

History of Halton District Women's Institute: 1901-1981

luncheon each fall, as well as a booth at farm sales, as a money making project.

A bus trip, as well as a dinner meeting at the end of the Institute year are also special features every member looks forward to.

With these few remarks, you will realize Norval Institute is "Alive and Well" and looking forward to an even brighter future.

PRESIDENT:
Mrs. Dorothy McLean (Mrs. E.)
Norval P.O. 877-6350.
SEC. TRES.:
Mrs. Albert Hunter
455-8662.

Scotch Block

Scotch Block W.I. was formed in April 1933, meeting in homes until Ligny School was purchased in 1964. Meetings are held the second Thursday afternoon of each month. The Scotch Block area covers from the 5th Line of Esquesing to the 6th Line of Nassagaweya and Speyside sideroad to Milton as well as Campbellville and the Boyne area.

Generous donations have been given to Milton Hospital and Centennial Manor as a result of our catering efforts. We aim to carry out the best we can for Home and Country. The 4H girls use the Ligny Hall for their projects and euehres are held once a month during the winter.

PRESIDENT:
Mrs. Finlay Joyce
SEC. TRES.
Mrs. Maynard Patterson
279 Bell St., Milton
878-4348.

Silver-Wood

Silver-Wood W.I. was formed in 1950. We have six active charter members. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 p.m. in the different homes. Our membership area takes in the Silvercreek and Wildwood areas and some members come from Georgetown and Acton.

Our programs included speakers, tours, and home crafts. In the future we hope to increase our membership and again sponsor the 4H Clubs. Our members help with activities at the Centennial Manor special birthday parties and items of interest to our Silver-Wood W.I.

PRESIDENT:
Mrs. Clare Wilson
R.R. 1 Georgetown
877-6687
SEC. TRES.:
Mrs. Doris Lindsay (D.)
R.R. 1 Georgetown
877-2438

Did you know?

... That the Women's Institute has an on-going scholarship program providing assistance for further education at local universities?

... That the Women's Institute of Ontario assists with scholarship, and special programs for people in the under-developed countries?

On February 2nd, 1901, ten ladies met in Milton to organize a Women's Institute in Halton County. The officers elected were President, Mrs. J.S. Deacon; Vice-President, Mrs. Robertson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. W.J. Cottrell and directors chosen were Mrs. J.L. Warren, Mrs. A.T. Mann, Mrs. John Dicken, Mrs. F.C. Wilmott, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. W.J. Clements, Miss McGregor, Mrs. D. Hartley, Mrs. A.W. Peart, Mrs. D.

Campbell, Mrs. W.T. Brown, Mrs. D. Turner, Mrs. John Wrigglesworth, Mrs. M. Crawford.

It was decided to hold a public meeting in March. When plans were concluded it turned into a joint meeting with the Farmers' Institute with an unbelievable attendance of 300 in the afternoon and 250 in the evening. Speakers were Miss Laura Rose, Mr. George Cottrill and Mr. A.W. Peart.

During the next 15 months meetings were held at various points throughout the county to create interest in the organization. Several key people from these communities were added to the board of directors. Meetings took various forms, sometimes with speakers and sometimes with cooking demonstrations.

The annual meeting was held on June 15th 1902, with the following elected as officers. President, Mrs. J.S.

Deacon; Vice President, Mrs. David Robertson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. F.C. Wilmott.

The first branch was formed in Campbellville on Nov. 21st, 1902 with five more being formed early the next year. These branches were at Palermo, Burlington, Acton, Georgetown and Milton.

The next annual meeting was held in June 1903 at which the branches all reported their progress. Since then these district meetings have been held annually every spring.

At present 13 branches are active in Halton District each providing services to its community.

Accomplishments
During the last 80 years the accomplishments of the Women's Institute in Halton have been many and varied.

In 1924 musical instruction was first introduced in the Halton schools by the Palermo Institute. This grew into the Musical Festival as more schools became interested.

The Halton District

Women's Institute offered two bursaries in 1958 to assist students graduating from High School to continue their studies. In 1968 the Dr. Ethel Chapman Scholarship Fund was established, providing a scholarship each year to one outstanding 4H Homemaking Club member.

The Women's Institute branches have always sponsored 4H Homemaking Clubs providing not only funds but also many of the leaders from among their members. In the Senior Projects volunteers receive instructions and training to enable them to return to their community to teach others the courses in crafts, foods and homemaking skills.

A donation of seventy-five dollars was forwarded to the Erland Lee Home, and a one-hundred-year-old lamp was purchased in memory of Mrs. George Henderson, a past president of Halton District and provincial board director.

When the International ploughing match was held in Halton in 1974, 1,200 guests signed the guest book in the W.I. booth and the members were involved in preparing and serving 1,800 guests at the banquet at Mohawk.

In 1975 Women's Institute roadside signs were purchased and erected to identify the homes of Institute members.

As a special project in 1978, Women's Institute plates were sold by the members.

The Halton District Women's Institute took a bold step in 1980 when it was decided to publish "A History and Atlas of Halton County" as compiled by Mr. Ben Case of Georgetown. The response was tremendous and by June 1981, of the one thousand books printed, only 250 remained.

All through the years, the Women's Institute, with its many interests, has contributed a great deal to the quality of the home and community life of Halton.

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

Soon after the first Women's Institute was formed at Stoney Creek in 1897, a second was started at Whitby and a third at Kemble. From 1900 on the movement spread rapidly in all directions through the province. Soon it was necessary to have a provincial governing body and in 1919 the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was formed with Mrs. William Todd of Orillia as the first president. The provincial board meets twice a year and each of the 32 subdivisions is represented by a provincial board director. Halton, along with the districts of Wellington South and Wellington Centre forms Sub-division 12 and every nine years has the privilege of electing a board director who will serve for 3 years. Mrs. R.C. Alexander of Georgetown is our present director, having been elected to the provincial board at the Guelph Area Convention last fall. She votes and makes decisions on behalf of this sub-division.

She also meets with the executives of the 3 districts of her sub-division following the Fall Annual meeting of the Provincial Board to keep these officers and branches abreast of the policies and plans of F.W.I.O. Then at the District Annual, the Board Director relates the proceedings of the Spring Board meeting to the branches.

The Board Directors from Halton have done much to further the work of the Women's Institute. They have been Miss E. Appelbe, Mrs. G.C. Atkins, Mrs. G. Campbell, Mrs. G. Agnew, Mrs. A. Cowan, Mrs. P. Merry, Mrs. A. Near, Mrs. L. Crawford, Mrs. C. Service, Mrs. C. Rinchart, Mrs. M. Brown, Mrs. V. Norris, Mrs. G. Henderson, Mrs. J. Bird and presently Mrs. R. Alexander.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have made great strides in the past 82 years. They have scholarships to help girls further their education, as well as the International Scholarship for overseas

training. Many branches supported children around the world by contributing to the Sponsor-a-child plan. And branches have always given generously to relief, whether in our own country or elsewhere. \$7,000 was donated to supply six villages in Ceylon with kitchen appliances and sewing machines, thousands of dollars were sent to Save Sight project in India, \$9,000 to the advancement of the W.I. in the Northwest Territories are just a few of the many accomplishments.

Today resolutions are a big part of the work at provincial level, as they support the request for changes that are sent in from the branches. With Mrs. Keith Hiepleh of Springfield as president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, the motto for Home and Country is always uppermost in their efforts. Each member is always working as a Public Relations Officer to promote the work of this wonderful organization.

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

The Women's Institute movement soon went beyond the Ontario borders with women from this province encouraging the formation of branches across the Dominion. The first national president was Judge Emily Murphy of Cookstown, Ontario with her vice-president being Mrs. William Todd of Orillia. At the first meeting on February 15, 1919 several objectives were established—to coordinate the provincial units, to develop agriculture, to promote educational, moral, social and economic measures, and to encourage cooperation and community effort.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada coordinates the work of the Women's Institute in all of Canada and has a national convention every three years with delegates from every province having a vote. New Brunswick is preparing for the next national convention which will be

held at the University at Fredericton from June 10-18, 1982. At present Mrs. Emmie Oddie of Regina, Saskatchewan is the president of F.W.I.C. Delegates to this year's Officers' Conference heard her tell that F.W.I.C. is an organization whose opinions matter. She finds it difficult to speak for 50,000 members across Canada on certain issues. She would like Ontario to have a policy on important issues such as land use, pornography, junk foods and feels that Ontario with its well-prepared, well-documented resolutions should find this easy. She wants every member to be a Public Relations Officer for our organization because volunteers do a wonderful work.

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