

# WI still faithful to its rural roots

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the sponsorship of disadvantaged children overseas. WI members also donate money and energy to local hospitals, old age homes, crisis centres and schools.

World war two was a particularly intense time for Womens Institutes throughout North America, the members said. "We knit and knit until we couldn't knit any more," Ethel McLean said, recalling the effort to supply soldiers overseas with home-made goods.

Purple Valley WI was part of a program to provide special hampers for young men from the community serving in the forces overseas—"They included cigarettes, handkerchiefs, peanuts, apples, cookies, chocolates, adhesive tape, fruit cake, and gum," Charlene reported from the old accounts books.

"And during the war years they made 100 quilts in one year,"

Audrey Hepburn said.

One of the grandest feathers in the Purple Valley WI cap is the now-traditional Purple Valley Maple Syrup Festival held at the community centre. Held annually on Easter Saturday, the event was spearheaded by member Olive Burt in 1968. "We were amazed how many came out when we first held it (originally at the Burt farm)," Olive said.

These days the festival attracts thousands of people from all over Ontario who love to get an early rush of spring fever at the event, lapping up pancakes with fresh maple syrup and enjoying the entertainments, turkey shoot, kids rides, and craft show.

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## "Footloose on the Bruce" details Warder family history

Maitland Warder has just published a historical work which will be of great interest to peninsula residents and to all of us who are fascinated by the way life was in days gone by.

"Footloose on the Bruce" is a chronology of family drama, covering the Warder family from their beginnings in agriculture in England during the 1850s, through their pilgrimage to North America and then, from east of Toronto to Georgian Bay and finally their coming to Lion's Head to homestead in 1877. It details the lives of the early homesteaders and the variety of undertakings they were involved in while trying to provide for themselves and their families.

Maitland Warder describes his book as a "companion piece" to "Between You and Me and the Gatepost", the book his father Walter wrote in 1975 at the age of 90.

"Footloose on the Bruce" is 420 pages and includes over 500 photographs. It is printed on a cream-coloured glossy paper in an attractive sepia ink (dark brown). It is available at many bookstores and other outlets including the following:

**Peninsula Pharmacy, Lion's Head**



Maitland Warder,  
author of "Footloose on the Bruce"

**McKenzie Pharmacy, Warton**

**The Warton Echo**

**Coates & Best, Owen Sound**

**Safe Harbour Bookstore, Owen Sound.**