

# 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.

*Tau. Gaz p. 2 Jan 1, 2014*