

Oxford District W.I. District Annual Meeting

by Anya Donaldson, PRO

Forty members and five guests attended the Oxford District Women's Institute annual meeting held May 21st at the Woodstock OMAF office. A delicious lunch was prepared on our arrival by the Anna P. Lewis Branch. Our president, Anne Innes opened the meeting with the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect. O Canada was sung following the presentation of the flag. The theme for the evening was "Nothing changes if nothing changes."

The new program booklets were given to each branch to be distributed to members. The new booklet includes programs from each of the 9 Oxford District Institutes as well as lists of offices and important dates to remember. Sheila Greason brought greetings from London area and Marion Urquhart from Perth South district. The Princess Elizabeth branch conducted the lovely memorial service to remember members who have passed on this past year.

Our speaker for the evening was Andrea Morrison who educated members on the use of the FWIO website (www.fwio.on.ca) which is updated regularly. She informed us about the internet browser, home page, members section and branch profiles.

Marg Ogar updated us on Women Walk the World which took place Saturday April 25th. We collected a total of \$1345.04 to send to Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) to help impoverished women and their children in third world countries. We extend our thanks to pledgers and the generous people who attended the Woodstock Farmers Market on that day.

Glenna Ladell, our London area voting delegate informed us that 474 W.I. members attended "W.I. Rocks the World" held at the Erland Lee Home in Stoney Creek in April. The FWIO conference will be held in Ridgeway July 11-13, registration deadline is June 1, 2014. London area conference

will be held in Shedden October 9th, 2014.

Mary Nicklas reported as the Tweedsmuir co-ordinator that our minute book can be taken to the Norwich museum and kept there, but can be used as needed. Tweedsmuir workshop is being held August 5th in Kirkton.

We were reminded of entering the Tweedsmuir competitions in 2015; deadline for Marylyn Pardy scholarship is June 1st; and to write our stories for the Canada 150 projects March 2015.

Our Provincial Board Director, Eleanor Williams, reminded us that the FWIO office presently in Guelph will be moving Sept. 1st to the Lee Home in Stoney Creek; the Lee Home is selling quilt tickets.

The FWIO annual meeting will be held in November at the Delta Hotel in Guelph.

The Rose Report is printed in the annual report. Liz Harrison thanked members for their donations and contributions to the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario in London.

The Oxford District Scholarship and bursary were presented to Lidia Schrijver and Emily Van Bommel at the "Oxford Celebrates Women" event held May 10 at the Embro Community Centre. A sell-out crowd of 270 women including past scholarship winners attended the fund raising event for the scholarship fund. A fashion show is planned October 25th at Woodstock's Presbyterian Church.

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W.I. MEMBERS LEARN HOW TO NAVIGATE THEIR PROVINCIAL WEBSITE — "Nothing Changes If Nothing Changes" was the theme for this year's annual meeting for the Oxford District Women's Institute. The evening meeting was held on May 21st, at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food building in Woodstock. Guest speaker was Andrea Morrison from the provincial office of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario in Guelph and her power point presentation was titled "Navigating the FWIO website". Andrea is the editor of the FWIO provincial newsletter, the Home & Country ROSE Garden, and is the ROSE (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) program manager. Please visit www.fwio.on.ca to see what is happening in the Women's Institute organization. Pictured (foreground): Guest speaker Andrea Morrison and background Oxford District President, Anne Innes; Treasurer, Louise Baird; and Provincial Board Director, Eleanor Williams. Photo by Laura Green