

The Oliphant Women's Institute

It was 1917 - World War I! The Oliphant ladies felt they should be contributing to the war effort. On May 17, 1917, they organized the Oliphant Women's Institute.

North-Bruce District President, Mrs. Bolton, and Mrs. Alfred Watt, conducted the election and installed the Officers: President, Mrs. John Walsh; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Murdoch McKenzie; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. William Moore; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Cecil Swale; Directors, Mrs. Alex. Moore, Mrs. John Fox and Mrs. W. H. Wright.

Money was subscribed and many projects raised money to buy yarn, etc. In 1917, 175 pairs of socks were knitted to be sent overseas and put in sailors' bags and boxes.

The Institute has sponsored a 4-H Club since 1959 so that girls of our community learn to sew, cook, garden, etc. Leaders were Mrs. Clayton Davidson and Mrs. Wilfred Pruder.

In 1958 through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Hyatt land on the Oliphant Beach was acquired from Amabel Township Council as a Community Park for picnics.

Then in 1967, marking their 50th Anniversary, they undertook to raise \$200 by public subscription and bought the Stone School from the Public School Board

of the Township School Area of Warton-Albemarle. Mrs. James Hyatt worked tirelessly to see the creation of the Oliphant Women's Institute Community Hall.

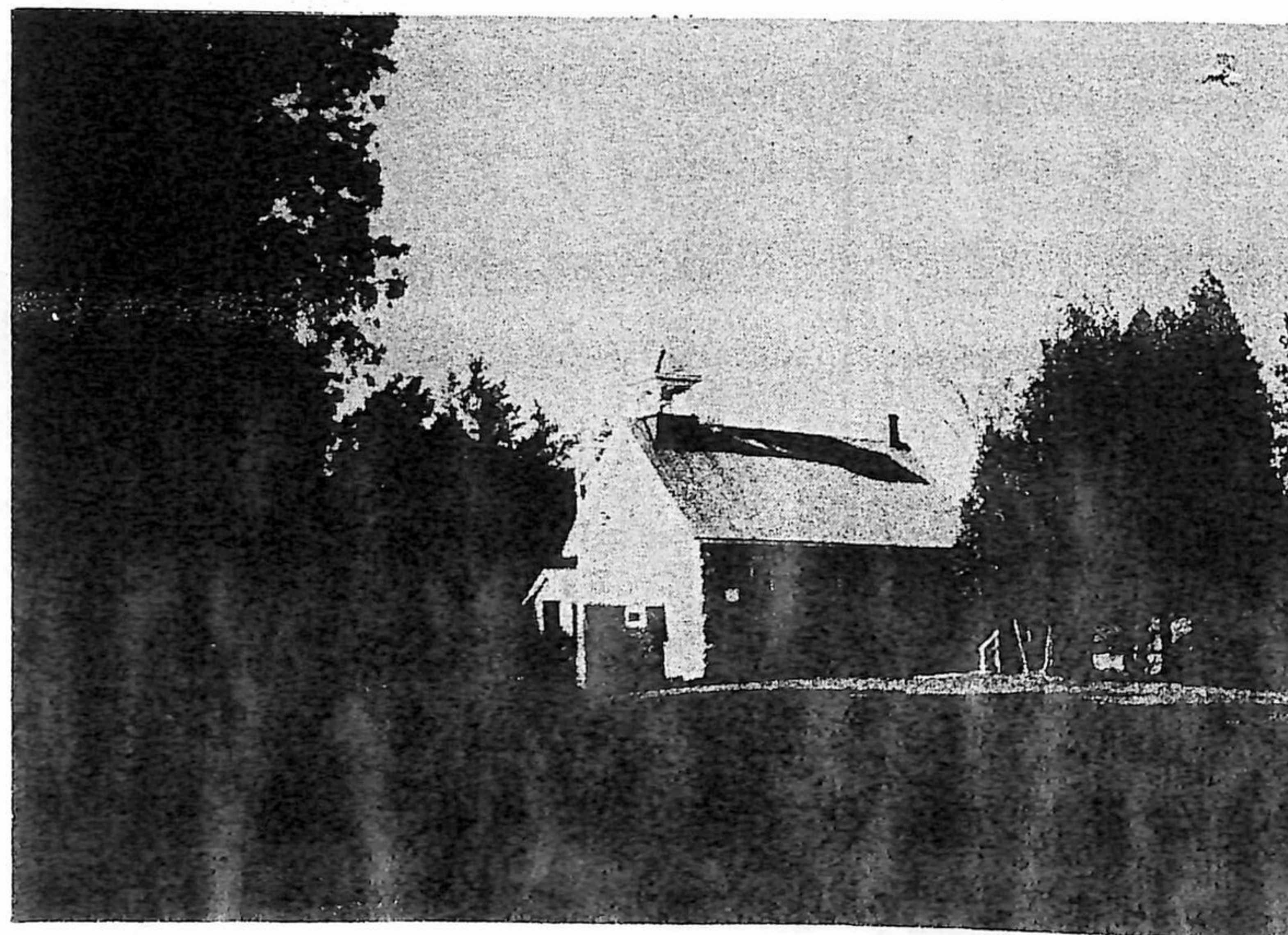
The Amabel Council granted us \$1,000.00 from the Ida Edick Estate. This was a "godsend". The whole community pitched in to raise money in every way to the tune of \$2,455.50. Donated materials totalled \$795.00. Total cost in cash was \$13,640.59.

The yard needed some sprucing-up and the outside trim on the buildings needed painting. A Young Canada Works Program called "Paint and Polish" was granted in 1977. Three local students trimmed trees, painted, put up a fence, levelled and topsoiled the yard and planted ornamental evergreens.

Under the direction of Mrs. Oliver Trafelet, the Senior Citizens' Club "Young at Heart" got a New Horizon's Grant in 1977. The classroom of the former school got a complete face-lift - ceiling lowered, a new, raised floor, walls and ceiling insulated, dry-walled and painted, aluminum storms and screens installed; the grant totalled \$5,630.00.

The second New Horizon's Grant in 1981 paid for the new roof and cement floor on the woodshed. Amount of grant was \$1,260.00.

Our grateful thanks to the many unnamed contributors - may we enjoy these facilities in our social life of the community - and we hope the former pupils of S. S. No. 12 Amabel when looking at it with some feelings of nostalgia feel that it is still a well-kept, useful building.



S.S. No. 12 Amabel, Oliphant stone school is a Women's Institute community hall today