

Oxford District W.I. gathers for annual

by Anya Donaldson

The Oxford District Women's Institute met at Christ Church Huntingford on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 with 36 members and 7 guests attending. The meeting was opened by President Margaret Ogar with the presentation of the Canadian flag and singing of "O Canada", followed by saying the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect. President Ogar was pleased to announce that \$2647.00 was raised for Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) during "Women Walk the World" on April 27th & 28th. These funds will be sent to ACWW for various worldwide projects to help women and their children out of poverty.

Light and Lively was presented by Browns W.I. with a set of chair exercises and trivia of 75 years ago since Brown's celebrated their 75th anniversary this year.

The Tweedsmuir workshop will be held at the Thorndale Community Centre August 6th, 2013 starting at 9 a.m. with a \$5 registration fee. This year's workshop theme is "Do you value your treasures?"

A London area leadership workshop will be held October 26th, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Thorndale Community Centre. All branch presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and R.O.S.E. co-ordinators are encouraged to attend.

Greetings were given by London area President, Sheila Greason; Middlesex East President, Ruth Gourley; and London area Voting Delegate, Rie VanSteeg, who informed us that FWIO (Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario) supports the nomination of Malala Yousafza, the 12 year old girl from Afghanistan who survived a Taliban shooting, for this year's Nobel Peace Prize. A FWIO conference at Ridgetown College is planned for 2014.

A resolution formulated by Coderington W.I. is being forwarded to FWIO. It advocates the teaching of nutrition and the life skill of cooking to students in their formative years in school.



PHOTO BY LAURA GREEN

Ready to serve for the new year of the Oxford District Women's Institute are the newly elected executive members who reside in all corners of Oxford County. Left to right are Secretary Linda Hammond (Mount Elgin W.I.), Treasurer Louise Baird (Princess Elizabeth W.I.), President Anne Innes (Brooksdale W.I.), 1st Vice Shelia Greason (Brown's), and past President Margaret Ogar (Lakeside W.I.). *Tav. Gaz. p. 3. May 29, 2013*

Eleanor Williams, our Provincial Board Director, indicated that the Erland Lee Home in Stoney Creek is open again and are still accepting cash donations. There are new FWIO manual inserts available and can be obtained from the Guelph office. She also indicates that the

"Back to Basics" program theme is ongoing.

Our guest speakers for the afternoon were three volunteer puppeteers called "Kids on the Block". They are part of a team with the London Thames Valley Children's Centre. The team focuses on the development of physical, social, emotional, communication, behavioural, and life skills of children and youth. They provide information, education, and support to children, youth, and their families to foster strong, supportive relationships and environments. They also provide information, education, and support to their community to provide inclusive opportunities for participation. The "Kids on the Block" brought the troupe of life-sized puppets to life in three skits about 1) Hemophilia, 2) Spina Bifida, and 3) Cerebral Palsy. The puppeteers provided our members with awesome educational entertainment. The Thames Valley Children's Centre may be contacted at www.tvcc.on.ca or 1-866-590-8822.

The Scholarship Committee report was given by Anne Innes. The two Oxford District W.I. scholarships were awarded to Sarah Baigent and Elizabeth Bruce. Danielle Turvey won the Maryn Pardy London Area Scholarship.

Oxford District Women's Institute State of Officers 2013-2014: President, Anne Innes; 1st Vice, Sheila Greason- Past President, Margaret Ogar; 2nd Vice, Nancy John; Secretary, Linda Hammond; Assistant Secretary, Ilene Chesterman; Treasurer, Louise Baird;

Tweedsmuir History, Mary Nicklas; Assistant Tweedsmuir History, Louise Baird; Public Relations, Anya Donaldson; Advocacy Convenor, Nancy Muir; R.O.S.E. Co-ordinator, Sheila Greason; Financial Examiners, Evelyn Arthur, Liz Harrison; Education Committee, Ilene Chesterman, Nancy John, Sheila Greason, Liz Harrison; Scholarship Committee, Sheila Greason, Ann Roxburgh, Louise Baird, Margaret Dale; Nominating Committee, Sheila Greason, Margaret Ogar; Children's Hospital, Liz Harrison.

Anna P. Lewis branch extended an invitation to the May 21st, 2014 District Annual.