

Many Women's Institutes celebrating century of service

By Ruth Skillings

LAKESIDE CORRESPONDENT

The 93rd London Area Convention was held at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Hall Oct. 3. We were welcomed by president Anne Innes and chairperson of South Perth, who hosted the event. In Memoriam was by the St. Paul's Branch. The financial report was given by Marg Ogar and examiners Vivian McDonald and Laura Green gave their report.

It is a very interesting time when each District gives a report of what has been done over the year. Elgin District celebrated its 100th anniversary as well as a number of branches, including Braemar in Oxford.

A number of Districts put up displays at other community events. Oxford is partnering with Team Shan to raise awareness among young women of breast cancer. Twinning of branches is encouraged, so members of each branch will be comfortable visiting with or working with other branches. Pot luck suppers and fun nights were enjoyed. Most districts held education workshops and some health fairs. Very active groups!

President Anne thanked her Brooksdale Branch for her flowers and congratulated all those celebrating 100 years of activity. She suggested that branches develop buddy systems with other branches, which would make it easier for members of closing branches go to neighbouring branches. Audrey Armour passed away this year and she had corresponded with people and branches around the world. Anne encouraged branches or individuals to take on these pen pals and keep in touch.

Audrey's daughter donated a large number of stuffed bears and things, to be used by local services and or for fundraisers. We had a silent auction with the bears and a nice sum of money was realized.

Debbie Bauer took over the chair for the balance of the morning. FWIO president Rosemary Moran was not able to attend our meeting this year. In her place, Ileen Chesterman and Barbara Anne Temple, FWIO Board members, gave Rosemary's address. The Connecting Link newsletter from the office and is available on the Internet. Members are urged to get it off the Internet whenever possible. The address www.fwio.on.ca and follow the links.

Reported this past year were 500,000 hours at \$10 per hour, equal to \$5 million dollars. Good to know when applying for grants or partners.

Ruth Gourley was elected London Area voting delegate, Eleanor Williams her alternate. Carol Innes was our choice for FWIO President Elect.

Pauline Lindsey attended the ACWW Conference in Finland this summer. It was the 25th tri-annual conference represented by 37 countries and 600 women.

We broke for a delicious lunch, then back to business with the singing of *Hymn of Peace*. Past president

Glenna Landell chaired this session with greetings from South West Area, Guelph and from Grey-Bruce area.

Donna Willows introduced speaker Nancy from Listowel with her helpers Audrey and Grace from Stratford. These ladies are involved with "Wigs and Accessories" at Knox Presbyterian Church in Stratford, a mission for cancer care. They have a large selection of wigs, turbans, scarves and hats for women, men and children, all free of charge! They brought many samples and they were lovely. Call 519-271-0373 to set up an appointment.

The second speaker, Alisha Jarvis, was ill and couldn't attend. She was going to speak on the War Amps programs. Rose coordinator Carol Innes gave the friendship challenge and the three top branches were: third, Mt. Brydges; second, Motherwell and first was Belgrave with 116 visitors. The reports were given and really made you proud to be a Women's Institute member.

Marlene Archer has been representing FWIO for a number of years and is retiring. She attended 39 different WI meetings this past year, along with moving to a new residence. There is lots of material on hand for all branches to use to prompt WI.

Barbara Anne Temple conducted the election of officers and the slate was full except for a second Vice President. Anne Innes remains president and Debbie Bauer is first vice president. Next year's meeting will be at Shedden Community Centre, on Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008 with Elgin District as hostess.

A delicious beef dinner was enjoyed by all. The head table was piped in and introduced by Ileen Chesterman.

The Maryn Pardy WI Scholarship was won by Allison McMillan from Bright. The award was accepted by her mother Lori McMillan. Allison is studying at Brock University in St. Catharines.

The entertainment for the evening was music by Arnold and Marg DeLong, Paul and Sheila McNaughton and Colleen Coulthard which featured toe-tapping melodies. Also, John Coulthard is a very accomplished step-dancer and he danced three different times. Colleen is Arnold and Marg's daughter and John is her son, a real family event. The meeting closed with the retiring of the flags and *God Save Our Queen*.

Browns special euchre this Saturday at noon

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LAKESIDE CORRESPONDENT

The Browns Women's Institute held their October meeting at the Browns School on October 16 with good attendance. President Evelyn Douglas opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reading "Indian Summer." The minutes were read and the treasurer's report was given. A report of the fall board meeting was given by Sue Day and Joyce West reported on the London Area Convention. Correspondence was read. Plans were made for the euchre luncheon to be held on Saturday, Nov. 3 at noon. A committee was established to plan the 70th anniversary. Browns Women's Institute is responsible for the entertainment at the Christmas party with Lakeside. A name plate for the Women's Institute will be purchased.

The Agricultural Issues, Business and Industry committee and convenor Sue Day were in charge of the meeting. The roll call was to name something you enjoyed at Thanksgiving dinner. Pennies for Friendship was 10 cents for everything you ate in the last week that contained chicken.

Sue introduced the guest speaker, Howard Patience from Thamesford. Howard and his family operate a very successful broiler business. The chicks come from New Hamburg hatcheries. There are 60,000 chicks in a flock. Sprinklers and thermostats control the humidity and temperature in the barns. Howard was thanked by Sue Day. Evelyn Arthur gave the courtesy remarks inviting everyone to the

November meeting which will be a tea tasting party at the Rosewood Bed and Breakfast. Everyone is welcome.

Browns WI euchre news

Winners at the Thursday, Oct. 25 Browns WI euchre were as follows: Lady's High - Doris Champion; Lady's Lone Hands - Joyce West; Lady's Low - Belle Oliver. Men's High - John MacDonald; Men's Lone Hands - Allen Sims; Men's Low - Gordon Smith. Door Prize - Jean Sims. A good time was had by all.

Browns WI special euchre is Saturday, Nov. 3 at noon. Proceeds to the local branch and for Rwanda Grannies. Advance tickets only can be arranged by calling Evelyn Arthur at 519-283-6435; Sheila Greason at 519-349-2768 or Evelyn Douglas at 519-349-2282.