

# Women's Institutes celebrate 100 years

BY ANNEMARIE MCDONALD, PRO (SILVER-WOOD W.I.)

Special to The Gemini

The Bannockburn, Limehouse and Silver-Wood branches of the Women's Institute joined together on Feb. 19 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of their organization.

After opening with the Institute Ode and the Mary Stewart Collect, 23 members and five guests answered the roll call, "What the Women's Institute has done for me." Many mentioned the wel-

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

come and support received from the W.I., the sense of belonging and acceptance, the personal growth and confidence instilled, the 4-H and other practical short courses offered and the community history in the Tweedsmuir books.

Following the singing of the W.I. Centennial Song, the minutes of the first meeting of the Women's Institute held in Stoney Creek, Ontario on Feb. 19, 1897 were read, followed by the reading of the

minutes of the first meeting of the Bannockburn branch (organized March 1918), the Limehouse Branch (organized May 1921), and the Silver-Wood Branch (organized

March 1951).

Other highlights of this special evening included a sing-along, a ceremonial lighting of candles, a presentation of readings, and a quiz.

Remembering the past and celebrating the present will help the W.I. look forward to the future. The W.I. National Convention, taking place June 17 to 22, in Hamilton,

will include Dr. Roberta Bondar as guest speaker.

From the horse and buggy to the space shuttle, the W.I. remains true to its motto, "For Home and Country."



ONE HUNDRED YEARS STRONG: Kay Lawson (Limehouse W.I.), Joan Matheson (Silver-Wood W.I.), and Linda Cairns (Bannockburn W.I.) light candles celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institutes, Wednesday in Limehouse at the home of Doris Lindsay. The Women's Institute was founded in Stoney Creek. (Eve Martin photo)



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From Front Page

"Just because you win the gold doesn't mean you get an invite (to the Nationals)," Brisley said, adding that even if an invitation is extended, a

determination would still have to be made regarding the feasibility of going to the competition.

"I just want them to know that as a band they played

extremely well... These kids, with the exception of a handful of Grade Eights, have only been playing their instruments for a year," Brisley said.

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