

Oxford District WI holds annual meeting

By Ruth Skillings

LAKESIDE CORRESPONDENT

The Oxford District Women's Institute held their Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 22, in the Salford Community Centre with 64 members and visitors registering for the day meeting.

President Margaret Lee welcomed everyone with the formal welcome from host Institutes, Brooksdale and Salford. The Memorial Service was by the Lakeside Branch.

President Margaret Lee took us through the things that had been done by the District since Oxford became one District. It was really amazing when all the different activities are listed at once. Mrs. Lee also visited all the Branches during her term of office, which she found very interesting and informative. She got many new ideas as each branch does things just a little different. She reminded us of the word TEAM, Together Everyone Achieves More.

Margaret had a poster and two ladies read many projects carried out in third world countries by the ACWW with our Pennies For Friendship donations. There is still

some room on the June 13 bus to the Hamilton ACWW meeting, contact Evelyn (David) Arthur, if interested in going.

Vivian McDonald gave the PAC report and there are many things going on at the FWIO level including a number of competitions. Peggy Knapp has been honoured by the University of Guelph, with a honorary law degree.

Embro-West Zorra led a singsong while the collection was gathered. It was with sadness that we learned Embro-West Zorra has decided to disband.

The time has arrived for the Children's Ground Water Festival, there is an opening day tour May 28, 12:30 p.m. at the Volunteers' Tent. Interested adults are encouraged to come and see what the children will be experiencing and learning. They need 100 volunteers a day to make this happen.

Sheila Greason reported on the successful "Day Away" last March, very good attendance and they made some very nice things.

The Farm Women's Network has a help line 1-888-471-2903 for rural people needing assistance of any kind.

There were two entries for competitions, a beautiful pieced wall hanging and a poem, read by Janet Uren entitled "Alphabet Soup", on communicating in 2001, NIMBY.

A delicious lunch was provided and served by the host branches, which was enjoyed by everyone. Sheila Greason introduced our visitors, who brought greetings, President of London Area, Fran Hyatt, president of Perth South, Marilyn Archer, and past president of Middlesex East, Evelyn Rath.

Three women politicians joined us to tell us how their involvement in politics affected their family life. Margaret Lee introduced Nancy Walther, in her 3rd term as councillor for Norwich. Carol Innes introduced Margaret Lupton, councillor for many years in the Township of Zorra. Jean Roberts introduced Peg Caffin, mayor for 6 years in SW Oxford. They all had very interesting stories to tell and are very dedicated to their positions.

Peg Caffin told us about her teaching experience here in Oxford, away in Toronto a couple of times and back to Oxford. Her very best times were when she was involved in smaller schools, with lots of students from the rural areas. She does not think that closing all the small schools and making larger schools is a good idea. We would be better in Oxford with an Oxford Board, responsible for Oxford students.

In schools the students should come first, the teachers are on the front line, where the action is. The parents and teachers should work together

very closely. Teachers should teach respect and personal worth by example.

This was a very interesting panel, the ladies were thanked by Sherrill Babbey and presented with a book "From This Place".

The Resolution on Water and Federal Involvement was presented by Louise Baird and was passed by the group. Fran Hyatt conducted the election and installation of officers, there is a full slate. New president is Sheila Greason, who was given the president's pin by Margaret Lee and Sheila presented her with the Past-president's pin.

Sheila Greason will get \$250 towards her registration to the ACWW meeting in July. The 4H exchange to the Maritimes this year was given \$100.

The Fall Board meeting is at Huntingford Church on Sept. 25 with Braemar and Lakeside hosting.

Next year's District Annual is May 22 at Brown's School and it will be in the evening, hosted by Springford and Browns Branches. Salford Branch is taking a bus to Drayton to see a play Sept. 5, lunch is at Anna May's on the way. Anyone interested in going call Jean Roberts at 485-2119.

A very interesting day.

Happy 85th
Birthday
ANNIE UREN



An Open House will
be held on Friday,
June 29, 2001,
7 - 9 pm at the home
of John and Helen
Conway
17505 Plover Mills
Rd., Thorndale, Ont.
Best wishes only
please.