

## What is a Tweedsmuir?

To give an answer one must take a backwards glance through the years of history to a time when Lord Tweedsmuir served as Governor-General of Canada. It was during his term that Lady Tweedsmuir, a devoted Institute member in England, encouraged the recording of our history, the places, customs and activities of a developing country. Some may recall that in the 1930's Canada was a relatively young nation and tales of the pioneering years were often shared with the younger generations.

The Women's Institute took on the responsibility of preserving history. In 1940, the Provincial Board proposed that branches begin "Village History Books" and a list of "Suggestions for Compiling Tweedsmuir Village Histories" was published in 1945. A Home and Country magazine of 1962 reveals that the Provincial Tweedsmuir Curator had advised the appointing of curators on branch, district and area levels.

Tweedsmuir Histories

are under the guidance of a Women's Institute member, but others on her committee and those asked to assist in the writing of articles may be interested people of the community. The volumes are a comprehensive, factual collection of historical data and treasured pictures of a community. (The Stirling Tweedsmuir has some 26 sections and subsections. The topics range from branch history, personalities, recreation and education to clubs, music and about town.)

"Footprints to the Past", was presented on June 5 in the Stirling Community Hall, gave people an opportunity to view volumes and to discuss the contents with branch curators. Branch curators were in attendance from the Women's Institutes of Bay of Quinte, Pine Grove, River Valley, Sidney South, Stirling and Uniondale.

The tables displaying the Tweedsmuir will serve as a backdrop to the on-going, varied and informative demonstrations and displays.