

# Oxford County WI celebrate 100 years

By Ruth Skillings

LAKESIDE CORRESPONDENT

WOW! What a party Monday evening as Oxford County Women's Institute celebrated their 100 years of activity. Over 200 members and former members met at Elmhurst Inn with time to view the wonderful display of memorabilia, gathered and arranged by the Lakeside Branch. The 100th Anniversary Cookbook was on sale and by the end of the evening were all gone. They are looking to have another three hundred published and are taking names.

The formal meeting opened with the Institute Ode and Mary Stewart Collect, the entrance of the flags and O Canada. Janet Uren, president, welcomed everyone, Irene Richardson led the Grace and everyone enjoyed a

delicious dinner.

Between first course and dessert was the toast to the Queen and the cutting of the cake, the honours to Kit Caffyn, a long-time member who has been president of the District, Conference and London Area, she was accompanied by her daughter, Peg, the Mayor of Southwest Oxford.

Following dessert, cake and ice cream with a strawberry, we were entertained by the local "Raging Grannies," who were a delight to listen to and their messages were very timely. Greetings were given by FWIO president Dianne Orr, who presented a Certificate from FWIO recognizing our 100 years. Provincial Board member Carol Force, London Area President, Eleanor Williams and P.A.C. Vivian McDonald attended the special evening.

A special banner was created for this occasion and it was unveiled by Sheila and Janet. It is a beautiful piece of work and has listed all the remaining branches in Oxford as well as the ones that were and have disbanded.

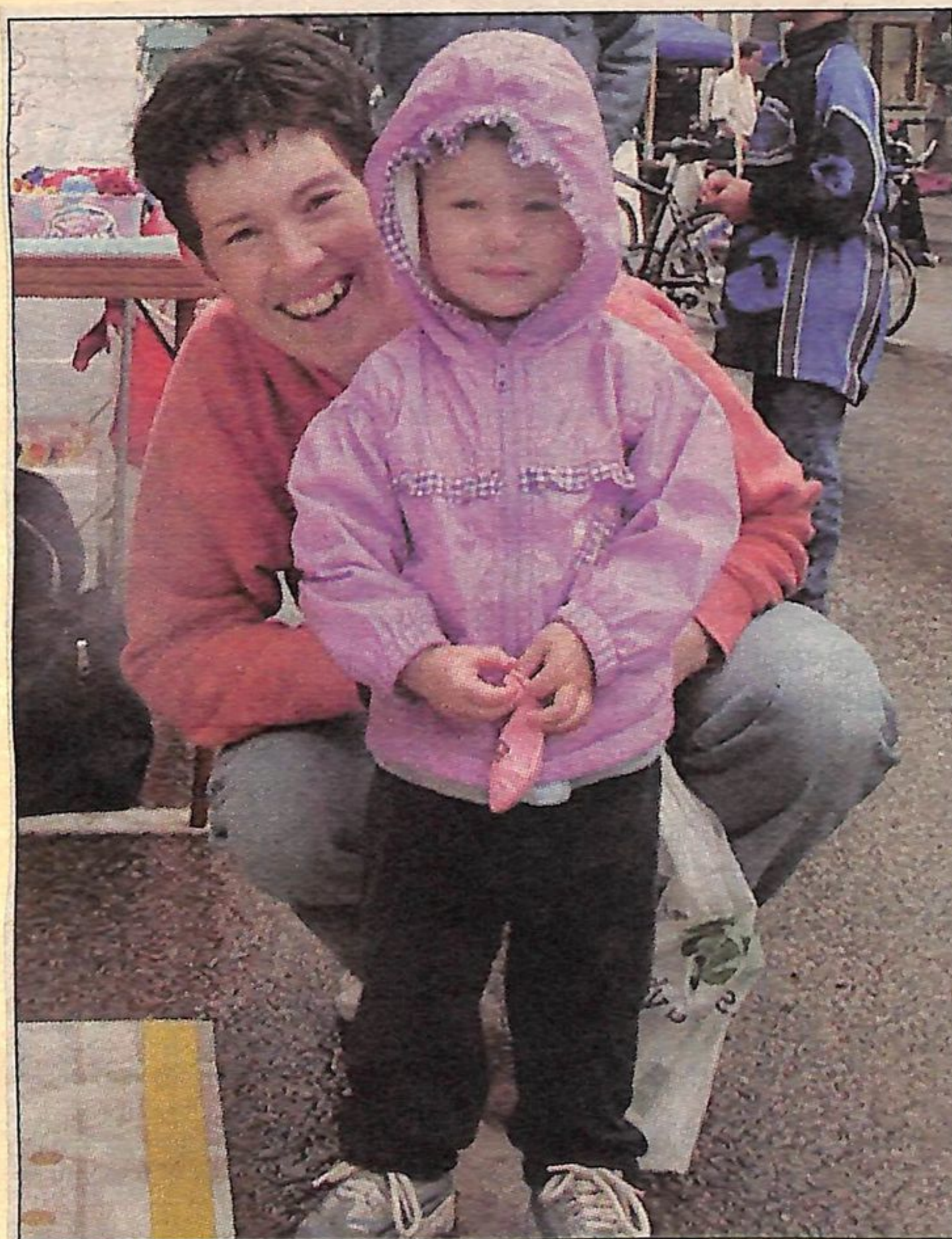
Special guests included Warden David Oliphant; Women in Support of Agriculture, Kristan Hammond; OMAF Kim DeKlein; OCFA Nancy Walther; Farm Safety Norma Howe; Ag in the Classroom, Alison VanKerrebroeck; Oxford 4H Assoc. Janet Fleming.

Special thank you to Sheila Greason and her committee that put this all together.

The final entertainment was by the "Festival Sounds Chorus" with members from Perth and Oxford, directed by Cathy Hooper from London. The assistant director is Susan (Ball) Sutherland, who directed the choir through "Operator."

Janet Uren gave the closing remarks, the flags were retired and the Royal Anthem was sung, accompanied by Marlene Matheson, completing a

wonderful evening. All attending took home a booklet "Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Institute in Oxford County."



Little Jill Yates, with mom Barb, donated a loonie to the St. Marys Kinette Loonie Mile which raised \$132 for cystic fibrosis research.