

SBVI-12

Belmore Women's Institute celebrates 75th anniversary

BELMORE—The first snow was falling on the countryside on Wednesday, October 10, but all was warm and cheery in the auditorium of the Community Centre as Belmore Women's Institute celebrated its 75th anniversary with old friends renewing acquaintances and new people welcomed into the circle.

Following a delicious Thanksgiving dinner, Mrs. Don Eadie led in a singsong. Special speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Maluske of Chesley, past president of FWIO, who brought greetings and good wishes to the Belmore group on attaining its 75th anniversary and congratulated members on their achievements throughout the years.

Quoting from Jean Jaures, a French statesman and philosopher, "Take from the altars of the past the fire, not the ashes", she urged the members to strive to equal the resourcefulness of their ancestors who lived through depression times and based their lives on the motto, "Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without". "Because of our current economic situation, high unemployment, devaluation of the dollar, depletion of our natural resources and energy shortages, we are urged to practise being more resourceful, thereby utilizing more fully the things we have," she said.

Mrs. Maluske also spoke of land scarcity as being a problem and urged everyone to shop wisely and buy quality. She told the ladies to make their dissatisfaction known when they are confronted with outrageous prices but she warned them to never use objectionable language when doing so.

The speaker mentioned the objective of the Erland Lee Home Foundation Fund, "to be self-sustaining by 1980", and expressed the hope that all Institutes would "not walk in last year's ruts but strive to make our meetings interesting and educational, making the most of what comes into our lives".

Mrs. Hank Bos thanked the speaker and presented her with a token of appreciation. President Mrs. Stan Hays welcomed everyone and expressed appreciation that a large attendance was present to celebrate this happy occasion. Mrs. Jim Fischer sang two solos, "Edelweiss" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth", accompanied by Mrs. Don Eadie. Mrs. Alvin Mundell entertained with an amusing telephone conversation with "Mr. Lee".

Head table guests were Mrs. Don MacAdam, past president; Mrs. Spence, area president; Grey-Bruce; Mrs. Walter Woods, public relations officer; Mrs. Maluske; Mrs. Middleton, past board director; Mrs. Stan Hays, president; Mrs. Cumming, South Bruce president; Mrs. Hank Bos, vice president of Belmore, and Mrs. John Rutherford, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Dave Eadie told of highlights of Belmore Women's Institute from 1904 to 1979. Although no records were kept during the earliest years, there is

Institute Hall where meetings and social functions were held. The shed made a skating rink where young people of the area learned to skate and joined in the fun at carnivals. Some famous curlers of the Belmore area learned to 'sweep' in this building.

When World War I broke out in 1914, the women went to work at home in their war effort. Records show \$552 collected for British Red Cross, \$957 for yarn and sewing materials. Hundreds of pairs of socks were knit, pyjamas made and boxes of fruit sent overseas. World War II found the women busy knitting, sewing and quilting.

In 1951, when the Belmore Community Centre and Memorial Arena was built, the Women's Institute equipped a room where their meetings were held and a kitchen added. Today the Belmore WI gathers in the library room of the new community centre.

Mrs. Eadie recalled the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Women's Institute held in Guelph in 1947. Representatives from Belmore were Mrs. William Elliott, the late Mrs. Roy Rutherford and the late Mrs. Tom Abraham. In 1953 the Associated Countrywomen of the World met in Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto. Among approximately 12,000 Institute members who attended, were Belmore's delegates, the late Mrs. Elmer Zinn, Mrs. Fred Doubledee, the late Mrs. Tom Abraham and Mrs. Dave Eadie. The names of former

Presidents of the Belmore Institute were read and several replied, expressing appreciation and happy memories of their years as presidents.

In closing, Mrs. Eadie asked Mrs. MacAdam to light a yellow candle in memory of officers and members who contributed so much to the Belmore organization and provided a light to guide it in the future. President Mrs. Hays then lit another candle as a pledge to carry on the work in the years to come.

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