

W.I. Spring Board Meeting

by Anya Donaldson

Oxford District Women's Institute held their Spring Board Meeting Monday evening March 7, 2016 with 33 members present representing our 9 branches. A delicious lunch was prepared by the Mt. Elgin branch. President, Sheila Greason, presided over the business portion of the meeting. The minutes and treasurers reports of the Fall board meeting 2015 were adopted and carried.

All Oxford branches participated in "Quincy the Bear", a project to celebrate the 119th anniversary of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO).

Provincial news from our Southern Area Voting Delegate, Glenna Ladell, were read in her absence. The ROSE program has been renamed from "Rural" to "Reaching" Ontario Sharing Education. Pennies for Friendship has been renamed "Coins for Friendship" due to the fact that Canada no longer mints pennies. These coins are sent on to our international organization - ACWW. Last year FWIO members tallied 310,000 volunteer hours in our Ontario communities. Our new slogan is "Women Involved".

Shonna Ward gave the 4-H report. 4-H members planted 100 trees at Pittock Park in 2015 to celebrate 4-H's 100th anniversary. Oxford District made a donation to the 2016 Summer 4-H exchange program with Peace River Area in Alberta. Ten Oxford 4-H members and 2 chaperones will participate. They have fundraisers planned; they

will be serving pancakes at Jakeman's on weekends in March, stone picking, yard work, etc.

The Tweedsmuir Report was given by Marlene Matheson. There are funds available for digitalizing our Tweedsmuir books. Contact Mary Nicklas for further information. Oxford district will be hosting the Southern Area Tweedsmuir workshop on August 9th at Henderson Hall in Ingersoll with the theme of "Treasure Hunt". Our Rose Program Co-ordinator, Joyce Hill, informed us of an upcoming workshop "Train the Trainer" April 5th from 1-4 p.m. at OMAF. We will be learning how to sew items needed for Children's Hospital. We are to bring a sewing machine, extension cord, thread, pinking shears. Two members from each branch are requested to attend for fabric, food and fellowship.

Nancy Muirs, our Advocacy Co-ordinator, offered to attend branch meetings to help us word concerns into resolution format. Linda Hammond of the Scholarship committee stated that the deadline to apply for Oxford District Scholarships is March 31, 2016. The essay topic is "Comment on support you have received from your community and how you will pay back". Liz Harrison thanked the group for our donations and supplies to the Children's Hospital. She indicated that they need baby sweater sets and prayer shawls (144 stitches) for the gift shop.

Some of our members participated in International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8th in Woodstock. A display

was set up focusing on Children's Hospital. Participants were also encouraged to help us craft 60 tray favours for St. Patrick's Day meal trays.

The 3rd annual "Oxford Celebrates Women" will be held at the Embro Community Centre Saturday, May 7th. Guest speaker is award winning actor Seana McKenna and entertainment by sisters Sheena Jongerden and Laurel Grieve. There will also be a live auction of gift baskets. All proceeds toward Oxford District Scholarship Fund.

Upcoming dates to remember include April 5, 2016 - Train the Trainer, OMAF 1-4 p.m.; April 15, 2016 - Information for Program booklet to Mary Ogar; April 30, 2016 - Women Walk the World - 10-12 at Woodstock Fairgrounds; May 7, 2016 - Oxford Celebrates Women - Embro Community Centre; May 18, 2016 - Oxford District Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at OMAF; August 9, 2016 - Tweedsmuir Workshop 8:30-3 p.m., Henderson Hall, Ingersoll.

Tav. Gaz. p. 3
Mar. 16, 2016

Oxford celebrates Women

The Oxford District Women's Institute proudly announces the third annual "Oxford Celebrates Women" event will take place on Saturday May 7, 2016 at the Embro Community Centre.

The event is an upscale evening to raise funds for the Oxford District Women's Institute Scholarship. These awards have been given out annually since 1953, to deserving graduates of Oxford County high schools for their post-secondary education.

This Mother's Day weekend event will see doors open at 6 p.m. and at 7 p.m. a delicious buffet dinner will be served by JP's Barbeque and Catering from Otterville. The banquet hall will be transformed with red, black and white décor, which will be the visual WOW to tie into the theme "All that Jazz". After dinner, trumpet players and sisters Laurel Grieve and Sheena Jongerden, both raised in Zorra Township, will provide musical entertainment. Then award winning actor, Seana McKenna, a 25 year veteran with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, will give an insider's look into her life on stage

- a storyline that has played out in front of live audiences all across North America! The evening will conclude with the 2016 Oxford District Women's Institute Scholarship winners being announced. Energy Productions DJ services from Tillsonburg will provide background jazz music to keep the night lively and enjoyable! A NEW themed-basket silent auction has been added this year for some fun and competition!

Linda Hammond, chairperson of the event, states "we have created a very special evening for women of all ages from Oxford County so they can celebrate who they are and from where they have come". The purpose of the evening is two-fold; inspire women living in the Oxford County area to live a rich and rewarding life and to raise funds for the ODWI Scholarship. Tickets are \$50 and are available by calling 519- 842-5661 or emailing ivalinhammond@gmail.com

Tav. Gaz. p. 2
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