

Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute hosts Braemar ladies group

by Sandra Stock

The Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute (PEWI) December meeting was held at Hebron United Church with eight PEWI members and 9 guests present from the Braemar Women's Institute Branch. President Shonna Ward, welcomed everyone and opened with the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect.

This is the 66th Anniversary of the Princess Elizabeth WI. Roll Call was to bring a food item for the Salvation Army food bank.

Guest Speaker for the evening was Vanessa Giuliano, Director Salvation Army Emergency Housing Community & Family Services in Woodstock. Vanessa's office is at the Thrift Store on Huron Street and she has been

there for 11 years. This store pays for the rent and wages as all money goes toward the program. Vanessa told some of the reasons why about 100 people need food from the food bank each week and that they can only get food every 6 weeks. They can only come every 2 years for household items, but for clothing every change of the season, maternity or weight gain. She will help to pay up to 2 months of their back hydro and heat bills under the, "Winter Warmth Program". The "Homeless Initiative Fund" will keep some from eviction. The United Way gives \$15,000 per year to help cover medicine, prescriptions, eyeglasses and dentist bills. Toyota donated a car that is used to take people to their

various appointments. Christmas food and toys are given to 800+ families. The Christmas Kettle Campaign runs from November 15 to December 24. They have emergency housing for 4 families on James Street who can stay for 6 weeks while they look for a place to live. The Salvation Army will help with the move and pay the last month's rent. She said there are a lot more working poor since 2008. Some who cannot work may get \$500-\$600 with rent at \$375 to pay. 65-75 % of the people they help have mental health issues.

Shonna thanked Vanessa then directed a WI mixer game to give everyone a

chance to get to know the others.

The Braemar and PEWI groups then held separate business meetings.

The Princess Elizabeth business included reports read and approved. Their Pennies for Friendship and collection was given. The Tavistock Fair Special - Junior Department will continue, the category being 3 Muffins using local fruit. The 2014 Tavistock Fall Fair theme will be "Barns".

The Rose Program for 2014 - 4-H Moms suggested they hold a "Learning to Knit Day", along with a soup lunch, possibly in February 2014 at the Thames Bend office.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

W.I. members learn about Museum School

Ten members of Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute (PEWI) met at Christ Church, Huntingford at 12:30 p.m. on March 5, 2014 as guests of PEWI's "twin branch", Braemar WI. Braemar President, Anya Donaldson, welcomed everyone and opened with the Institute Ode, Mary Stewart Collect, and Institute Grace before sitting down to a delicious potluck lunch.

Bernice Marsland introduced and thanked the guest speaker, Jennifer Beauchamp, curator of the Oxford County Museum School. Jennifer told a brief history and showed pictures of the school's first location in Burgessville, and the move to its new home at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agricultural Museum. Jennifer described some of the programs available at the school and encouraged members to tell others about it and to visit the museum.

On behalf of all the PEWI members president, Shonna Ward, expressed thanks to the Braemar ladies. The two branches then retired to separate areas for their business meetings.

Secretary and treasurer reports were read and adopted. Collection and Coins for Friendship were received. Mary Lou Ross gave a report from the March 4th Spring Board Meeting held at Home Depot in Woodstock for a light bulb workshop then to OMAF for lunch and business.

Some items of note from this report were:

- As of September 1, 2014 FWIO offices are moving to the Erland Lee at a savings of \$26,000.
- Annual year-end forms are online only. No paper copies are being sent.
- The International Manual is on the FWIO website
- 400 plus people are registered for W.I. Rocks

at Stoney Creek on April 2 - Children's Hospital is asking for small packs

of crayons and colouring books, as well as the usual slippers, quilts and baby items.

Tentative date for the annual fashion show is October 25, location yet to be decided.

A motion was carried to try for one year having only one program booklet for the entire District. Each branch will send their information to Linda Hammond before May 1st as they want it to appear in the district program. A motion was carried to try one "tripling" meeting in 2014-2015. PEWI is tripled with Braemar and Anna P. Lewis.

the District Annual is May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at OMAF. PEWI is in charge of the In Memoriam which Gladys Stock and Dorothy Reibling will prepare.

There was discussion about an invitation from The Tavistock & District Historical Society asking PEWI to attend a World War 1 Anniversary display at the Tavistock Legion on Friday, September 19. It was decided to invite Anna P.

Lewis, Brooksdale, Braemar and Lakeside branches to this event as well.

Mary Nicklas reported for the Historical Society that the AGM is Saturday, March 29, 1:30 p.m. at Grace United Church. Guest speaker is Marva Wisdom on "Freedom on the Underground Railway."

Shonna Ward reported that the 4-H Chocolate Club Achievement Night is March 25. She encouraged members to support the 4-H Pancake Fundraiser at Jakeman's Maple Farm throughout March. An invitation was read from Embro Presbyterian Church to their St. Patrick's Day Tea & Dessert (as well as bake and craft sale), March 15, from 1-3 p.m., admission \$5. The next meeting is April 10 at 6:15 p.m. at Tavistock Library - Annual Meeting. Lunch: Karen, Gladys. The knitting group is invited for 7:45 p.m. The 2012 by-laws will be reviewed at the Annual

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Mar. 19, 2014

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