

1976 will always be remembered for the first time that Bruce County played host to the International Ploughing Match. It was held near Walkerton September 28-Oct. 2nd and was a huge success. Many Committees, including the Tartan Committee, planned for months ahead. The Tartan Committee sponsored models wearing garments from the Bruce County Tartan each day. Models came from Bruce North on 28th, Bruce Centre on 29th, Bruce East on 30th, Bruce South on Oct. 1st, and from Bruce East again on Oct. 2nd. Tartan Committee members also had a booth in the County Exhibits building where they sold jewellery, ceramics, spoons and glengarrys. Sales were most gratifying. At the same time, the Women's Institute Rally through their Districts had a hospitality booth in the same building.

W.I. produces over 1,200 Glengarrys for plowing match

Glengarrys made from the famous Bruce County Tartan will be in sight everywhere this fall when the International Plowing Match is held near Walkerton.

The tartan was commissioned by a committee selected by Bruce County Council in 1963 to celebrate the centennial of Bruce County and Canada. The original committee was composed of Dr. J. F. Morton, Southampton, Mrs. Mary Gateman, Southampton, Mrs. J. E. Rowe, Kincardine, Mrs. Kathleen Jacklin, Brant Twp., Mrs. Olive Hepburn, Hope Bay, Mrs. Dorothy Wimperley, Southampton, Mr. Norman MacLeod and Warden H. T. Palmateer.

With a few modifications the tartan is very close to the tartan of the clan Bruce in Scotland.

The Women's Institutes of Bruce County were given exclusive rights to the promotion, production, selling and licencing of the Bruce County tartan in 1973 by Bruce County Council. In addition, the Women's Institutes also have the rights to the manufacture of clothing, goods and materials made of the tartan and souvenir items decorated with the County of Bruce crest.

It was to the Women's Institutes that members of the Plowmen's Association contacted nearly three years ago to see if it was possible for them to make a huge number of glengarrys from the Bruce County tartan. These are to be worn at and before the plowing match to be held September 28 to October 2 at the Earl Johnson and neighbouring farms near Walkerton.

Since that time, members of the four Institute districts have been busily sewing the glengarrys to have them ready in time for the match.

Bruce County South district of the Institute was the first group to make the hats, with members making 535.

Since then, Bruce East and Bruce North have also made a number of hats and today the total made is upwards of 1200.

The hats are available in each district from representatives to the Bruce County Tartan Committee. The representative in Bruce County South is Mrs. Gladys Arnold of Ripley.

The present Women's Institute tartan committee is composed of Mrs. Gladys Arnold, Ripley, Mrs. Earl Busch, Southampton, Mrs. Donald Cameron, Tiverton, Mrs. Iris Coyne, Warton, Mrs. Harvey Davis, Dobbington.

Research and picture by The Independent Kincardine



Bruce South representative to the Bruce County Tartan Committee, Mrs. Gladys Arnold of Ripley is pictured with some of the items made and sold by the Bruce County Women's Institutes.



1976 - Bruce Centre held W.I. a Hobby Fair