

Dr. Bruce and Elizabeth Halliday of Tavistock brought a lace trimmed linen handkerchief to be appraised by Judy Lyons AOS Quilt and Textile Appraiser at the Antique Appraisal Day hosted by Oxford District Women's Institute on Family Day. Bruce's dad Clarence sent this handkerchief to his sweetheart Edith Phillips who was teaching at teacher's college in Ottawa in 1917. Clarence was fighting in Paris, France where he purchased the gift. In 1925, he married Edith and they were married for 44 years before Clarence died. (Laura Green photo)

By the time you read this, the groundhog will have told us whether spring will be here in six weeks or two months. A fun time to start the month and then Valentines in the middle and now Family Day. Also, February is Black History Month. Who said February was boring.

Browns Women's Institute's January meeting took place at Browns School on January 20. President Evelyn Douglas read a poem, When We But Dream. Two members will attend the Food Safety Workshop on February 25. It was decided to send some sewing items to Madagascar through Canada Comforts. It was also decided to make a donation to the Women's Emergency Centre.

The roll call was answered by sharing a personal emergency experience. Liz Harrison and her group presented the topic, Emergency

Preparedness; families should be aware of personal emergencies in their area and have a plan. A list of emergency telephone numbers should be prepared. Have a plan for pets and special needs family members. Liz had prepared a display of items for an emergency home and car kit. Pamphlets on winter driving, floods, severe storms and winter power failures were distributed.

Courtesy remarks were given by Dianne Greason. The February meeting will feature Chair Exercises.

A delicious lunch and fellowship were enjoyed. The closest birthday prize was won by Kay Conn.

Browns Women's Institute's Jan. 29 euchre night winners were: Men' High, Terry Barber; Men Lone Hands, George McLellan; Men's Low, Larry Brook; and Men's Door Prize, Andy Kittmer. Ladies' High, Doris Champion; Ladies' Lone Hands, Donna Feirra; Ladies' Low, Jean Sims; and Ladies' Door Prize, Carol Herbert.

Winners from the Jan. 17 euchre party were: Ladies' High, Doris Champion; Ladies' Lone Hands, Joyce West; Ladies' Low, Alice Pounds; and Ladies' Door Prize, Noreen Switzer. Men's High, Ken Judge; Men's Lone Hands, Allan Sims; Men's Low, Evelyn Douglas (playing as a man); and Men's Door Prize, Terry Barber.

Next euchre evening will be February 12, same place, same time.

Camp Tanner's dinner and auction takes place Friday, February 14 at the Embro/West Zorra community centre, Embro. Viewing is at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. To donate articles, services or experiences, or to buy tickets, call Sheila at 519-349-2768 or Sandra at 519-475-4833.

WI appraisal day draws family heirloom with a love story

By Laura Green For the Ingersoll Times

Antiques and family treasures came carefully wrapped in tissue paper, tea towels or brown bags to the Antique Appraisal Day held Feb.16 in Woodstock. Oxford District Women's Institute hosted the event that attracted 135 people who bought in a variety items to be appraised.

Each item had a special story that went with and one story had romance. Dr. Bruce and Elizabeth Halliday of Tavistock brought a lace trimmed linen handkerchief to be appraised. Bruce's dad Clarence sent this handkerchief to his sweetheart Edith Phillips who was teaching at model school of the Normal School (teacher's college) in Ottawa back in 1917. Clarence was fighting in Paris, France where he purchased the gift. In 1925, he married Edith and they were married for 44 years before Clarence died. Edith treasured this hankie until her death in 1985.

While waiting for a turn with the appraisers, one could view John Hiuser's (Embro) display of his collections of sausage makers, grinders (meat and vegetables) and irons dating between 1860's to the early 1900's and made by Enterprise Manufacturing Company. Allan Woods of Thorndale had his collection of kitchen items and small tools displayed as "Guess what I am". Bob Strawhorn of Woodstock who had the first correct answer drawn from box identified the mystery object – a split row tire rim remover for a Model T Ford.

Browns Women's Institute had the most unique antique on display. It was a pot scrubber made of links of wire.

