

But there were still plenty of activities to occupy the members. On August 28, 1951, a group went on a bus trip to Niagara Falls. At the last minute Rachel McLay and Mae MacDonald found they were unable to go. Rather than change seating plans, Rachel's husband Allan K. McLay and Charles Hayes went in their places. This was considered a bit of a joke at the time but the men thought it a worthwhile outing and spoke of it many times.

The Lindsay W.I. celebrated its 25th anniversary on



Lindsay Women's Institute meeting, early 1950s. The meeting was at the home of Mary Susan McLay.

Back (l to r): Vera Forbes holding Larry, Margaret McCutcheon, Christie MacDonald, Ruth McLay, Christina McCutcheon, Annie Smith, Lenore McLay holding Eric, Eliza Hayes, Effie Woods, Bernice McLay.

Front (l to r): Rachel McLay, Lillian Clarke, Freda Meyer, Dorothy McLay, Kate Mielhausen.

Middle: Christie D.S. McLay.

February 14, 1951 at the home of Maggie Smith where the branch was originally organized. Seven of the Lion's Head visitors who helped set up the branch in 1926 also attended. **The Echo** reported the meeting in detail, noting the similarities with that first meeting:

*The Lion's Head ladies were met at the Monument Corners with horses and sleigh. Lindsay members were out in full force, also some charter members who have left the area arranged to be there. The meeting was opened as usual and the roll was answered by 'How many years I have been an Institute member.' Four answered to 25 consecutive years.*

*The President welcomed the visiting branch and all other visitors. She then called on Mrs. Alf (Frances) Rouse, our first president, who in a few well chosen words expressed her pleasure at being present and meeting so many old friends. The president, Mrs. Wm. (Lillian) Clarke, called on Mrs. A.K. (Rachel) McLay, secretary, to read the history of the organization and the names of charter members and of those present from Lion's Head, and letters from*

*two charter members.*

*Mrs. Donald (Lenore) McLay gave a reading 'Recipe for a Happy Year.' Mrs. Seaman (Bernadette) Tigert conducted a tie contest, won by Mrs. Moore. Mrs. Mary Hofstrand conducted a guessing contest, won by Mrs. John N. (Maggie) Smith. A Valentine reading by Mrs. Freda Meyer was next, followed by a hat contest, conducted by Mrs. John G. McLay and won by Mrs. D.S. McLay. Mrs. Wm. Clarke then conducted a 'making a Valentine contest' won by Mrs. Robert Brough. Readings were given by Bernadette Tigert and Mary Hofstrand. A paper on 'Citizenship' was given by Mrs. Dorothy McLay.*

*Mrs. Moore gave a little talk and the meeting closed by joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne. A bazaar held by the ladies was well patronized. Lunch was served by the hostess and committee, finished off with anniversary cake.*

The 35th anniversary was held on February 10, 1961, at the home of Annie McLay Bartley at Dyers Bay. A decorated anniversary cake made by Freda Meyer and Ruby McLay was the centre of attention following a turkey dinner attended by 13 women. The President Dorothy McLay was ill and unable to preside. Sarah Hayes conducted the meeting. Helen Ceaser read the Scripture. The highlight of the afternoon was when Rachel McLay was presented with a life membership in the Women's Institute.

The 40th anniversary was held at the home of Sarah Hayes in 1966. However, it became increasingly difficult to keep the W.I. in operation during the 1960s and 1970s, perhaps because there was no longer the same need for the kinds of support and services it provided. A vote was taken at the May 1973 meeting in favour of disbanding. A few more meetings were held, but in the end the branch was closed after 47 years.