

HISTORY OF SARAWAK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

This is the history of the Women's Institute of Sarawak Township, Grey County; that pleasant strip of land along the western shore of Georgian Bay, a land rich in Indian lore. It is here that the once-forgotten grave of the Indian Princess Nah-nee-bah-wee-quay (Mrs. Sutton), is marked and kept in repair by the Women's Institute, perpetuating the memory of the visit she made to Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle.

In this township lived Mrs. N. Kirk, a granddaughter of the founder of Kemble W. I., which was, proudly, the third in the world. It was Mrs. Kirk who inspired and advertised the gathering of women who met at the Orange Hall in Sarawak on Wednesday afternoon July 5, 1944, to form the present Institute. Seventeen women came. Mrs. G. McPhatter, of Kemble was present and organized the group who chose the name, "Sarawak Women's Institute." The charter members are:

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mrs. L. Harlbut | Mrs. P. Bumstead |
| " C. Catto | " D. Goodfellow |
| " A. Vaughan | " J. Monahan |
| " D. Vaughan | " R. McHabb |
| " E. Bumstead | " F. Lee |
| " J. Wilson | " A. Cameron |
| " N. Kirk | Miss Irene Goodfellow (Mrs. Jolley) |

The first President was Mrs. Norman Kirk and the first Secretary-treasurer was Mrs. Jas. Monahan.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH AND CURRENT EVENTS:

We donated \$10. to the Adelaide Hoodless Memorial Fund and \$5. to the Nellie McClung cairn. *additional \$10 to Cairn - 1953*

CITIZENSHIP AND EDUCATION:

We purchased a piano for S.S. # 2 Sarawak School, and also books for the school library. We make a yearly donation to the Salvation Army.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

The Institute made a donation to a bereaved immigrant family in the community, and had baking sales and apron sales. We have invited neighboring institutes to short courses and films and picnics. We bought ten folding chairs for the use of the Institute, and freely lend these to worthy community activities.

HOME ECONOMICS AND HEALTH:

The Institute periodically sent food parcels to two families in Britain; put hot plates in two schools; donated to the Cancer Fund; donated to Grey House; knitted and sewed for the Red Cross; sponsored the Blue Cross Hospitalization.

AGRICULTURE AND CANADIAN INDUSTRIES:

We carried on the garden brigade for three years.

1950

MAY, 1950 -

Mrs. Norman Kirk 1st President