



FOXHUNTING ON HARTSGRAVEL ROAD

English Foxhunting came to Bastard Township when Hardy and Jean Craig moved to Hartsgavel Road. The Frontenac Hunt, based in Kingston, hunts at "Foolhardy Farm", the home of the Craigs three times a year. The latest Hunt was on September 20th when the Limestone Creek Hunt from Cazenovia N. Y. joined the Frontenac Hunt for a joint hunt, resulting in a field of 26 horses. Although the weather was overcast and wet, the scenting conditions were ideal and the Hunt rode for three hours.

Foxhunting is a sport originated in England and one of its greatest supporters was the Duke of Beaufort, whose grave was desecrated recently by vandals who attempted to steal his body because they thought he was cruel to hunt foxes. Some Hunts hunt "live" and some hunts, as the Frontenac Hunt does, lays a "drag" for the hounds to follow. As hunting over farm lands that may be surrounded by wire fences which are unsafe to jump, panels have been built in these fences so that the Hunt can jump in and out of these fields, and the Frontenac Hunt is indebted to the surrounding landowners who have given permission to insert these panels in their fence lines. These panels can be "chicken coops" built over the wire or sections of the wire can be replaced at appropriate locations with a panel of rail fencing or a stone wall. As the Hunt only has access to these fields over these panels, a "drag" must be laid for the hounds to follow, otherwise if it was a "live" hunt the hounds may pick up the scent of a deer or a fox which might go over a wire fence where it would be impossible for the Hunt to follow and the hounds would be lost. If this does happen, hours are spent by the Huntsman and the Whips riding around the country trying to find the lost hounds.



The "drag" is laid by a person on horseback dragging behind them a sack which has been impregnated with fox urine. This is done by someone who is familiar with the hunting territory and knows where all the panels are located that give access to the fields, and is usually the host for the day. They are jokingly referred to as the "fox".

The hounds, and they are always referred to as "hounds" not "dogs", are bred and trained by the Huntsman. They are controlled on the Hunt by the Huntsman assisted by one or two Whippers-in also referred to as "Whips". The Huntsman signals the hounds by means of his horn and the Whips keep the hounds in a tight pack through more vigorous use of their whips. The hounds are trained to stay close to and sometimes under the Huntsman's horse, except when they are on a scent when it is then a matter of merely keeping up with them, as the hounds can run much faster than the horses.

The Hunt is led by the Master (Master of Fox Hounds), the hounds and the Whips. The members follow at a discreet distance, led by the Field Master, and if there are other members of the Hunt who do not wish to jump, they may follow in a second field led by a second Field Master finding their way around the panels and not necessarily following the route of the drag. Fox Hunting etiquette demands that no one pass the Master and hounds, no member of the fields pass the Field Masters, and that all courtesies are required among the members so that no one is crowded at the panels, no hounds are kicked, and if a member comes off his horse,

assistance is given, particularly if they are blooded.

Before the Hunt starts off, everyone's courage is reinforced with the "stirrup cup" (a glass of sherry), and the Hunt is off. Guests and new members of the Hunt are expected to ride at the rear of the field, give way to senior members, and maintain control of their mounts. When a member has shown they are familiar with the etiquette of the hunt, have demonstrated that they have control of their horse at all times, they may be awarded their "colours" by the Master. For female members of the Hunt this means they are entitled to wear the coloured collar on their black jacket, and male members may wear a "pink" jacket with the colours on the collar. The colour of the collar is a means of recognition of the Hunt. Frontenac Hunt wears a maroon colour, while other hunts might use blue, yellow, green, tan or other colour of their choice. If the drag has been successful, the Hunt will return with all the hounds. However, in some cases a few of the hounds don't keep up or become lost, or may pick up a live scent and leave the pack, and in this case they will generally find their way back to their own. Occasionally, the hounds may be lost for several hours and it is necessary to tour the countryside until they are found. When the hunt is over, the host provides light refreshments and a social hour is enjoyed at the "Green Box", a term derived when in earlier days the refreshments were carried to the Hunt in a green wooden box.

DELTA W.I.

Our September meeting was held at the home of Eva Dougall where we welcomed our guest, Frances French.

The response to the roll call query "When and why did you join W.I." was well responded to by all members! Some of the replies were: "invited by a friend and I like it", "went as a driver only and became interested and joined", "visited a meeting or two, enjoyed it so joined" and "for piano practice, our teacher had us play for the W.I. ladies and after some time they said 'we will make you Jr. members' so no choice" (this last one was from a lady who must obey well as she has remained a member for approx. 75 years!).

Please note that the Area Convention will be for one day only this year, to be held in Napanee on Oct. 21st.

Audrey Talbot donated a beautiful cushion which was won by Shirley Wilson. Ideas for the Christmas party will be accepted by Shirley.

Isabel Robert reported she had received a letter from our English friend, Ann Budd. Greetings were extended to our Branch from the W.I. Group of Barford, St. Michael and St. John in England. Due to the material received, Isabel was asked to present next meeting's program.

This month's program was led by Shirley Wilson, based on questions about our W.I. Emphasis was placed on our vision of tomorrow and our adaption to the 90's through our growth and leadership development. After the group's participation, Shirley concluded by reading "Be the Best of Whatever you Are".

Our October meeting will be held in the Township Hall at 1 p.m. For information please phone Florence Molony, 928-2801. All ladies are welcome.

WORK WANTED

Painting, Wallpapering
Repairs to Ceiling and
Walls, Renovations, Stone-
work, Pointed, Cement,
Brickwork and Chimneys
Roof Repair
Shingling
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Barn Painting
FREE ESTIMATES
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Ken Rasmussen

359-5950

6 p.m. to 8 a.m.