

50th anniversary of founding of I.O.D.E. chapter celebrated

Three honored charter members, active members and former members from Acton and out-of-town met together Tuesday in a red, white and blue setting to fittingly celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter of the I.O.D.E.

A special cake, a guest speaker from provincial headquarters, the reading of a history and a series of fine toasts made the delightful evening complete.

Lined with red and blue streamers, red, white and blue candles, with matching serviettes, printed programs and tiny beaded baskets of candies, the tables welcomed 60 ladies in Knox church basement. The Ladies' Aid was assisted by members of the Daughters of Knox in serving the fruit cup, salads, relishes, pink garnished ice cream with small cakes, fruit cake, punch, pineapple halves filled with small pieces of fruit, tea, coffee and mints.

The banquet proceeded slowly, courses interspersed with music, greetings and toasts.

The traditional opening flag ceremony and recessional were taken by standard bearer Mrs. J. Rol and pianist Mrs. R. H. Elliott. Miss Ruby Clark said Grace and Mrs. Force proposed the toast to the Queen.

Three members who joined the chapter when it began in June 1916, were seated at the head table, Mrs. R. M. MacDonald, who is now "proud of being 85", Miss M. Z. Bennett whose continuing influence in the town is exemplified in the name of a school, and Mrs. G. A. Dills, who joins the other two in having held over many years posts in the executive of the chapter. Miss Bennett and Mrs. MacDonald cut the specially decorated birthday cake.

Mrs. W. J. Beatty introduced everyone, up and down the tables.

Names of deceased members were read by Mrs. J. Whitham, followed by a moment's silence. Mrs. Dills read the names of all past regents, and Mrs. H. Mainprize read a history of the chapter which she and Mrs. Dills had prepared. (See separate article).

The toast to the chapter was proposed by Mrs. W. Gowdy of Madison, Wisconsin, who spoke of her great joy at being back recalling former times.

Mrs. Bert Mowat replied, recalling the group was formed with high purposes, especially education. Good citizenship was urged to combat present threats. "Teach by precept our young people to love this great land."

Mrs. W. J. Beatty proposed the toast to the charter members, and with wit and verve Mrs. MacDonald replied for the three of them. In deference to their age, they have been "shifted upstairs" in executive posts, she pointed out. A highlight she wanted to recall was a bazaar in the last year of World War I which cleared \$700. Mrs. MacDonald is the last living member of a committee chosen to select a suitable war memorial, and the \$700 was given toward the \$2,000 cost of the cenotaph on Mill St. "Both chapters have helped with every worthwhile project in our town," she asserted.

The toast to national and provincial chapters was proposed

by Mrs. E. Lidka and the guest speaker, Mrs. Keegan, in reply, declared the "Order is justifiably proud of chapters such as yours."

Three charter members of Lakeside Chapter were guests, Mrs. J. Adamson, Mrs. Perry Watson and Mrs. D. Taylor, and Mrs. Adamson recalled that first meeting of tenagers. "Always we had the spirit and guidance of the senior members."

Representing Lakeside regent Mrs. C. Nelles, Mrs. A. J. Buchanan brought greetings from the daughter chapter, outlining progress from Children of the Empire, founded just shortly after the senior chapter, to a junior chapter and then a primary chapter. "We hope we have lived up to the standards you have set us."

During the program little Ingrid and Colin MacCollant danced in costume; Miss Helen Benton sang two lovely solos accompanied by Miss Mary Beth Elliott; and member Mrs. C. Heller played a fine piano solo.

Gifts were presented by Mrs. Newton to Mrs. Young, who was celebrating her wedding anniversary, to Mrs. Leslie whose birthday it was, to the guest speaker, and to the guest entertainers.

A detailed and most informative breakdown of the educational work of the order was given by provincial education secretary Mrs. Morley Keegan. New projects she reviewed included a junior chapter seminar and tour, travel bursaries for grade 11 students for centennial, the sale of centennial calendars and special portfolios of pictures.

Her facts included such impressive ones as the number of adopted and assisted schools—121 in Newfoundland and Labrador, 71 in the Northwest Territories, 37 in the British West Indies and Honduras and 82 in rural and isolated areas. Sometimes the I.O.D.E. sends the only extra books and supplies.

Creating pride in the work and presenting a challenge, she concluded by saying just three things impede progress—small thinking, limited vision and unwillingness to change.

She was thanked fittingly by Miss M. Z. Bennett.

The memorable banquet was arranged by Mrs. W. J. Beatty, a past regent. There were corsages for all special guests and past regents.

Out-of-town guests were Mrs. Morley Keegan, Oakville, provincial educational secretary; Miss Ann Stalker, Georgetown; Mrs. Hazen Graham, Georgetown; Mrs. Orland Robbins, St. Catharines; Mrs. Kenneth Knox, Oakville; Mrs. William A. Gowdy, Madison, Wisconsin; Mrs. J. M. McDonald, Toronto; Mrs. O. Stout, Guelph; Miss T. Hamill, Guelph; Mrs. J. Adamson, Galt; Mrs. A. Ironside, Clarkson; Mrs. Lorne Simpson, Burlington; Mrs. A. Mercer, London; Mrs. G. McDonald, Orangeville.

List of those who had sent regrets at being unable to attend was read by Miss Ruby Clark: Mrs. Margaret Austin, Tucson, Arizona; Mrs. Dorothy Baird, Jenkintown, Pennsylvania; Mrs. P. A. Sawyer, Hespeler, wife of a former minister; Mrs. L. B. Shorey, Napanee, a former

regent; Mrs. Veronica Speck, London; Mrs. W. Clayton, Willowdale; Mrs. T. Thorarinnson, Toronto; Mrs. Ada Matthews, Guelph, former regent; Mrs. P. Bailey, Onnecme; Mrs. B. W. Smith, Oakville; Mrs. Ed. Billon, Ganaoquo and Mrs. E. Simmons, Guelph (Miss Cooperside chapter).

Warden Hinton also sent his congratulations.

Expo, Acton library on I.O.D.E. program

"Mr. Expo of Ontario" and "Mercury Maude" shared the spotlight at the Tuesday meeting of the Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.D.E.

Allan Rowan-Legge, regional director of Expo, and Miss Esther Taylor were both billed as speakers following the delicious pot luck dinner enjoyed by 34 members and their guests.

Mrs. Rowan-Legge covers everything in Ontario that is being done in connection with Expo. With him came his secretary, Miss Erica de Boer.

It was decided a meeting will be held next Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Marguerite Taylor to transact business. The fair board ladies' fashion show of old costumes was announced.

The largest layette assembled in many years for the Save the Children Fund was on display. There were several quilts, mitts, socks, knitted helmets, scarves, bonnets and baby clothing. More articles may still be added, Mrs. E. Marks announced.

Speaking on Acton's library, Miss Esther Taylor began by reading a few poems written by public school children several years ago.

The library was formed in April, 1889, Free Press editor H. P. Moore was its secretary over 30 years and Mrs. R. M. MacDonald was the first librarian. The present librarian, Mrs. Perry Watson, began in 1925.

Acton has a very limited reference section with progress in all departments badly needed.

Mr. Rowan-Legge told the audience his first task was to interest industry in participating in Expo and to create general public interest. He was expo's first employee in Ontario two and a half years ago.

Expo will cost the same amount as the midway and is the first truly world exhibition to be held on the American continent. It's expected two and a half billion dollars will be left in Canada as a result of Expo.

The symbol, depicting two figures in harmony and prayer, won a design award. He showed slides of some of the beautiful and striking buildings as he thrilled his listeners with a realization of what Canada is doing.

Manor bingo

The Women's Auxiliary held a Bingo Game for Halton Manor residents on May 26 and prize winners were:

Mrs. Barnell, Bill Dewberry, Katharine Smith, Mrs. Peet, Bella Richardson, Mr. Kozak (2), Mrs. M. Forbes, Mrs. Hartland, Mr. Folley, and Mrs. Mann.

The prize of \$1 for a full card was won by Mrs. Hartland. After the bingo, the auxiliary served coffee and fruit bread.



GUEST SPEAKER Mrs. Morley Keegan, Oakville, (right), provincial educational secretary for the I.O.D.E., enjoyed a pre-dinner chat with guest soloist Miss Helen Benton and former Duke of Devonshire chapter member Mrs. W. Gowdy (left) from Madison, Wisconsin. The 50th anniversary banquet was held Tuesday.

Call wrong brigade then fire was out

Acton Firefighters took a long journey Thursday night of last week when they rode the fire truck to the farm home of Hugh Lindsay, Erasosa Township, to douse a tractor fire.

By the time firefighters arrived the fire was out. It was realized at this time the call should have been directed to Rockwood fire department. The Acton fire area doesn't include the Lindsay farm.

Last Friday firefighters doused a grass fire burning freely along the side of the town line in Nassagaweya Township.

Mohawk addition to cost \$750,000

Building permits valued at \$845,200 were issued in Nassagaweya Township during the months of April and May. Township clerk J. C. McIntyre reports the largest single permit was \$750,000 for the addition to Mohawk Raceway. Work on the addition began last Monday.

Other permits issued in May included \$5,000 for a garage, issued to Charles Mitchell, \$400 for a private garage, \$1,000 for an addition to a swimming pool, \$2,000 for an addition to a dwelling and two dwellings, each valued at \$10,000. Permits for May totalled \$788,400.

In April permits totalled \$56,800 and included four dwellings at \$10,000, \$14,000, \$13,800 and \$14,000 and a permit for a building for the Ontario Road Builders valued at \$5,000. The building will be used as part of the heavy equipment school on the Line of Nassagaweya which began last week.

George Washington, only president of the U.S. who never lived in the White House, laid the cornerstone for the building on October 13, 1792.

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Trinidadian gives credit to Canadian missionaries

In the absence of the president, the vice-president, Mrs. Don Joss, presided at the recent U.C.W. meeting; opening with the verse, "Not till the loom is silent." Twenty-one ladies answered the roll call with a verse containing the word "compassion". The committee for our Strawberry supper was named, the date being left until we see when the berries are plentiful.

The conveners for the evening were Mrs. Joss and Mrs. John Henry. Mrs. Henry read the Scripture from Psalm 11; and Mrs. Joss read a short article on the meaning of Pentecost the fiftieth day after the resurrection when the disciples became conscious of great power. Mrs. Henry led in prayer.

Mrs. Dunbar introduced the speaker of the evening, Harold Brechman Mahatoo, from Trinidad, who is teaching at Brookville School, Trinidad and Tobago are 2,900 square miles in area, the longest distance being 100 miles, and the shortest distance 40 miles. The population is almost 1,000,000.

On Columbus' third voyage, after many weary miles without sighting land, La Trinita was encountered, named for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was a Spanish possession, East Indians being brought in as slaves. Later it was in Dutch hands, then French. In 1797, the British came. Due to Wm. Wilberforce's efforts, slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire in 1834.

The British then turned to India for cheap labor. In 1845 Mr. Mahatoo's great-grandparents came. These East Indians now turned into West Indians, were indentured labor, living in barracks, paid a salary and after years given the option of buying land. Roman Catholic missionaries brought education to the negroes.

In 1869, The Canadian Presbyterian Church sent the first missionaries to Trinidad to the East Indians. Today, the majority of the C.M.I. (Canadian Mission for Indians) are East Indians. In 1948 adult franchise was granted, in 1961, full internal self-government and in 1962, independence.

The United Church supports the schools. Mr. Mahatoo said, "All my education, I attribute to missionaries. Most of my teachers were Canadian teachers. If not for Canada, I shudder to think what the condition of the East Indians would be like in Trinidad."

"Except for the winter, Canada is beautiful. In Trinidad the temperature never drops below 70 degrees. The heat in the tropics is not sticky."

Mr. Mahatoo had high praise for people in Ottawa and Montreal who made him and his wife and family feel at home. The Trinidad dollar is worth only 62 Canadian cents. Their younger son was born in Montreal so is a Canadian citizen. Whether or not they leave Canada, Mr. Mahatoo said, "I would get to the top of the mountain and shout at the top of my voice, Canada is a wonderful place."

At age 10 years, and six months, or 11, or 12, pupils try a common entrance exam. Of 30,000 who try, there is room in the high schools for only about 4,000 or 5,000. Trinidad children appreciate education more than do Canadian children.

Roman Catholics are in the majority, followed by Hindus, Protestants, Moslems. Presbyterians are a small minority. By 1969, it is hoped that local men will be able to run the church. Ministers go to the University of Jamaica. The principal is called the Headmaster. High school means Secondary School for girls; the boys' Secondary-School is called a College.

There are 76 primary schools, and five teachers' colleges. A student can go to teach as soon as he leaves High School, attached to a regular teacher. Later he applies to go to Teachers' College.

It is 22 miles from Trinidad to Tobago, Trinidad is noted for its pitch lake; when the asphalt is taken out the hole fills up again in 8 hours. Tobago is more beautiful than Trinidad—a good place to spend a honeymoon.

Mr. Mahatoo then played typical music on the record player, including, "If I had the wings of a dove", and the "Moonlight Sonata," with the steel drums. The slides which followed were also very interesting, including a banyan tree which grows 300 trunks, and a lien, which is a rope-like vine.

Drill test holes at new library site

F. E. Johnston's drilling machine was at the proposed site for Acton's centennial library this week taking soil tests. First holes drilled went to the 12 foot level when rock was struck. Normally holes are made to the 15 foot level.

It is expected a full report of the findings will be made to the centennial committee at a later date.

At the special meeting of council Tuesday architect-Donald Skinner said these tests were quite satisfactory and there would be no difficulty building the new library there.

Mr. Mahatoo's wife's godmother was the late Grace Beattie, a cousin of Mrs. Fletcher.

Mrs. Joss moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Mahatoo, for a most interesting and informative evening. Lunch was served by Mrs. Price, Mrs. George Robertson and Mrs. Diamond.

On Sunday morning, Mr. Lemon posed the question, "At what moment can a person say that he is a Christian?" One may be born into a Christian home, baptized, confirmed, Jesus told Nicodemus, "You must be born again." Paul said that in spite of all our good deeds, we are nothing without love. We cannot be citizens of Heaven, if we hold a grudge against any brother. It is quite possible to be brought up in a manse, and still not be a Christian.

Mr. John Kitching was the soloist.

Mr. Bill Early's many friends will be glad to know that he is showing improvement at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto.

Mrs. Walter Freeman is home from the General Hospital, in Guelph, following surgery.

Next Sunday, the 41st anniversary of the formation of the United Church of Canada will be commemorated. There will be a special offering taken for the relief of Indian famine victims.

Mr. Mahatoo is a definite example of the value of giving to the Missionary and Maintenance fund of the church. This splendid, clever, young man fills the breach in the scarcity of native Canadian teachers, and brings a refreshing new outlook to our day-to-day lives.

The Official Board meets at Arkell, on Monday, June 13, at 8.30.

Chapter's history reviews many years of service

Announced the Acton Free Press on June 29, 1916:

"A primary chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was formed at the home of Mrs. Torrance Beardmore on Tuesday of last week. Mrs. C. Everett Huttman of Berlin, a life member of the National Chapter, Toronto, officiated at the organization.

The officers elected are: Honorary Regent, Mrs. Torrance Beardmore; Regent, Mrs. (Rev.) C. H. E. Smith; 1st Vice-Regent, Mrs. George Havill; 2nd Vice-Regent, Mrs. A. L. Wyant; 3rd Vice-Regent, Mrs. Charles C. Henderson; Secretary, Mrs. A. Thurlert Brown; Ass't Secretary, Mrs. D. Milton Henderson; "Echoes" Secretary, Mrs. (Dr.) J. M. Bell; Treasurer, Mrs. R. L. Whitman; Ass't Treasurer, Mrs. A. B. McLean; Standard Bearer, Mrs. E. J. Hassard; Councilors, Mrs. W. H. Stewart, Mrs. (Dr.) T. Gray, Mrs. Murray McDonald; Mrs. George Chapman; Mrs. Wm. Johnstone; Mrs. Jas. Symon; Mrs. Wm. Arnold; Mrs. Jas. L. Warren; Miss Mary Kerr; Miss Minnie Bennett.

The first meeting of the I.O.D.E. was held in the parish hall on Monday afternoon. Two excellent addresses were given by Mrs. John Bruce and Mrs. Murray Clark, two well-known officers of the National Chapter, Toronto. These ladies explained the aims, objects and work of the Order.

Mrs. Torrance Beardmore has presented the chapter with a beautiful large silk Union Jack.

"Thirty-four members were enrolled

at the close of the meeting." (Membership fee was 25 cents then.)

A few months later the following item appeared about the young group: "The first of a series of teas under the auspices of the Duke of Devonshire Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was held at the parish hall on Tuesday afternoon. An enjoyable social afternoon was spent. Knitting socks for soldiers and general conversation employed the time. Miss Bertie Smith (the late Mrs. C. L. Poole) sang several solos with much acceptance. Plain refreshments were served.

The hostesses at the tea were Mrs. A. O. T. Beardmore, Mrs. D. M. Henderson, Mrs. C. C. Henderson, Mrs. (Rev.) C. H. E. Smith, Mrs. H. P. Moore, Mrs. (Dr.) Bell, Mrs. A. T. Brown, Mrs. R. L. Whitman, Mrs. A. L. Wyant and Mrs. E. J. Hassard. A second tea will be held next month by another group of members.

The chapter began with war service work, continuing it in a second world war, and its community service has been recorded regularly in the pages of the Free Press since the group began. Included in the list of projects: provision of milk for school children; presentation of awards and flags; supervision of the Girl Guides in 1930; planting a maple tree to mark the Coronation in 1937; gifts of pictures of the royal family; entertaining war brides and then new Canadians; participation in community events and parades; participation in the Music Festivals; high school scholarships. Commonwealth Day awards in the schools began as "Empire Day Awards" in 1917. Now film strips are given

each class. Proficiency awards to students have continued since 1920.

A series of money-raising events since those first chain teas included bazaars, euchres and bridges, teas, tag days, garden parties, bean and pumpkin pie suppers, carnivals, bake sales, cooking school, treasure hunt and raising of talent money.

Regents through the years, from 1916 through in order to 1966, have been Mrs. C. H. E. Smith, Mrs. McNiven, Mrs. B. M. McDonald, Mrs. Storey, Mrs. C. A. Conway, Mrs. Wm. Johnstone, Mrs. Amos Mason, Mrs. McCleary, Mrs. Wm. Cooper, Mrs. F. S. Blow, Mrs. E. E. Barr, Mrs. W. J. Beatty, Mrs. J. C. Matthews, Mrs. R. N. Baird, Mrs. W. J. Wolfe, Mrs. A. Long, Mrs. O. Robbins, Mrs. J. Whitham, Mrs. B. Mowat, Mrs. K. Knox, Mrs. B. Mowat, Miss M. Mainprize and now Mrs. H. R. Fosse.

Read Mrs. Mainprize Tuesday, "But there was much more than fund-raising, ceremonial observances and regular meetings. There were many social functions, enjoyable programs, excellent speakers, officers' teas, and visits to other chapters."

The 25th anniversary was observed with a banquet when Mrs. G. A. Heather of Kitchener, through whose efforts the chapter was formed, was a guest. The 30th anniversary was a dinner at the United Church when six charter members were present.

"This gathering, too, shall fulfill an important role in the future history of the chapter."

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