Gehrig's spirit lives in the fight against ALS

In this 50th anniversary year of Lou Gehrig's "strike-out" by A.L.S., baseball's "Iron Man" continues in spirit an name to promote public awareness of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Better known as and more easily pronounced, Lou Gehrig's Disease is now disabling at least 36 residents of the Waterloo-Wellington district.

The average life expectancy after diagnosis is two-and-a-half years.

"That's the bad news," says Bill Doole, president of the W.W. Chapter of the A.L.S. Society of On-

The April annual meeting of the

Terra Cotta W.I. was held at the

home of Mrs. Catherine Leslie with

the vice-president Linda Dowds

Christine Bishop gave the Peel

North board meeting report for

March. Muriel Lyons installed new

officers for 1989-90. The list in-

cludes past president Mrs. George

Frazer, president Mrs. E.K.

McBride, vice president Mrs. Art

Dowds, secretary treasurer Airs.

Barbara McKane, assistant

McDonald, District Director Mrs.

C.G. Bishop and for public rela-

tions, the W.I. will install Mrs. Art

Program co-ordinator will be

The hostess for the May meeting

was Florence Christie and her

assistants were Mary MacDonald

A special visitor was Peggy

Kanpp, who is the president-elect

for the Federated Women's In-

stitute of Ontario. She brought

greetings from the province and

mentioned some of her respon-

Douglas

conducting the meeting.

secretary Mrs.

Eleanor Macdonald.

and Eleanor Macdonald.

McKane.

"The good news is that some of us with A.L.S. are in the 'slow Rowland Davies of Elora." lane'. Dr. Stephen Hawking, the British physicist and best-selling author, has had it for a quarter of a

century. A close runner-up is Myra Rosenfeld, who is president of our Metro Toronto chapter. I'm believed to be an eight-year survivor. much luckier than the late actor David Niven. But we are seeing too many people like Gord Adie of Fergus who lasted only 12 months after diagnosis and died last year at 51. Other departures since our chapter was formed more than a

The chapter has been steadily growing to where there are more than 25 members. "But we need many more volunteers," Mr. Doole says, "not only to staff our flowersale campaign June 2-3, but for various duties including driving patients to hospital or shopping, baby-sitting, visiting advancedstage patients and helping in

Mr. Doole expressed much ap-

installs new officers

Terra Cotta W.I.

There was an interesting report of the District Annual Meeting which was held in Inglewood United Church, given by Eleanor Macdonald. The roll calls included a travel experience and informative session with Lauri Cyr from Roos Travel Agency. There was an 80-minute video presentation and a question period afterward.

Muriel Lyons described three interesting trips she had taken, including a canal trip in England, a trip to Bavaria and an inside passage to Alaska. Courtesies were given to end the meeting by Eileen Laidlaw.

The June meeting will be a tour of the Elora and Fergus areas.



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year ago include Ralph Rock of Cambridge, Anne Hamilton of Kitchener, Iris Scoular of Breslau and

This is why the W.W. Chapter and others across Canada are gearing up for June (A.L.S. Month) when the sale of blue cornflowers will again raise funds. Net proceeds, after out-of-pocket expenses, are devoted to medical research into this baffling disease, discovered more than a century ago by French physician J.M. Charcot. The crippling motor neuron disease has so far defied researchers as to cause or cure. It affects both sexes and all ages from 19 to 90. Pollution and/or viruses remain on the suspect list.

Since last year's fund-raising campaign, the W.W. Chapter has not only contributed financially to research but three of its members are among those participating in University of Guelph studies of A.L.S. by Prof. John Brooke. They are Bill Dingman of Arthur, Ruth Burt of RR2, Acton and Bill Doole of Elora.

public-awareness activities."

preciation for the trail-blazing done by Guelph's Brenda Bates, who, with her late husband Keith founded the original Guelph Chapter. Much help has also come from area residents including Lorne Voll of Waterloo, whose wife Bea learned she had A.L.S. last December; Mary Lou Little of Kitchener, whose father died of the disease; Theresa Markus of Kitchener, whose husband, a relatively young man, was an A.L.S. casualty leaving three young children.

"A substantial morale-booster has come with the founding of the Funded Ontario Trillium Chapter," Mr. Doole said, "Indefatigable Jack Muirhead, a nine-year A.L.S. paraplegic, is president. His vice-president is Guelph's Elinor Knight, who also doubles as administrative chair for the W.W. Chapter. I have been asked to chair the provincial awareness committee. Karen Irie

Johnvince

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If you would like to volunteer for flower-sale day or a longer stint, please call Kathy Hofstetter in Kitchener 576-9677, in Gueiph Elinor Knight 823-1358 or Brenda Bates 822-8457 (evenings or weekends only) or in Elora district, Bill Doole 846-9029 before 5 p.m. only.

The disease is not contagious, is rarely hereditary, is as common as multiple sclerosis. It could even happen to you!

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