

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY

1897-1949

The first women's Institute was organized at Stoney Creek, Ontario, in 1897, the founder of the movement, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless born in 1857 close to St. George, Ontario, and moving to Stoney Creek on her marriage.

When Adelaide Hoodless on the death of her child, realized the inadequacy in knowing how to care and feed her baby, the thought came to her, if agricultural colleges taught men how to care and feed their animals for better health and growth, was it not more important that women be given training in the care of their children and homes. As a result of this thinking, the first Women's Institute meeting was held at Stoney Creek on February 19th, 1897.

A request was sent to the Minister of Agriculture asking for support and assistance, this support was gladly given; at first in forms of grants and later, government lecturers were appointed to speak to Women's Institutes and to help in their organization. Down through the years this assistance has increased and as the Institute has grown in numbers and responsibility, so also have the services from the Department of Agriculture increased and improved; and now provides an Extension service in Home Economics for all rural women and girls.

At the beginning the Superintendent of Farmer's Institutes acted as Superintendent of W.I's., and in 1899 under the Farmer's superintendent Miss Laura Rose was appointed first government lecturer and organizer of Women's Institute. More staff were added and more Institutes grew into being. In 1902 a whole day was planned for the women at the Session of Experimental Union at Guelph, thus the first W.I. Convention came into being.

The next year 1903, the Women's meetings were held in the then new MacDonald Institute Hall, O.A.C., Guelph and 116 women from 53 Institutes gathered.

By 1914 the numbers had so increased that it was considered wise to divide the province into three convention areas, London, Toronto and Ottawa. With three conventions a certain loss in Provincial Unity was the natural result, hence in 1914 a Provincial Advisory committee was appointed. By 1916 there were 17 representatives elected, one for each of the 17 subdivisions in the Province. As an outgrowth of this advisory committee our first Provincial board was formed and the F.W.I.O. (Federated Women's Instit-

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY (Cont'd)

ute of Ontario), came into being by formal resolution, February 7th, 1919. Later in the same month the F.W.I. of Canada was organized. By 1933, there were 13 conventions areas.

By 1910 there was a desire for teachers trained as specialists and qualified to demonstrate the arts of foods and cookery, clothing and other Home Economic topics. By 1912-13 educational short courses were taken right into the rural communities for the benefit of those who could not leave their home. Home nursing training was beneficial, too.

In the fall of 1934 a new forward step was taken when Miss Bess McDermaid, a qualified Home Economist became Superintendent of W.I. and ever since that time a University Graduate in this field has held Home Economics position. In post war years the programme has been revived and broadened to include greater variety in Home crafts, home furnishings and Psychology for the Homemaker.

Methods have changed, objectives outlined at the time of inception of Institutes can be met more adequately now than in 1897 but the basic aims are the same. The aims as set forth today are--

1. To help women acquire sound and approved practices for greater home efficiency.
2. To discover, stimulate and train leaders.
3. To develop a more abundant life in our rural communities and a deeper appreciation of the things near at hand.
4. To develop better, happier and more useful citizens.

In 1946, the title was changed to Womens Institute Branch and Home Economics service, and the title of Superintendent was changed to that of director.

The Provincial Board Directors of the F.W.I.O. elected by W.I. members, meet twice a year to outline the policy of the O.W.I.

The Board Directors elect the Provincial President, hence the Provincial President is the elected head of F.W.I.O.

The Director, Women's Institute Branch and Home Economic Service is a member of the Provincial Board, acts as advisor and Counsellor to the F.W.I.O. and it's board of directors and as liason between the F.W.I.O., and the Department of Agriculture.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE HISTORY (Cont'd)

The purpose of the Provincial Board of the F.W.I.O. is

1. To co-ordinate the work of the W.I.'s of Ontario.
2. To unite the province and provide official representation in the F.W.I.O of Canada, the associated country women of the world and other organizations.
3. To express the views of the local institutes on all matters of Provincial or national importance within the scope of W.I. work and responsibility.
4. To Co-operate with the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture to improve educational, social and economic conditions in the province.

This editorial comment was written by a former director, Miss Anna P. Lewis and printed in the "Winter, 1949", issue of Home and Country magazine, published quarterly and distributed through the secretaries of Women Institutes to the Institute members.

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### OUR OPENING ODE

A goodly thing it is to meet  
In friendship's circle bright,  
Where nothing stains the pleasure sweet  
Or dims the radiant light.  
No unkind word our lips shall pass,  
No envy sour the mind,  
But each shall seek the common weal,  
The good of all mankind.

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THE FIRST LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING

A special Meeting of the Women's Institute of North York was held in Laskay Hall on July 2nd, 1908, an address was given by Miss Millar, titled As Others see us, a second address by Mrs. M. McAllen on Home Sanitation and feeding of young children. A new Branch was then organized by Miss Millar, the officers appointed were

President - Mrs. J. O'Brien

V. President - Mrs. Wm. Boys

Sec. Treas. - Mrs. Geo. Atkinson

Directors - Mrs. Norman McClure

Miss May Ross

Mrs. J. Egan

Miss L. Tawse.

The name of the Branch to be called Laskay and the next meeting to be held at the home of Mrs. J. McCallum, topic for discussion, Canning and Preserving.

Mrs. J. M. O'Brien

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Membership list for the first year 1908 - 09.

Hazel Archibald

Miss Mae Ross

Mrs. Robt. C. Gillies

Mrs. Albert Marshall

Miss Octavia McCallum

Mrs. Jos. Egan

Mrs. Norman McClure

Miss Lizzie Lawson

Mrs. George Atkinson

Miss Winnie Boys

Mrs. Wm. Boys

Mrs. Lewis Gilham

Miss Jennie Orr

Miss Margaret McCallum

Miss Katie Ross

Mrs. Alex. McMurchy.

Mrs. John McCallum

Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer

Mrs. John Lawson

Miss Kate McCallum

Mrs. Jos. O'Brien

Miss Annie Glass

Mrs. John Gillies

Miss Lizzie Tawse

Mrs. Jas. Ross

## HISTORY OF INSTITUTE

The community of Laskay was first organized with Nobleton; Mrs. Campbell of Nobleton acted as president and Mrs. Snider of Nobleton as secretary. The first meeting was at Nobleton.

The second meeting was held at the home of Mrs. W. Boys; Mrs. Snider and Mrs. Campbell of Nobleton being present. At this meeting (in June) it was decided to organize a separate branch as it was impossible to go so far.

## SOME CHARTER MEMBERS



Mrs. Alex McMurchy - charter member



Mrs. Wm. Boys



Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer

These three members remained with Laskay Institute till their death.

PICTURES OF INSTITUTE

Debate by W.I. at home of C. Walkington.



Left to right

Mrs. D. McMurchy - Mrs. C. Ross - B. Teasdale - Rose Egan-  
Jennie Orr - J. MacCallum - D. McMurchy - Mrs. Port -  
Mrs. A. Marshall - M. Campbell - M. Ireland - Mrs. N. Bryson-  
Mrs. R. Folliott - Norman McMurchy - Mrs. Smeltzer - Mrs. H.  
Folliott - Florence Walkington.

# PICTURES OF INSTITUTE MEMBERS



Mrs. George Teasdale  
Edith Teasdale

Mary Teasdale



LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING  
held at  
Laskay United Church  
Summer - 1913.

Back row - left to right.

Mrs. Geo. Teasdale - Mrs. M. Allan - Mrs. Len Glass - Mrs. John Gillies  
Mrs. John Gray.

Second row.

Edith Teasdale, baby Irene Gillies, Merle Hamilton, Winnie Boys,  
Wilhena Walkington, Bertha Ireland, Pearl Smeltzer, Barbara Ireland,  
Irene Rutherford, Mrs. Jas. McCallum, Margaret McCallum, Merelda Campbell,  
Vera Gillies, Hazel Rutherford, Mrs. John Boys, Octavia McCallum

Third row.

Vera Patton, Mary Walkington, Lizzie Ireland ( Laura Rose Stephens is one  
of the next four ladies). Mrs. A. MacMurchy, Mrs. John Watson.

Fourth row.

Winnie Watson, Mrs. F. Marshall, Kate Ross, Mrs. Wm. Boys, Mrs. H. Hamilton,  
Susie Finch, Agnes Allan, Mrs. A. Marshall, Mrs. Thos. Smeltzer, Bessie Wylie,  
Mrs. C. Campbell, Mrs. R. C. Gillies.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

"Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgot and Never Brought to Mind"

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE  
**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY**

OF THE

**Laskay Branch of the Women's Institute**

TO BE HELD IN THE LASKAY W. I. HALL

Friday, June 25th, 1948, at 2.30

MRS. E. BATH, King R.R. 2.  
Secretary.

MRS. W. FINCH,  
President

On June 25th The Laskay Women's Institute Branch celebrated the 40th anniversary of their organization in Laskay Hall. Present and former members of the Branch and guests numbered 70, including several young children who regularly attend meetings.

As chairman, Mrs. Whatley Finch received the gathering, warmly pointing out the common interest of all women interested in W.I. work and the larger field of world interest the organization embodies.

From records carefully preserved the minutes of the organization meeting held July 2nd, 1908 were read by secretary Mrs. Effie Bath. The original enrolment of 25 members was called, seven of whom were present. Seventeen charter members are now living, and the first secretary treasurer, Mrs. George Atkinson, Schomberg and Mrs. W. Boys, vice-pres. in 1908 attended.

Present membership is well onto 45 of whom all but three responded to the roll call.

The branch was organized by a Mrs. Miller and according to Mrs. William Boys, a charter member, who later on in the afternoon enlarged on its formation. Laskay and Nobleton had organized as one group in February 1908. While this plan proved co-operatively successful, winter weather with bad roads and long distance travel by horses and sleighs hampered attendance at meetings which were alternated monthly at Nobleton and Laskay. Separation of the groups gave rise to more rapid development and convenience to the branch.

## FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY Cont'd.

As guest speaker, Miss Grace Hamilton, W.I. department, brought greetings from Miss Anna P. Lewis, Ontario director for Women's Institute who was unable to be present. Referring to a quotation that 40 years is the youth of old age, which only comes when there is lack of enthusiasm in life, Miss Hamilton paid tribute to those who had pioneered the local branch, challenging the present group to press forward to greater achievement and wider interests. There is no lack of incentive for the woman of to-day whose communities bear the mark of their influence, because they have lived in it and for it, she implied, stressing the need of organizations made up of persons who have interests and desires as well as facts and understanding to make wise choices in matters affecting the group or community. To-day there is as strong tendency to resist change as in years ago. Adherence to practices and customs not in keeping with current progress tends to retard growth and ultimate loss to any groups, Miss Hamilton believes.

She advised ideals for the branch and ~~tough~~ though like the stars which we never actually reach they urge and inspire the higher motive without which, nobility is worse than lost. Let your new members put their ideas into practice, make use of the dept. services and incorporate panel discussion in meetings.

An unexpected pleasure was found in the presence of Mrs. J. F. Franklin, a visitor from Windsor, England, who accompanied Miss Hamilton. She extended greetings from her W.I. branch of Old Windsor and proudly displayed the pins she wore, that ~~th~~ of the British W.I. and the Canadian W.I. She was agreeably surprised to learn Women's Institutes had originated in Ontario and from the Laskay president she was asked to carry home to England sincere greetings and fellowship from the Laskay Branch. Mrs. Findlay, a delightful friendly person brought and passed round a sample cake, the Silver wedding cake of the King and Queen.

During this section of the programme vocal numbers were given by Miss Helen Hunter and a ~~real~~ vocal duet by Mrs. Fred Boys and Mrs. Bath, with piano accompaniments by Miss Marjorie McMurchy.



Head Table - Mrs. A. Hill - Mrs. J. McCallum - Mrs. Boys? - Mrs. Atkinson,  
Mrs. A. McMurchy - speaker - Miss Hamilton



Tables at fortieth anniversary



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY Cont'd.

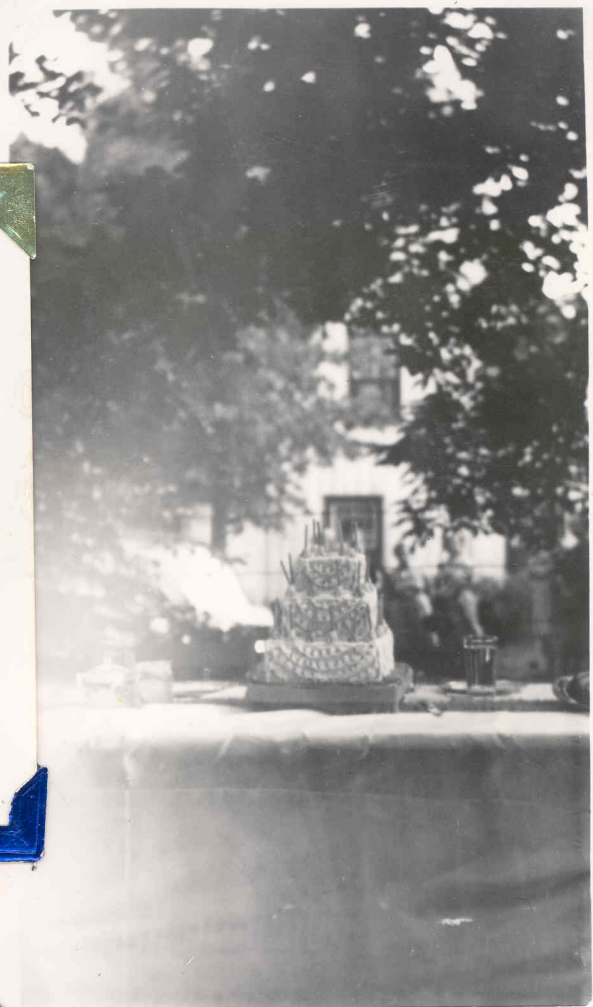
The strawberry supper was served on the spacious lawn of Mrs. Marvin Hunter, adjacent to the Hall. Among those seated at the head-table were Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. W. Boys, Mrs. A. MacMurchy, Mrs. James McCallum, Mrs. John Gillies and Mrs. Earnest Glass, all charter members.

Others were Mrs. R.H. Corner, district president, Miss Hamilton and Mrs. Findlay. Proposal of the toast to the King was followed by a toast to the W.I. at large, proposed by the president, replied by Mrs. Boys. From the district Mrs. Corner brought greetings of the branches. Mrs. Atkinson offered her continued best wishes and Mrs. MacMurchy who cut the birthday cake adorned with 40 candles and the blue and gold colors of the branch, expressed the hope that years of success lie ahead for Laskay W.I. "We, the older generation, throw to you the torch, be it yours to hold it high", said Mrs. MacMurchy.

Beside other charter members mentioned who were present for the event was Miss Winnifred Boys.



"The Children's table at 40th Anniversary.



" The 40th Anniversary Cake".

SEWING CLASS - LASKAY W.I.



Back from left.

Mrs. John Bowen

Joyce Porter

Mrs. John Gillies

Mary Teasdale

Mrs. Wm. Boys

Mearl Hamilton

Mrs. John Watson

Vera Gillies

Front Row.

Dorothy Bowen

Pauline Campbell

Pauline Campbell

Gertie Patton

Mrs. A. Marshall

Mrs. T. Smeltzer

### 60th ANNIVERSARY OF INSTITUTES.

On February, 12, 1957, at our regular meeting held at Laskay Institute Hall, we, like other Institutes all across Canada celebrated the 60th Birthday of the Founding of Institute work, started at Stoney Creek, Ont., on February 19th, 1897 by the founder, Adelaide Hoodless.

Miss Vera Hunter gave a very full and descriptive outline of the founding and growth of Women's Institute work, and their aims and purpose, and the establishment of Home Economics Services.

At a social half hour after the meeting, a beautiful Birthday Cake was the highlight and is always a pleasant memory. The cake was decorated in Institute colors with Institute Crest, candles, etc.

The influence of the Women's Institute has been felt throughout this community. We can never sit back and rest on the laurels of our Mothers and Grandmothers; but having started life with such advantages we must advance a little farther, to give the world more in the way of useful service. Since we are but stewards in this vineyard, let us build a solid foundation for the coming generations so that the world may be a little better place because we have passed this way.

Laskay Women's Institute is the second oldest Branch in King Township, organized in 1908.

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This picture was taken in September, 1956, when these three members of Laskay Women's Institute were honored with certificates of Life Members and Life Member Pins.

The occasion held at our regular meeting in the Hall which was Mrs. G.D. Paton's 82nd birthday.

Left to right -  
Mrs. L.J. Glass,  
Mrs. G.D. Paton,  
Mrs. P. Forester.



## HISTORY OF INSTITUTE HALL

Senator David Reesor of Markham owned part of Lot 4 on concession 6, on the East side. This was surveyed by George McPhillips, the plan being registered in North York Registry Office. ( A photograph of the map is shown.)

Senator Reesor donated land, one-fifth acre, lot 20, upon which to build a Temperance Hall. The Sons of Temperance formed a division, No.220, and erected a hall, which was opened about New Years, 1859. The Hall was not fully completed when the division became dormant. It was subsequently re-organized about 1888 and flourished under the energetic work of some of the members.

About the time local option came into force, the division was disbanded and the Hall turned over to the Laskay Branch of the Women's Institute. According to assessment Roll at township office, Nobleton, The Hall was under the name of Thomas Burgess, Worthy Patriarch from the year 1850, and was exempt from taxes while a Temperance Hall.

The first mention of the Temperance Hall in the Institute Minute Books was in October, 1914. In 1914 a Committee was appointed by the Institute, consisting of Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Wm. Boys and Miss Mary Teasdale, who were to see what was needed and report. Concerts were held during the year to raise money for repairs.

1915 - In April of this year back taxes were paid, a sum of \$4.37, then in December \$1.11. In December shingles were purchased - \$19.52.

1915-16 - In this term \$63.43 was raised for hall benefit. In June 1916 a board of trustees was elected, namely, Mrs. A.McMurchy, Mrs. Wm. Boys - Mrs. W. Monkman.

1917 - Cups and saucers were bought, plans were made to paint the Hall and varnish the wood work. A shed at the back of the Hall was auctioned off for \$16.20 to Mel. McCallum.

### 1917-18 - Hall Receipts.

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Concert, sale of shed |                |
| Box social,           | \$59.76        |
| prev. balance         | \$35.27        |
|                       | <u>\$95.03</u> |

### Expenditures.

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Shingles -      | \$24.35        |
| glass-taxes     |                |
| plaster, nails, |                |
| express & work  | \$43.72        |
|                 | <u>\$68.07</u> |

1925-26 - As near as we can determine this is when the hall was jacked up and sills put in. A piano was also bought.

1929 - In July a chimney was built, hall painted. Geo. Williams built the chimney.

Three coats of paint were put on hall, windows puttied and painted.

Mr. Geo. Patton was paid \$185.00



## HISTORY OF INSTITUTE HALL CONT'D.

- 1930 - In July-September, the wiring of the Hall was completed. In January the hall cupboards were built, cups and saucers bought.
- 1933 - Hardwood floor laid - platform l.
- 1935 - Hardwood floor laid - main floor. Duncan Ross paid \$150.00
- 1936-37 - A piano was bought for \$75.00 - tuning \$4.00,  
Spoons costing \$1.80 - tables \$21.00
- 1937-38 - Tables amounting to \$24.00 were bought.
- 1939-40 - Chairs costing \$100.83 were purchased
- 1941 - School was held in Hall for three months.
- 1945 - About this time the Hall was beginning to show the need of repairs and re-painting. It was felt in this day and age that the Institute members should make sure of ownership of the Hall and Property before spending too much money on it, the Hall having been handed over by word of mouth. A committee was named, and a lawyer was consulted. It was found that a clause in the deed would not permit it being transferred. A great deal of time elapsed during investigation and we were advised to not pay the taxes for three years, and the property would be put up for tax sale. It sure was a great relief in December 1953 when the delegation learned at Nobleton Hall that there were no bids against us, much to the credit of Township Clerk, Mr. Harold Rose.
- 1954 - Plans were made to go ahead, repair and paint the hall. Some new window sills, new floor and sill in lobby, new sidewalks to North and east doors, insulated ceiling, new insul brick siding, new rood, windows paned and puttied, woodwork inside all painted. The money was raised since 1945, by bazaars, strawberry and oyster suppers, collections and euchres.
- 1954-55 - Material and Labour for Laskay Hall.
- |                                                        |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Shingles, tarpaper, valley iron and nails.             | \$238.27       |
|                                                        | 6.91           |
| Stone siding, insulation paper - 35 panes glass-putty, | 220.99         |
|                                                        | 29.00          |
| Paint - \$29.00-Aubrey Campbell painting               | 96.35          |
| Construction & Labour                                  | 302.27         |
|                                                        | <hr/> \$893.79 |
- 1955 - On February 10th ,1955 the secretary received the tax deed in the mail and has since had it registered and banked.

# LASKAY HALL

This is a photo of a page in the ledger book of Joseph Baldwin,  
 Dated 1840 to 1864, and showing at the top of the page, that on  
 Nov. 24, 1856, the lumber sold for the building of Temperance Hall,  
 later known as Laskay Hall.  
 This book is now owned by Pearson Smeltzer.

November the 24 1856

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## Temperance Hall

|      |        |                       |          |   |               |
|------|--------|-----------------------|----------|---|---------------|
| 1856 | Nov 24 | To 2958 ft Plank      | \$8      | 5 | 18 3/2        |
|      | "      | " 112 Scautting       | \$12 1/2 | 4 | 13 9/8        |
|      | 25     | " 1500 " Flooring     | 12 1/2   | 4 | 13 9/8        |
|      | "      | " 1300 " Clear Boards | \$15     | 4 | 17 6          |
|      |        | By Bill               |          |   | 15 = 14 0 1/2 |
|      |        | Red by Cash in full   |          |   |               |

102

|         |        |                        |       |    |         |
|---------|--------|------------------------|-------|----|---------|
| 1857    | Feb 28 | To 57 ft Common Lumber |       | 2  | 2       |
|         | "      | " 240 " Flooring @     | 1/8   | 18 | 0       |
| June 10 | "      | " 1011 " inch Boards @ | 41    | 2  | 0 5 1/2 |
| "       | "      | " 36 " Clear Siding    | 4     | 2  | 3       |
| "       | "      | " 67 " 3/4 Boards      | 3 1/2 | 3  | 4 1/2   |
| 15      | "      | " 176 " inch Boards    | 4     | 7  | 2       |
| "       | "      | " 222 " Scautting      |       | 9  | 0       |
| "       | "      | " 109 2 " joist        |       | 6  | 3 9/8   |
| "       | "      | " 480 " Rafter         |       | 19 | 3       |
| "       | "      | " Siding               |       | 22 | 6       |
| July 22 | "      | To 208 ft Lath         |       | 7  | 3 1/2   |
| "       | "      | " 100 " Clear Siding   |       | 7  | 6       |
| "       | "      | " 32 " "               |       | 2  | 5       |
| "       | "      | " 120 " "              |       | 9  | "       |
| 1858    | Jan 25 | By Cash                |       | 3  | 10 1/2  |
| 1859    | Jan 25 | By returned tock       |       | 14 | 2       |
|         |        |                        |       | 18 | 1/2     |
|         |        |                        |       | 5  | 7 1/2   |
|         |        |                        |       | 12 | 5       |

1857 Janur 28

Feb March

April 2

11

18

Newmarket, Ont.

June 12, 1928.

Mrs. Sandy MacMurchy,

Strange, Ont.

Dear Mrs. McMurchy:-

Yours of the 5th just reached me to-day as I have been away for nearly a week attending the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada, and in the accumulated mail on my return to the office to-day I found your letter.

As you know I would be only too pleased to give you any information possible with reference to the old Temperance Hall at Laskay, and would just state from memory, as I have no other record, some incidents in connection with its early history. A "Sons of Temperance Lodge" was established in that Hall about the year 1870, of which I was one of the charter members. The building itself as I recollect it apparently had been empty and not used for some time, as it was only a shell, not even being lathed and plastered.

The members of the division began to see what could be done to put the Hall in some proper shape. As you can readily understand we had no money in those days, but what we did was, a number of the young men met at the Hall in the evening and put the laths on to save expense. We then got a man to plaster it for which we had to pay. There was other fixings that required to be done and going as far as we felt our finances would permit we found we had established a little debt, so a few of the members decided to advance the money for the annual fees for several years ahead and it was pretty hard to get the money to do it, the most of it, and pay our debts and our money was placed at our credit on our dues account. At that time men only were allowed under the constitution of the "Sons of Temperance" to become members of the Lodge.

The Lodge prospered during this next few years and the building being improved some not only with an advantage to the Lodge meetings but also became a meeting place for other gatherings.

About this time the Lodge established an annual tea-party which was held on New Years' night. This, for a number of years was an event in all that section of country, the hall being crowded on every occasion, and from which funds were received to help in various improvements. An organ was bought and put in, and then the constitution of the Order was changed permitting the ladies to attend, and become members. As you can easily understand how this brightened up for all of us our evening gatherings, and I have reason to believe that as a result of this change in the constitution of the Order, many happy marriages took place in that neighborhood.

In the passing years the hall got entirely too small for our annual gathering, and also for many other gatherings that were held, for the convenience of the community. After much deliberation and a great deal of thought as to how it would ever be paid for, it was finally decided to build a large addition, to the west of the building. This cost, for those days, quite a sum of money, but it was successfully completed and the building in its new form became of greater value for meetings of various kinds.

Then after many years the Lodge discontinued, and somewhere about this time, owing to the loss by fire of our business at Kinghorn, we removed to Newmarket, and from that time on you will be more familiar with what uses were made of the hall until the time the ladies of the neighborhood took charge of the situation and made many improvements, the result of which surprised me when, accepting an invitation to be present at the re-opening after all these improvements were completed, and I can assure you it gave me a great deal of pleasure to see the old hall renovated and put into such a splendid condition for the use of community gatherings, many of them under the direction of the ladies of the neighborhood, and it is to be hoped it will long fill that very useful place in Laskay and surrounding country.

Mrs. Sandy McMurchy

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I can assure you as I look back to those early years of that Temperance Lodge, there were quite a few young men at that date who have owed a great deal during their future lives as a result of debates and other kinds of entertainment which gave them an opportunity to learn to express themselves on questions of interest to the public and on the public platform in the years that followed.

q You may pick something out of this which will be of interest and allow me to wish the Women's Institute of York County a most successful and profitable meeting on Thursday next June 14th.

With very kind personal regards, and best wishes, I remain

EJD/FE

Yours sincerely,

E. J. Davis (Signed).



## LASKAY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

are celebrating their

### *50th Anniversary*

in Laskay Institute Hall

on Tuesday, July 8, 1958, at 8 p.m.

and have much pleasure in extending an invitation to you  
to join with them on this occasion

R.S.V.P.

MRS. CHARLES HATELY, *Pres.*

MRS. CLYDE CAIRNS, *Sec.*

### 50th Anniversary

Tuesday evening, July 8, 1958, will be remembered as a memorable occasion for those who attended the 50th Anniversary of Laskay W.I. Branch. The weather was perfect, the Institute Hall, 100 years old, never looked better in all its finery of decorations and beautiful display of flowers, mostly from local gardens. The hall was filled to capacity, 185 people registering. The thirteen Branch Institutes of York Centre District were invited, as well as Maple and Vellore Branches to the south of us. Past members returned and local visitors were present. One past member came from Sarnia, some from Hamilton and Toronto. Eight 4-H Girls assisted us in chorus singing and serving lunch.

Of twenty members, sixteen were present, four first-year 1908 members were present. Our three life members were present. Pictures, some old, some new from our History Book were displayed as well as Institute History.



50th ANNIVERSARY PICTURES



THE TABLE



MRS.P. FORESTER CUTTING CAKE



FLORAL DECORATIONS



DISPLAY OF PICTURES



CHORUS GROUP



MRS. WM. BRYSON - MRS. NORMAN BRYSON  
MRS. E. T REITZ - MRS.F.BOYS - MRS.C.HATEL

PROGRAMME

OPENING ODE

WELCOME - by President

ROLL CALL - by Secretary - 15 Institutes  
Past Members  
Visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE

GREETINGS - Mrs. Elton Armstrong (Chairman-Toronto Convention Area)  
Mrs. George Shoults - President - Centre York District.

LASKAY INSTITUTE HISTORY.

Panel - Mrs. Whatley Finch - a past President.  
Mrs. Walter Monkman - a past Secretary.  
Mrs. Pearson Smeltzer - Historical Research Convener.

GREETINGS - Miss Wilda Gordon - Home Economist - York County.  
Mrs. Boddy - President - West York District.

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WELCOME CHORUS - Members of Institute and 4-H Girls

SOLO - Mrs. Fred Boys (Little Road to Laskay - words and music by Mrs.  
L. Dennet of Laskay).

MONOLOGUE - Mrs. Frank Buddin

(Many city folk have grown tired of the fantastic clamor and  
scurry of metropolitan life and have transplanted themselves  
into the country, there to live in rural happiness ever  
after. Here is one who didn't-----Mrs. Reginald Minkworthy,  
Junior, is about to make a phone call.)

SCOTTISH SONGS - The Keel Row,  
Comin' thro' the Rye,  
Bonnie Banks O'Loch Lomon' - Members of Inst. & 4-H Girls.

PIANO DUET - Mrs. Wm. Bryson - Mrs. Norman Bryson

DUETS - Mrs. Ernest Treitz, Sarnia - Mrs. Fred Boys - Temperanceville.

RECITATION - Mrs. L. Dennet (The Gardener)

DUET - Mrs. Ernest Treitz - Mrs. Fred Boys (Stream of Mercy)

COURTESIES - Mrs. Charles Black

CHORUS - When you and I were young, Maggie,  
Down by the old Mill Stream,  
There is a tavern in the town - Members of Inst. and 4-H Girls.

THE QUEEN



Mrs-Dennet-Mrs.Buddin



The History Panel

Little road to Laskay,  
Where you climb the sunlit hill  
Deep in dust of passing years,  
Do you hear my footprint still?  
Little Laskay river,  
Where the willow trees lean low,  
Do you mirror still my image  
As you saw me long ago?  
Little sunflecked valley,  
Where the restless grasses sway,  
Is a child's small shadow dancing  
Drowsing summer hours away?  
Long the bitter road I've travelled  
Since those golden days of old,  
Now a voice within cries 'Homeward'--  
"Turn before the heart grows cold".  
So the weary feet turn homeward,  
As the sun dips in the West,  
Where the road to Laskay leads me  
Like a tired child to rest.

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WELCOME CHORUS

Well, Hi, there neighbours, gee, it's good to see you coming,  
Well, hello, there neighbours, we'll set the old hall humming--  
So just sit down and kick your shoes off,  
Let your hair down, shake the blues off,  
We're all out to please you on our Anniversary!

If you're from Aurora, then we'll switch on the Northern Lights,  
The ladies out from Kettleby could brew themselves some tea,  
And don't you worry, Temperanceville--  
We've never even seen a still,  
We said we'd make you happy on our Anniversary!

For Bogarttown, Vandorf, Pine Orchard and King Ridge,  
We'll sing a gay chorus and serve up a sandwidge,  
And for Nobleton and Gormley, Schomberg, Snowball, King,  
Any Laskay Lass might even dance a Highland Fling,  
And Hello, Vellere and Maple on our Anniversary!