre party. Friends and neighbours share lots of fun and laughter as they enjoy the game, coffee and brownies!

This year, Kemble WI hosted a special luncheon in September to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of WI and the 10th Anniversary of the Women's Institute Lookout Parkette. Over 60 ladies from various Grey and Bruce WI's joined them for lunch at Sweetwater Inn at Cobble Beach in Georgian Bluffs. They were a joyful group of ladies, sporting hats, fascinators and gloves, as they would have in days gone by. They were entertained by their own trio, each fourth generation Kemble WI gals, who have been singing together since their school days. Their great grandmothers were founding Members! The guest speaker shared the history of the closure of local schools and encouraged everyone to continue to advocate to keep rural schools open in Ontario.

The afternoon and lunch were enjoyed by all who attended.

Pictured Left: Kemble WI Members at the Anniversary Luncheon.

Pictured Below: The Women's Institute Parkette.



Community-York Road WI

To celebrate the WI's 120th Anniversary, Members of the newly amalgamated Community-York Road WI (Trent Valley Area) participated in the ROSE Program, "Through the Decades" Fashion Show. It was held on November 1, 2017 with a full house of over eighty people. Members from various Branches in the area were in attendance, as well as local ladies, newspaper and radio.

Margie Simpson, convener, had the vision for over a year, to have ladies model clothing from the beginning of WI to present day.

They were honoured to have a rendition of Adelaide Hoodless (played by Alta Vance) being interviewed by a reporter (played by Sue La Berge) both from Castleton WI. Alta Vance wore a replica of the dress that Adelaide Hoodless wore to her daughter's wedding.

Margie asked guests to give a monetary donation to Fare Share Food Bank of Brighton.



Pictured (L-R) front row: Margie Simpson, Karen Widdecombe, Sharon Rusk, June Sills, Freda Workman, Carole Anderson and Mary Shortt. Back row: Sue La Berge, Alta Vance, Kathy Teng, Lynn Hamilton, Marlene Smith, Laura Haferkorn, Judy Barnett, Marie Holdaway, Donalda Stapley, Judy MacLeod and Sharon French.