

## 75 years of Halton W.I. celebrated

Halton Women's Institute held their 75th District Annual at St. David's Presbyterian Church, Campbellville, on Tuesday, May 18 with a large crowd in attendance. It was a lovely day and Campbellville W.I. acted as host branch. The theme for this year was "75 Years of Progress."

The meeting opened with the Institute Ode and the president, Mrs. L. Jamieson read an article on Mrs. A. Hoodless, Rev. R. Lewis, minister of Boston and Omagh Church and interim moderator of St. David's, welcomed the ladies on behalf of the church board.

Mrs. M. Reid, Provincial Board Director, took charge of the ratification of the District Directors and all branches were represented. The minutes of the 1975 District meeting were read and the treasurer's report given. A favorable report was given by the auditors.

Retiring president Mrs. Jamieson gave her report and told of her nearly 25 years of Institute membership and its influence on her life. She thanked the members for their cooperation in her years in office.

Convener's reports  
The reports of the conveners were given with the P. R. Officer, Mrs. H. G. Wilson as moderator. Miss L. Holding, Halton Home

Economist, told of the 411 girls' work, there are 18 clubs with 156 girls in the county who have taken the projects Baking with Yeast and a Touch of Starchy. The money given by the Institute is used to send girls to the girls' conference, also to purchase crests for beginning members. The meaning of sponsors is to help with money when needed and to provide leaders for the girls. The project for fall is "Featuring Fruit." The Senior Institute is to decide on their short course, either Institute Procedure or Fabrics.

Mrs. M. Reid, then gave her report on Institute work. She said not to reject a course because it had been given in your branch years ago, there are new ideas and new people to reach. There are a great number of people to help you and they are willing. The loan library is there for your use and is free. The W.I. week at the Lee Homestead is from May 30 to June 4. The Lee Committee project is a quilt block and all directions on material and pattern are to be sold at the home.

The W.I. Hall to be placed at the Agricultural Museum at Milton will be in a centre site and will be moved some time this year. A film on tape-freezing and canning is available from the Department of Agriculture and is well worth seeing. The

project for this year is to help organize a new branch. This year, 1976, is Hoodless year and each branch is to ask for \$1 for repair work. Members were asked to save Canadian stamps, commemorative issues especially, to be sent to the World Congress for sale—25 or more for each branch, if possible. The 1976 Area Convention will be held on Oct. 18 and 19 at Bingman Park, Kitchener.

It was then lunch time and 118 ladies sat to lunch, with guests from Peel South, Wellington Centre and Wellington South. Mrs. Parker accepted the vote of thanks for Campbellville Branch, and presented the

table centre of gold and blue flowers to Mrs. Jamieson, retiring president.

The afternoon session began with Mrs. G. Campbell in the chair.

Mrs. Mary Schmidt of Acton sang two solos. The fashion parade of 15 ladies followed. Each lady represented a branch and was dressed in the fashion of the year the branch was organized, from 1902 to 1938.

The prize winners of the quilted cushion competition were announced by Miss Holding with Limehouse being first prize winners; Dublin, second; and Nelson, third. The In Memoriam was given by Mrs. Dillon of

Nassagawaya Branch.

Mrs. J. McEnery gave a report of the Officers' Conference held at Waterloo University. The roll call was answered by 16 branches with their Pennies for Friendship donation. The election of officers was conducted by Mrs. Reid, Province Board Director, and resulted as follows.

Past-president, Mrs. L. Jamieson, Ballinfad; president, Mrs. Glen Campbell, Nelson; first vice-president, Mrs. G. Hargrave, Acton; second vice-president, Mrs. Dillon, Nassagawaya; federal representative, Mrs. L. Jamieson; alternate, Mrs. G. H. Ironside, Georgetown,

P.R.O., Mrs. G. H. Wilson, Oakville; assistant P.R.O., Mrs. J. Taylor, Nelson; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. G. H. Ironside.

After the election of officers Mrs. Campbell presented Mrs. Jamieson with her past president's pin. The new business followed and a discussion of the 75th anniversary took place and it was decided to have a noon lunch, plans to be made by the executive. Cost of the gate signs are to be made and brought to the fall executive meeting. A motion was made to send a delegate to the Officers' Conference next year. Courtesies were given by Mrs. T. Ewart.



FASHION SHOW of costumes dating back to the turn of the century highlighted the 75th district annual meeting of Halton Women's Institute. From left Agnes Holmes wears a glazed cotton dress and sunbonnet, Mary Wilson models a brown cotton print and Mabel Hadley wears an ensemble suitable for church and WI meeting of 1924.



MRS. DONALD LINDSAY of Silverwood WI wears a grey wool dress of the 1950 period, once a wedding ensemble.

### At Agricultural Museum

## Women's Institute gets own building

An old church, built in 1829 below the Queen Elizabeth Highway in Oakville, is soon to be moved onto the site of the new Ontario Agricultural Museum at Kelso. It will become the official home of the Ontario Women's Institute.

The 156-year-old building, the former Sheridan Methodist Church, is one of the first rural churches in Central Ontario. Work will begin on the building this summer.

In its early years the church was used as a meeting place for all denominations in the community of Hammondville (later to become Sheridan). After 49 years of service as a church and meeting place, the building became too small for the growing community and in 1869 it was replaced by a larger brick church which still stands.

Closed 1869  
When it was closed as a church in 1869 it was sold to the Lawrence family who lived on the adjacent farm and moved there where it served as an ice house until 1914.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Lawrence used it as a temporary residence while they were building the large red brick house in which the family continues to reside. Since

the Lawrences moved into the new house in 1914 the old building has served as a storage area and workshop. Now, after 156 years of multiple service to the community, this weathered old building will be given a new life to serve the general public and the Women's Institute in particular.

Moved soon  
Recently the Lawrence family offered this old building.

The building will be dismantled soon and moved to the Museum site where it will be re-erected and restored as the Women's Institute Hall.

Commenting on the project, OAM general manager Bob Carbert said, "We feel very fortunate to have been able to acquire this unique old structure, which has so many roots in the early days of rural Ontario. We are pleased that the Lawrence family realized the significance of this building and made it available to us."

"We expect they will utilize it for demonstrations of domestic crafts, as a show-place for Institute exhibits, and as a central meeting place for farm women who visit the Museum site. In many ways this building is symbolic of Ontario Agricultural Museum's central

theme, to depict the continuing changes that have taken place in rural Ontario and in farming practices."

Seventy-five years of history through fashion were presented May 18 when the Halton Women's Institutes met at St. David's Presbyterian Church in Campbellville to celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Models from the 15 Halton branches took part, some wearing authentic dresses belonging to former Institute members, and each represented the year the branch W. I. organized.

Doris Wheelihan of Campbellville wore a black dress and matching feather hat made especially for a night at the opera in 1902. It belonged to a former Institute member and Campbellville resident Edna Buck.

The Campbellville branch was founded in 1902 and disbanded in 1907. It came alive again in 1937 and is still act-



75 YEARS OF FASHION were presented by 15 branches of Halton Women's Institute at their district annual meeting May 18. Front row seated from left are Mesdames Currie,

Lindsay, Wilson, Hopkin, Holmes. Second row Mesdames McLean, Sinclair, Hadley, Wilson, Benton. Back row Mesdames Wheelihan, Breckon, Terry, Armstrong, Dennis.



INSTITUTE EXECUTIVE for 1976-77 are from left, first vice-president Mrs. G. Hargrave, Acton; assistant PRO Mrs. J. Taylor, Burlington; president Mrs. Glen Campbell, Milton; secretary-treasurer Mrs. G. H. Ironside,

Georgetown; past-president Mrs. L. Jamieson, Ballinfad; PRO Mrs. H. Wilson, Oakville and second vice-president Mrs. David Dillon, Campbellville.

## Decades of progress shown in fashion at annual meet of branches last week

Pioneer dress  
A dress of brown cotton print, typical of our pioneer women of the early 1900s, was worn by Mary Wilson of Hornby WI. The floor length skirt was tiered and lace trimmed. The dress had a fitted bodice with a gathered frill and lace trim. A large bonnet to match kept the farmer's wife protected from the sun. Hornby WI was one of the first organized in Halton in the early 1900s.

Agnes Holmes of Norval wore a glazed cotton dress sunbonnet with lace and satin trim. Her black cameo pendant is 150 years old.

Victorian style  
A Victorian dress of silk embroidered poplin was modelled by Muriel Breckon of Nelson Branch. Worn at the turn of the century by women of the Institute, the dress has a taffeta collar, sash and sleeve trim and black beaded inset in the bodice front and tips of the sash. Her reticule (a small bag known today as a purse) was carried on her arm. Inside were the lady's hankie and smelling salts!

Wedding outfit  
The Ballinfad WI was first organized in 1906 and disbanded approximately 16 years later. It was reorganized on Oct. 3, 1952.

Eleanor McLean of Ballinfad wore the shortie coat and hat appropriate to the late forties. Her dress is one she wore to complete the going-away outfit following her marriage.

Ina Terry of the Norval WI wore a costume typical of 1906. It had a straight skirt, plain blouse, large plummed hat and lace shawl.

Bannockburn WI of 1919 was represented by Mrs. C. Sinclair. She wore a brown silk hat with a beautiful feather belonging to a former Institute member.

The matching wool suit has very full sleeves gathered at the cuffs and the band at the bottom of the short coat gathers in the loose back. The skirt is plain and long and oxfords were worn on the feet.

Edna Wilson was the first secretary of Ashgrove WI when it was organized 50 years ago. She wore an outfit in fashion in the 1920s.

Her afternoon dress was in pink with a dotted voile top and pleated candy-striped skirt. The low sash was accented with a rose on the hip. The hand-crocheted camisole showed daintily through the voile. Edna completed the ensemble with a pink straw hat and matching gloves. This was her second district annual to act as a fashion model. She did it back in 1920, too.

Black jersey  
The same outfit was represented by the Brighton of Limehouse WI. She wore a black silk jersey dress loaned by Miss Moore of Silverwood WI.

The outfit used by a silk skirt is wrapped underneath with white cotton drawers with lace insertion.

Black leather strap slippers and a single strand of blue cut glass beads completed her costume.

Beaded cape  
The Mountain Union WI was organized on the first day of May, 1924. Skirts and blouses were all the rage at the time. Mabel Hadley modelled a white blouse and black silk poplin skirt with a black

beaded cape. The outfit was suitable for church and visiting.

Dublin WI was represented by Mrs. Armstrong who wore an original costume from the swinging year 1925. The dress is black crepe with a deep border of sequins around the neckline.

Two rows of black silk fringe around the hem set off the dress. Mrs. Armstrong wore a black and orange shawl with a colorful fringe and carried a matching leather fan. Small black felt hat, gloves, white stockings and black shoes completed the outfit.

Scotch Block

Scotch Block WI began in 1933 and was represented by Mrs. L. Hopkin. Her 1930s dress was of grey brocade satin trimmed with bright red facings and buttons. The skirt is slightly flared from a yoked front. Sleeves are full and shaped into a long tight cuff.

A black crepe dinner dress from 1934 was worn by Marg Currie of the Nassagawaya WI. Trimmed with black lace, the dress was accented by white beads, silver bracelets and a silver evening bag. Her shoes are black leather pumps.

Ingrid Dennis of the Campbellville branch wore the 1938

wedding dress belonging to Mrs. George Black. The long royal blue velvet dress was bought in the city of Kingston the same year the Campbellville branch was organized a second time.

The lovely outfit has a skirt cut on the bias, a low cut bodice, buttoned down the back with tiny self-covered buttons. The bolero has puffed sleeves with shirring—not unlike the styles of today.

Silverwood WI was organized on March 28, 1951 by Mrs. Milton Brown, district president and Mrs. Chester Service. Six of the original 19 members are still active. Mrs. Donald Lindsay of Silverwood wore a grey wool dress, hat, shoes and accessories of the 1950 period. The outfit was a wedding ensemble.

Now 500 members  
Halton Women's Institute began in Milton in 1901. There are 500 members in 15 branches throughout the region.

The Institute in Canada was started by Adelaide Hunter Hoodless of St. George in 1897. She and Erland Lee held the first meeting in Stoney Creek.

Today there are 1,278 branches in Ontario with a membership of 30,544 with 2,800 life members.



LIMEHOUSE WI took first prize in the cushion competition at the annual district meeting of Halton Women's Institute last week in Campbellville. Limehouse members are Pearl Brown, Isabel Benton and Mary Booth.