

# IODE celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary



90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY: Friends and former members were hosted by Lakeside Chapter of the IODE at a tea celebrating their 90th anniversary Saturday at Knox. There are only nine members left; at one time there were over 75, and Acton had two active chapters. Left to right:

president Ernestine Foster holding a certificate of congratulations from the town; Kathleen Harding, Jane McAllister, Elma Braida, Kay Dills, Rosealee Dawkins, Helen Jocque, Joyce Sprowl, and May Dumarsh in front with the guest book. Provincial president Ann Mason of Newmarket brought greeting. - submitted photos

On Nov 10, IODE celebrated 90 years of service to our community. Following is a history of the IODE written mostly in 1977.

We have reached another milestone in our long history - organized Oct. 6, 1917 as Children of the Empire and on Oct. 3, 1934 we became a Primary Chapter.

All our charter members are now deceased. We have one lady who has been a member for 66 year, three over 50 years and the rest range from 30 to five years.

### First event

The first event held by that first small group in 1917 was a tea and bake sale in the shop on the corner of Mill and Main streets. The proceeds were \$12. The money in the early years was spent locally. A flag

was presented to the town in 1919 and curtains for the Town Hall were purchased in 1922. During the first and second World Wars, the members assisted in many projects such as knitting for the Red Cross and in Relief work. Many dances were held by the Chapter over the years in the Town Hall and in 1925 a huge bazaar which raised over \$1000.

After the first World War, the IODE ladies helped decorate veterans' graves in Fairview and Dublin cemeteries on November 11 every year until 1954, when we helped organize Decoration Day with a number other Acton groups, including the Legion, to be held in June of each year. Now we decorate our late IODE members' graves with a red geranium which number 42 graves in Acton.

Mrs. C.E. Smith, our first sponsor, donated a woolen

Union Jack in 1917 which was used until 1935 when a new flag and standard were purchased. Mr. J.M. McDonald presented us with a leather carrier for use on parades and on April 12, 1960 a new nylon flag was dedicated by Rev. Andrew McKenzie. A Canadian flag was purchased in 1967 and a table standard in 1974.

### Early years

In the early years the meetings were held at the members homes and at the Odd Fellows Hall on Willow Street. In 1940, we moved to the YMCA and in 1946 to the old Acton Legion on Main Street and then to the new Legion when it was built in 1974. In 1993 we went to Knox Presbyterian Church and have now come full circle and are meeting in member's homes once again.

Many teas were held over the years. In Centennial year (1967) a tea was held in the of Charter member Marguerite Taylor, with members dressed in old fashioned dresses and bonnets. There was also a display of 110 family heirloom dolls and many articles for the Save The Children Fund Bale also on display.

In May 1977, a tea was well attended and proceeds sent to the IODE Silver Jubilee Fund, which purchased 37 water colours by Ruth Pitchey Marsh and presented to the Prince of Wales Museum in Yellowknife. Marguerite Spielvogel visited Yellowknife and went to see the painting at the museum.

Over the last 90 years we have held bazaars, dances, teas, bake sales, rummage sales, fashion shows, garden parties, cooking schools, miles for pennies, euchers, bridge games and we are still selling tickets and having annual bazaars and bake sales.

These projects help us meet our obligations to the National and Provincial Chapters as well as helping needy families and assisting with Christmas hampers.

We also present rings, Never Late Never Absent certificates, bursaries and scholarships to Acton Public and High School students. We pack a Bale each year which is sent to Provincial Headquarters and have an adopted school in Labrador at Makkovik.

The Lakeside Chapter has nine members now and it is a possibility that this might be our last year.



WELCOME VISITOR: Former member Kit Dowding is welcomed by Elma Braida at Lakeside Chapter of the IODE tea Saturday. Daughter Terry Dowding is at the right. - submitted photo

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