

Each branch for home and country

Walsh Women's Institute

Walsh Women's Institute had nine members including one charter life member when it disbanded in March, 1971. It was organized in February, 1913.

Oakerest WI

Women of both the Oak Grove and Hill Crest communities joined in May of 1933 to organize the Oakerest branch of the WI. They held fruit and vegetable showers for the local hospital, supplied first-aid kits to the schools in the area, and assisted needy families directly and through organized agencies. Oakerest has been particularly interested in information concerning the developing Canadian northland. The branch does not spend much time on money-making activities as they feel this is not the main function of the institute. In 1958 the branch celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Eva Brook Donly museum.

Port Rowan WI

A WI was organized in the town hall of Port Rowan in June of 1923. Of the 29 charter members, Mrs. James Morrison and Mrs. L. Humphrey are still members. The original town hall was renovated and used for meetings until it was decided to meet in the homes of members. In 1931 \$50 was given to the cemetery board, \$20 to the local library, and \$105 to the Simcoe Hospital. A piano was bought for the school and a music teacher supplied for three years. A phonograph and pictures of the great masters were also purchased for the school. Prizes of books were awarded to students. An oak tree was planted in the school yard to commemorate the visit of the king and queen in 1939. In recent years, one outstanding project was a turkey dinner served to 45 senior citizens.

Blue Lake and Auburn WI

Blue Lake and Auburn WI credits the younger women with keeping their branch alive. They have been encouraged to attend the meetings and bring their children with them. The branch was organized in

June, 1917, under the direction of Mrs. S. G. Kitchen, district president at that time. Nine members attended the first meeting at Mrs. Hiram Johnson's home, Blue Lake. The branch completely furnished Adelaide's bedroom in her girlhood home the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Two Korean orphans were adopted through the Foster Parents Plan for several years.

Maple Grove WI

Maple Grove WI was organized in October of 1921. 13 women attended the first official meeting when a Halloween party was planned. Proceeds from the party went to buying equipment for the school. Later a mirror and rainbarrel were bought for the pupils to use for washing, as water had to be carried for drinking from a distant well. Funds were given to the Sunday school to purchase a piano to replace the wheezy little organ that had seen better days. Before chairs were purchased for community meetings, the men made the rounds with horses and bob-sleighs or wagons collecting kitchen chairs for social events. The branch received recognition in Chatelaine for war

work. In 1944 \$100 was donated to the school board toward building a basement under the school. In 1952 Maple Grove's quilt won first prize in Brant District and second prize in the Hamilton convention. In 1965, after selling tickets on a quilt, \$100 was given to the Brantford Civic Centre fund, and an equal amount to the Tri-Centurina Fund. At a later date \$100 was donated towards the construction of bleachers for the park in Oakland.

Cainsville WI

Cainsville WI celebrated its 65th anniversary this year. It has grown to a membership of 50 from the original 16 members in 1906. For many years meetings were held at Cainsville school where the teachers' room was furnished, first aid equipment and playground equipment was provided and proficiency and diligence prizes awarded to deserving pupils. As rural schools were integrated into the larger school boards, members turned their attention to sewing for St. Joseph's Hospital, Red Cross Meals on Wheels, the John Noble Home, Windows' Home and a \$200 donation was given Cainsville volunteer firemen toward a water tank truck. One woman has been a member for 61 years.

Falkland

Through the efforts of Mrs. William Tennant Falkland WI was organized in December, 1909. Two highlights of the branch's activities were sponsoring a Horticultural Society for many years and locating and inviting descendants of families to a Rededication Service of the renovated pioneer cemetery in 1953.

Tyrrell WI

The Tyrrell WI was organized in February of 1914, with 17 members. It was arranged to have a demonstration of bread-making and salads at the first meeting. When the Tyrrell Community Centre Co-op was organized, the institute donated an 80-cup coffee-maker and other equipment. A bank account is opened for each new baby of the institute members.

Courtland Women's Institute

Courtland Women's Institute still boasts two charter members. It was organized in June, 1906. The branch helped plan building and furnishing the Memorial Hall in 1919. It took an active part in the Township Fair until it was discontinued in 1942. Financial help has been given to both Norfolk General and Tillsonburg District hospitals.

Glenmorris WI

The Glenmorris WI was organized in January of 1907, in the Presbyterian church of the village. There were five charter members. In 1919 a little girl in France was clothed and educated. In 1971 a boy in Hong Kong was adopted. The Glenmorris Tweedsmuir History won the national competition in 1953, bringing the Tweedsmuir cup to Ontario for the first time.

Norfolk County District

A series of meetings throughout Norfolk County in 1901 resulted in the selection of Women's Institute district officers in January, 1902. Subsequently branches were formed throughout the county. By 1919 the need for a hospital in the county was stressed by doctors and various WI branches helped to publicize this and helped raise funds toward collecting equipment for a 23 bed hospital. Many branches furnished whole rooms and assistance has been continued through the years with contributions toward hospital expansion, programs providing furnishings and equipment.

For 25 years the WI conducted the sale of TB seals

in Norfolk County. District and branch officers were instrumental in forming a Norfolk Cancer Society. Branches gave \$700 toward the purchase of Edgar Cantelon paintings depicting early Norfolk history.

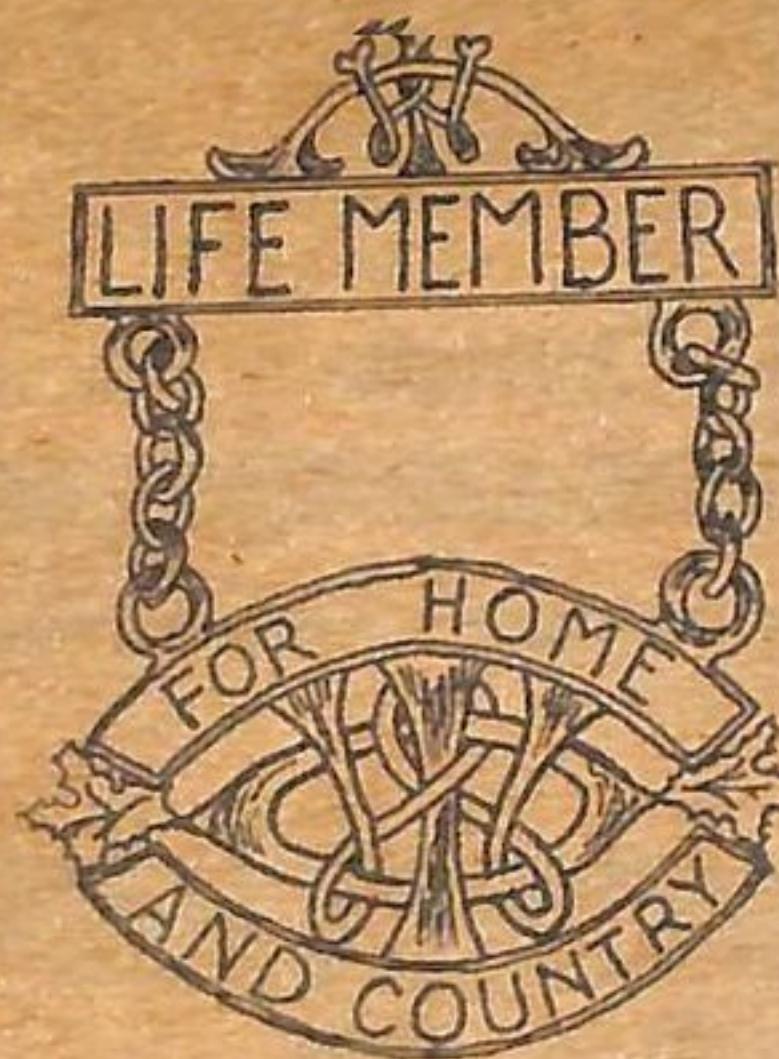
Teeterville Women's Institute

Through the efforts of Jennie McKnight and Hazel Barnes, Teeterville Women's Institute was organized in February, 1928, with 10 charter members. The branch introduced and provided music instruction in the local school and four schools in Windham Township. In 1936 a piano was bought with proceeds from a Southern Brunswick Stew supper. The stew was made in an open caldron. This has developed into an annual

event with more than 400 persons being served. The branch bought and renovated the Teeterville Public School building as a community hall for the area. For this project it received the second prize Chatelaine Award for outstanding contribution to community improvement by rural organizations in 1961-62.

Long Point WI

The Long Point WI was organized in March 1952 with nine members. A Santa Claus parade was started nine years ago. Lunch is served for basketball playoffs. Long Point donates a cup for field day at the school. A bursary for a student nurse is given. The branch is planting shrubs at the school.



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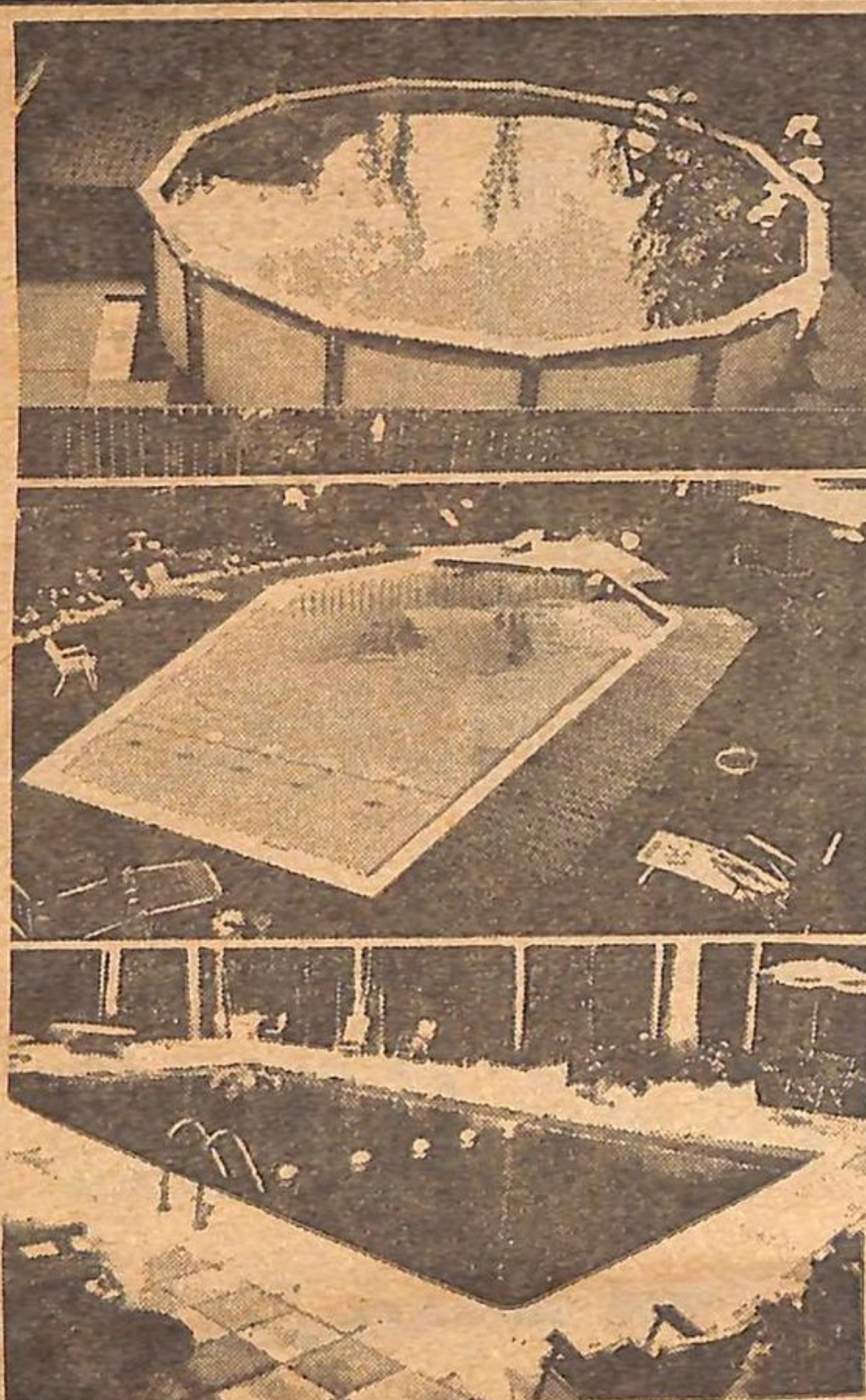
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