

The Chesley Branch of The Women's Institute was organized on June 14th 1910 by the late Mrs. Shoemaker, President of the Paisley Branch, Mrs. Bocken of Hamilton and Mrs. Hunter of Brantford. The first meeting was advertised to be held in the Council Chamber but so many ladies came it was necessary to move upstairs to the Town Hall. Mrs. Shoemaker introduced the speakers, Mrs. Hunter told of the advantages of belonging to the Institute and Mrs. Brocken demonstrated home sewing and mending. The ladies were enthusiastic about organizing and the Branch started with a membership of forty-three and the following officers:

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|---------------------|---|--|
| President           | - | Mrs. J. E. Beattie   |
| Vice President      | - | Mrs. John Oswald   |
| Secretary-Treasurer | - | Mrs. W. G. Warmington  |
| Directors           | - | Mrs. Robt. Oswald, Mrs. Fred Fry,<br>Mrs. H. R. Elliott and Miss Helen Brown |
| District Director   | - | Mrs. M. R. Pearce  |
| Auditors            | - | Mrs. J. M. Stewart and Mrs. George Durst                                     |

Of the 43 charter members, 22 have passed away, 10 have moved from town, 10 are still with us but are no longer members. Only one has remained faithful during the 37 years - Mrs. John Oswald.

The first meetings were devoted mainly to exchanging recipes and topics of interest to the housekeeper, but subjects of more importance were also discussed such as disposal of garbage in our town and our defective sewers. Also addresses by local professional men on subjects of interest to women.

Mrs. Beattie continued as President during 1911 with Miss Belle Elliot acting as Secretary-Treasurer during the latter months of the Institute year.

At the Annual meeting in 1912 Mrs. S. Owens was elected President, Vice-Presidents Mrs. Jos. Maxwell and Mrs. J. M. Stewart, Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Maria McCannel (the present Mrs. David Thomson).

In January 1913 a Rest Room was opened on the West side of Main street and the meetings were held there. The room was planned for the convenience of the ladies from the country but it was not used a great deal.

For the year 1914-15 Mrs. Beattie was again President and Mrs. Warmington Secretary-Treasurer. In August 1914 a sweater was sent to every volunteer from town. \$35.00 was subscribed by the members and a canvas of the town completed the amount required (amounting