

March 12, 97

**Beamsville  
W.I.**

*Group  
goes back  
in time*

Period costumes, candles and a menu typical of an afternoon tea in the late 1800s added to the atmosphere on Feb. 19 as the members of Beamsville Women's Institute recreated the inaugural meeting of the Women's Institute 100 years after that historic meeting was held in Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Bells tolled at 2 p.m. at each of the three churches in town that have been used as meeting sites over the 92-year history of the Beamsville branch: the First Baptist, St. Alban's Anglican and Trinity United Churches followed the example set in England where every church bell in the towns was rung that day at an appointed hour to honour the founding of the Women's Institute.

The motto for this special centennial meeting was "Celebrate the past, Challenge the future." Each members answered roll call with an example of an accomplishment that was due to a W.I. life skill.

Minutes of the first meeting in 1897 were read and the centennial song was sung with enthusiasm.

President Eileen Turnbull lit a candle and each member, along with the members of Community Builders branch, then lit a smaller candle from it for a glowing tribute to symbolize the sharing of this celebration all across Ontario.

Members read items of interest on Adelaide Hoodless and Erland Lee, our co-founders; the origin of the motto, Ode, Mary Stewart Collect and our W.I. badge.

An informal lunch was served and members and guests from the community had a chance to study the many volumes of the Tweedsmuir history books on display.

Agriculture and international affairs in China will be the topics presented at the Mar. 18 meeting. It will be held at the First Baptist Church Hall, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Interested members of the community are welcome to attend.

For more information contact PRO Barbara Stones at 563-7274.