

INSTITUTE NEWS

MEMORIAL



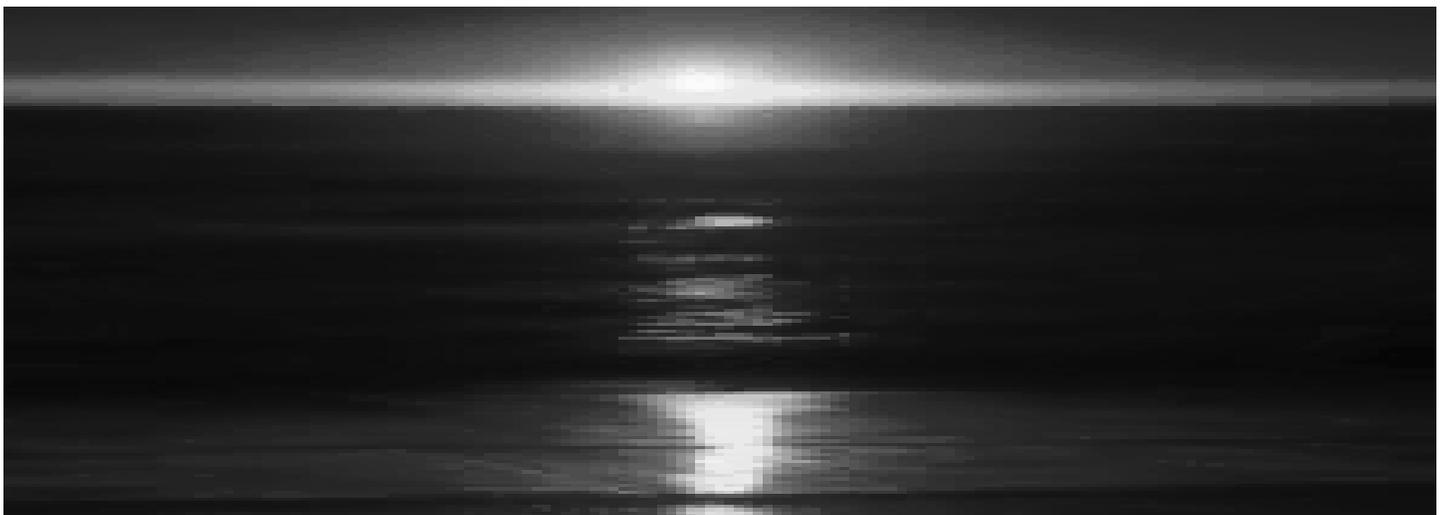
EDITION

2009

REMEMBRANCE

THOUGH THE IRIS WILTS AND WITHERS
ITS FRAGRANCE LINGERS ON;
THOUGH THE RAIN MAY LEAVE THE WINDOW
ITS MARK REMAINS THEREON;
THOUGH THE BIRD MAY LEAVE THE TREETOP
IT WILL RETURN ANEW;
THOUGH THE SKY MAY DARKEN ANGRILY
IT SOON TURNS BACK TO BLUE;
THOUGH THE MUSIC ENDS THE MELODY
STAYS LOCKED BEHIND YOUR EYES;
AND THOUGH A LOVED ONE'S PASSED ON
REMEMBRANCE NEVER DIES.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



Thelma Lucy Daly nee LeLacheur ~ Royal Oak WI ~ April 13, 2006

Born in Guersney Cove, Thelma left the area as a young woman to earn a living in the US. Thelma and her husband Ken returned to this area to enjoy their retirement. Thelma was an active member of her church and church women's group, the Wood Islands Handcraft Co-op as well as the Royal Oak Branch of the PEI Women's Institute.

For many years Thelma served this Branch as Vice-President, presiding very capably over meetings in the absence of the President. For more than 20 years Thelma was responsible for sending cards and treats to shut-ins and the bereaved of our community and surrounding area on behalf of the Branch. Frequently this involved personal visits while making deliveries of treats, plants and flowers. Thelma's active involvement in the community and the Women's Institute has certainly raised public awareness of the local branch and the Prince Edward Island Women's Institute as a whole. After 20 years of service Thelma became a Life Member of the Royal Oak Branch of the PEI WI. We felt honoured to have such a fine lady as a member. Every September Thelma hosted a supper meeting on the deck of her home overlooking the Northumberland Strait. It was an event that was always looked forward to by the members. Thelma was faithful to attend and participate in activities of the Branch, whether it was joining in at "hooking parties" or "quilting bees" or working at District Conventions or attending Provincial Conventions. Poor health kept Thelma housebound for several years and she spent the final years of her life as a resident of the Dr. John Gillis Lodge, passing away on April 13, 2006 at the age of 86. We all miss her pleasant manner and sense of humour.

Edna Eileen MacNeill ~ Beach Point WI ~ August 4, 1923 - September 16, 2007

This is a tribute to the life of Edna Eileen MacNeill. Edna was born on August 4, 1923 to Bob and Blanche Glover of Guernsey Cove. She was the oldest in a family of nine children. She grew up on the family farm in the Cove. Her father, Bob, was the local mailman for many years. The tradition continued when her brother Howard took over the mail delivery duties when his father retired. Edna, along with her brothers and sisters, attended the one-room school in Guersney Cove.

In 1942 Edna married Gerald, better known as Bub, MacNeill and moved to Beach Point. At the time of their marriage, Bub was enlisted in the Navy, serving during the Second World War. After the war, Bub became a fisherman and continued to fish well into his senior years. Edna and Bub had a family of six, namely, Mary, Ralph, Ruth, Danny, Geraldine and Joan. It caused great sorrow within the family and community when Mary was tragically killed in a car accident at the young age of 16 in 1959. Edna was a very hard worker. She raised and cared for her children, helped Bub with various things connected with fishing, worked in the lobster factory, always had a very large vegetable garden and was very involved with her church, the Murray Harbour Baptist Church. For many years she was in charge of the Baby Band, which was weekly meetings for mothers and young children at the Church. Edna was also an avid hand crafter, especially knitting and crocheting. She made many handcrafted items for her family and she could also be hired to make something for someone else who didn't possess her talents. She taught knitting and crocheting to a lot of people in Community School in Beach Point.

Edna became a member of the Beach Point Branch of the Women's Institute in 1949 and remained a member until its disbandment in 1952. When the Beach Point Branch was reinstated in 1963 Edna volunteered for the position of Secretary. She held this office until 1968. She continued to be a member of the Institute until 1969.

Edna stayed an active and productive member of the community until health problems forced her to slow down. In the early 1990's she was diagnosed with heart problems and she suffered a heart attack in 1992. In January 1993 Edna underwent by-pass surgery in Halifax. The operation was successful but Edna's heart was so weak that it was unable to strengthen itself after the surgery. After that Edna would suffer chest pains with the smallest effort to try and do anything. She continued to live at home with Bub making trips to the hospital whenever chest pains made it necessary for stronger medication than she was taking at home. She made the most of her situation never losing her sense of humour and her ready laugh. This was her life the last 15 years or so until she suffered a massive stroke. Edna passed away two weeks later on September 16, 2007. Everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing Edna will surely miss her.

Leotha MacKinnon ~ Beach Point WI ~ August 20, 1924 - October 21, 2007

This is a tribute to the life of Leotha MacKinnon.

Leotha was born August 20, 1924 in Beach Point to Jack and Sadie Jackson. She was the second youngest in a family of five. She had an older brother Howard, sisters Murtle and Emma and younger brother Claude. In the late forties, the family suffered the great losses of 21 year old Emma and 18 year old Claude to tuberculosis.

In 1944 Leotha married Orrin Nicolle and they made their home on Wharf Lane in Beach Point. They had two children, a son Jerry and a daughter Claudia. Orrin made a living for the family by fishing. Leotha ran the household and looked after the family. She also worked in the lobster and fish factory for many years. Leotha was a lovely knitter and was excellent at hooking mats.

Leotha was a member of the Beach Point Women's Institute. The Beach Point Branch was disbanded in the early fifties and reinstated in 1963. Leotha was a member from 1963 to 1975. She donated a hooked mat in 1966 to be raffled off to raise money for the Institute.

In 1975 lung cancer claimed the life of Leotha's husband, Orrin. She continued to live in the family home in Beach Point until 1981 when she married John MacKinnon from Point Prim. Leotha sold her home in Beach Point and moved to her and John's new home in Point Prim. She missed all of her old friends and neighbours but she built a new life for herself with John. Not many years after her marriage to John, Leotha started having some medical problems. She was experiencing the beginning of Parkinson's Disease. As the disease progressed, it was necessary for Leotha to move into the Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge. At first, John was able to take her home now and then for a day or two at a time. Later on her disease made it impossible to leave. Throughout her ordeal Leotha was able to continue knitting. She made hundreds of pairs of mitts and socks. She said that she was thankful to be able to knit because it helped her to pass the time. Leotha spent a total of 12 years as a resident of the care facility. Leotha passed away at the Gillis Lodge on October 21, 2007. She will be missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, her family of caregivers at the Gillis Lodge, and all of her friends and neighbors in both Beach Point and Point Prim.



Betty Elaine Ellis ~ Northam WI ~ October 28, 1946 - November 4, 2007

Betty was born in Summerside, the daughter of Earle and Eva Colwill and the loving wife of Lynden Ellis, mother of Sharlene, Shannon and D'Arcy and she has four grandchildren. Betty was a faithful member of the Tyne Valley United Church, Registered Nurse, and member of the Northam Women's Institute. She capably filled the position of President for a term. She was active in her community assisting with all functions. Betty was an excellent pianist and capably filled in as Church Organist when needed.

Betty will be greatly missed in our community.

Ruth (MacFadyen) Virtue ~ Riverdale-Churchill WI ~ September 26, 1915- November 30, 2007

Ruth (MacFadyen) Virtue was born in Riverdale September 26, 1915. She joined Howels Brook WI when it was organized in March 1942. This WI was later named Riverdale-Churchill WI. Ruth worked and lived in Charlottetown for several years but on returning to Riverdale to live with her husband Nelson and son Derry she joined our Institute again. She received her Life Membership many years later and remained a very active member until failing health caused her retirement from our group. Ruth passed away at Beach Grove Home on November 30th, 2007. She will be greatly missed by her sister members.



Eva Catherine Kearns nee Brehaut~ Royal Oak WI ~ December 29, 2007

Eva joined the Royal Oak Women's Institute in 1966 when she and her husband Laurence moved to the community of Guersney Cove to care for her aging parents. Over the many years that Eva was a member of the Royal Oak Women's Institute it could be said that the Institute could not have had a more faithful member or willing worker. Eva, for many years, served as Auditor for the Branch and always faithfully executed her duties. Eva served as a member of the telephone committee, calling members to remind them of the meeting time, place, and their responsibilities for that meeting. In 1993, after 27 years of service, Eva became a Life Member of the Royal Oak Branch of the PEIWI.

Eva was born and raised in the house she returned to in Guersney Cove. As a young woman, Eva left Guernsey Cove to seek employment in Charlottetown. This was followed by a time spent living and working on the Gaspé Coast. Later Eva lived in Alma, New Brunswick and then in Moncton for many years. Eva has one daughter, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Eva was faithful to attend Institute meetings and always willing to contribute both her time and energy to projects. Each summer when the Royal Oak WI operated its booth at the Northumberland Fisheries Festival Eva took her turn, spending hours selling baked goods and tickets to help raise money for the local branch. Eva was also quick to donate her baked goods for the booth and for social functions we hosted. For many years this branch hooked a mat as a fund raising project. Eva was one of our best "hookers". In later years we made quilts and Eva was there faithfully to add her stitches to our efforts. Over the years, Eva attended and worked at many District Conventions and attended many Provincial Conventions.

Eva was a vibrant part of the Royal Oak Branch of the Women's Institute until age and ill health kept her from attending. Eva passed away December 29, 2007 at the age of 101. We shall miss her.

Adelee Fay Foy ~ Tryon WI ~ September 25, 1934 - January 9, 2008

Adelee was born in Tryon on September 25, 1934. She was the only daughter of the late Morley and Laura Mullins of Tryon.

She was the beloved wife of Ralph Foy and proud mother of Sandy (Sylvia), Tony, Ann Louise (Melis Visser), Sheila (Mario Gauthier), Morley (Gina). She was blessed with twelve grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Adelee joined the Tryon Women's Institute in 1958 and held the office of secretary during that time.

Adelee and Ralph operated "Ralph Foy's Plumbing and Heating Services" where Adelee was the bookkeeper of the business. She enjoyed sewing, music and summer at their cottage in Hampton and working with Real Estate.

She is fondly remembered by her family and friends.

"Memories become more precious with each passing day"



Mary Elizabeth Buchanan ~ Riverdale-Churchill WI ~ October 30, 1934 - January 10, 2008



The members of the Riverdale-Churchill WI were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our sister member Mary Elizabeth Buchanan at the Palliative Care Unit at the Prince Edward Home surrounded by family and friends on January 10, 2008. Mary grew up in Charlottetown and on July 1, 1953 she married Kelsie Buchanan and moved to the family farm in Churchill. Kelsie and Mary were blessed with 2 children, Marilyn (Donnie Lund) and Sterling (Sharon). Mary was a proud grammie to 3 grandchildren. Mary was a member of the Salvation Army and played in a band. When she came to Churchill she attended Churchill Presbyterian Church and sang in the choir. She also was a member of Clyde River Presbyterian Church and a member of Churchill A.M.S. Mary loved camping with her family and spent winters in Florida with Kelsie. Mary was a Life Member of Riverdale-Churchill WI and held many, many offices over the years. Many WI meetings were held in her home and members were treated to her homemade baking, especially Lemon Pie and Chocolate Cake.

Mary was a member of the PEI chapter of the Red Hat Society.

Mary was a wonderful friend and neighbour and her memory will live with us for many years.

Annie Mabel Lillian Williams ~ Beach Point WI ~ June 21, 1918 - January 26, 2008



This is a tribute to the life of Annie Mabel Lillian Williams.

Annie was born on June 21, 1918 to Oliver and Olive Giddings of Abney, PEI. She was the third oldest of eleven children. At a young age, Annie and her family moved to White Sands where the family homestead still stands.

In 1940 she married Johnnie Williams of Beach Point. Johnnie had a general store and they lived on the second floor above the store. In 1941, their first child, Olive, was born. When Johnnie joined the Navy and went to serve in the Second World War it was up to Annie to run the store. After Johnnie returned from the service, their family grew starting with Kenny in 1945, Jimmy, who died in infancy, Ernie, Charlie, Miriam, Lily, and finally

Perry in 1959. The family moved into a new house that Johnnie built in 1950. They continued to have the store for another year or so. Annie was busy raising the children and running the household. Annie was the original recycler. She made pillow cases and other items out of flour bags. She took apart old clothes that were no longer being used and made clothes for the children. Any scraps of yarn or woolen material leftover were used for hooking mats. After the children were pretty well grown, Annie did a lot of sewing and alterations for other people. In her later years, Annie had a passion for making hand-quilted quilts. She made one for each of her children and for all but the 4 or 5 youngest of her 24 grandchildren when ill health prevented her from continuing. After her husband passed away, Annie and her good friend, Lucy MacNeill, went on bus tours to the United States and to the West Coast. Annie really enjoyed these trips since she had never traveled very much before. Annie survived some losses in her life beginning with her infant son Jimmy on Christmas Day in 1946, her grandson Paul MacKinnon in 1974, her husband Johnnie in 1988 and her grandson Carson Baker in 1994. She remained strong through all these tragedies.

Annie joined the Beach Point Women's Institute in 1963. She held the office of President or Secretary for many years throughout the 60's and 70's. She received her Life Membership in May 2000. Annie was also very active in the Community School movement. She was on the executive of the local branch in Beach Point and later in Murray Harbour. She also taught sewing and quilting for a number of years. It was in Community School that Annie took up other interests which included art and drama. Annie suffered a mini-stroke in the spring of 2002. After a stay in hospital, she was able to return home where her son Ernie and his family lived with her. A year later Annie's condition had deteriorated to the point where she had to go to a nursing home. Annie passed away at the Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge in Eldon on January 26, 2008.

Kathleen G. MacDonald, R.N. ~ Mermaid WI ~ July 24, 1924 - February 1, 2008

Kay was born in Cumberland and moved to Mermaid with her family at the age of nine. She attended Mermaid School and Prince of Wales College. She aspired to enter the nursing program at the Charlottetown Hospital but due to rheumatic fever at age seventeen her nursing was put on hold. She married Athol MacDonald in 1945 and they were blessed with seven children. Sadly, one child died in infancy and another in his teens. Kay and Athol operated a family farm in Mermaid until 1981. Kay was actively involved in the farming activities even while doing her nursing assistant's program in 1962 and her RN program beginning in 1967. Kay received her RN in 1970, three months after the death of her son Philip. She worked in nursing for the next twenty years and following her retirement frequently provided compassionate nursing care to family and friends.



Kay was a Charter Member of Mermaid Women's Institute. Indeed, she was instrumental in its formation when she and the Mermaid school teacher placed invitations in the mail boxes of their neighbours to invite the women of the community to a meeting in the old school on February 2, 1950. The women worked through WI to press for the building of a new school which opened in 1951. Then they worked diligently to raise money to provide necessities and enhancements for the children's education in the school. Kay served as president, director, auditor and on many committees in WI. She regularly hosted meetings in her home as well as fund raising card parties and chicken suppers in her home on occasion. She helped organize dances and concerts in the school and could be counted on to bring lunch for many events in the community. Even after she was no longer an active WI member she would support WI projects such as our annual bazaar by sending her sought-after homemade bread and other goodies to sell. Kay's talent in gardening was evident in the beautiful flower beds at her home, and she advocated at WI meetings for shrubs and flowers for the school grounds.

In addition to her WI involvements, Kay provided leadership to her church and community through CWL, Columbian Ladies and Birthright. Kay was an avid card player and for a number of years organized cards at Assumption Parish and the Cotton Centre.

Kay was diagnosed with cancer December 14, 2007. She received that news with peaceful resignation and treasured the remaining time she had, surrounded by family and friends in her own home. Her final two and a half weeks were spent at Palliative Care where she was lovingly and respectfully cared for by a sensitive, dedicated professional staff. She is greatly missed but fondly remembered by all who knew her.

"If you can help somebody who's in sorrow or in pain
Then you can say to God at night - my day was not in vain"

Dorothy Marion Howatt ~ Tryon WI ~ December 21, 1913 - February 14, 2008

On February 14, 2008, the Tryon Women's Institute were saddened by the passing of a former member Dorothy Howatt of Sudbury, Ontario. Dorothy was born in Nova Scotia on December 21, 1913 to her late parents, Mr. & Mrs. Crossman.

She was the beloved wife of the late Asher Howatt, loving mother of Warren (predeceased), Janet (Keith Foy), Carol, Mary (James Craig) and Robert, cherished grandmother of thirteen, seventeen great grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren. Dorothy joined the Tryon Women's Institute in 1946 where she was a faithful and valued member for many years.

Dorothy was a busy farm wife and loyal member of the Tryon Baptist Church. She loved the outdoors, gardening and taking care of her flowers. Dorothy and her husband enjoyed traveling, especially their winters in Florida.

We, her sister members of the Tryon WI miss her cheery disposition, helping hands and her great hospitality extended to us over the years.

"Tenderly we cherish the past with memories that will always last"



Lois Ada (Craswell) Holroyd ~ Highfield WI ~ February 17, 1929 - February 19, 2008



Family, friends and Highfield WI were saddened to learn of Lois' passing at the Garden Home, Charlottetown on February 19, 2008. Lois was born on February 17, 1929 to Claude and Ada Craswell of North Winsloe. In 1947 Lois married John S. Holroyd and together they raised two sons Geoffrery (Joanne) and Scott (Mary). Lois was a loving grandmother to Kendra Lee and Colton, Justin and Kathie.

Lois was a dedicated member of St. John's Anglican Church and Anglican Church Women.

Lois was employed as sales clerk in three different stores in Charlottetown and she also worked at a tourist resort in Cavendish. John and Lois delivered mail for many years until John's retirement after fifty years of service with Canada Post. Lois was Secretary of Highfield WI until her ill health forced her to leave this office. She was a Charter Member, Life Member and she received a certificate for 50 years service to WI on PEI. Lois was the Life of the Party, even our meetings were very lively due to Lois' comical nature. Lois was an excellent baker. We were always delighted when she was on lunch, her desserts were delicious. Lois loved and enjoyed flowers, her beautiful flower gardens were a testament of this love.

Lois lived life to the fullest and she is sadly missed by her family, friends and all WI members past and present.

"Time lets us heal - Love lets us remember."

Gladys Lowther Bradshaw-Henderson ~ Searletown WI ~ January 23, 1915 - February 20, 2008

"Those who weave colour into our lives leave us with a tapestry of beautiful memories."



Gladys Lowther Bradshaw-Henderson was born in Searletown PEI in the home of her parents. She attended school in Searletown and Mt. Allison University. She married Neil Bradshaw and together they raised four girls and one son. They attended Bedeque United Church where she was a member of the United Church Women. Gladys was a Life Member of the Searletown WI and hosted many monthly meetings in her farm home. Following Neil's passing she married Arnold Henderson and after his death she resided at Andrews Lodge, Summerside. She had a gentle personality and warm smile and was visited by many friends and neighbours. She died at Prince County Hospital on February 20, 2008 and a largely attended funeral was held in the Bedeque United Church with her Pastor Rev. Gloria Churchill presiding. Gladys will be truly missed and remembered by her family, neighbours and friends.

Florence Elizabeth (Matheson) MacLaine ~ Nine Mile Creek WI ~ July 7, 1914 - March 23, 2008

Florence Elizabeth Matheson MacLaine was born in Sleepy Hollow, Highfield, PEI to Lavinia (MacDonald) and Herbert Matheson. In her early years, the family moved to North Milton and lived on the family farm.



At the age of 22, Florence was diagnosed with tuberculosis and spent the next three years battling the disease at the Provincial Sanatorium and at home. During this time she started keeping a diary and scrapbooks of current events. Both items were kept current and were often used to settle rising disputes. In 1943 she became a hat buyer for Moore and MacLeod's in Charlottetown. On September 16, 1953, Florence married Milton MacLaine and moved to Nine Mile Creek. They had one son, Herbert, who now resides in Meadowbank. Their door was always open to their many friends and their hospitality was legendary. Florence was an active member in the community and church. She was a Life Member of the Nine Mile Creek WI as well as the Women's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church. Her handiwork, including knitting and needlework projects, were a joy and her many prize-winning hand-stitched quilts were generously given to family and friends. Florence was a joy to know, a friend to all and had a friendly smile that brightened everyone's mood. She will be sadly missed.

Lorna Grace MacEwen ~ New London WI ~ December 2, 1915 - March 27, 2008

Lorna was born in New London daughter of Bertram and Ada (Simpson) MacEwen. She married Donald MacEwen and together they farmed and raised four children - Hodge, Dean, Jessie and Alan.

She was a Charter Member of the New London WI and received a Life Membership.

She was a faithful member of St. John's Presbyterian Church and their AMS.

In their retirement Lorna & Donald moved to Kensington and after her husband passed away Lorna moved to an apartment and in later years went to Clinton View Lodge.

She was a kind, knowledgeable and jovial person who loved to talk about the past and kept up with the news of the present.

She will be sadly missed by family, friends, and neighbours.



Hilda (Stevenson) Molyneaux ~ North River WI ~ July 22, 1922 - March 29, 2008

The members of the North River Women's Institute were saddened at the death of "Hilda" Grace Molyneaux. Hilda was born in Warren Grove, daughter of Everett and Enid (Warren) Stevenson on July 22, 1922. Hilda's mother died when Hilda was very young and shortly after, Hilda went to live with her Grandmother and Uncle Brent Stevenson on the Jewell Road. After completing her education, Hilda worked in Rothesay, New Brunswick for a short time. She then worked in Charlottetown until her marriage to Laurence Molyneaux on January 8, 1944. They lived in

Inkerman, PEI for a short while before taking over the Stevenson Farm on the Jewell Road. Hilda was an active member of the North River WI and was made a Life Member in 1976. She was the Avon Lady for a number of years. Hilda was a born musician: a piano player, a singer and was musician for the Institute for many years.

She was organist of North River Baptist Church until it was de-commissioned. She then played in the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches in Clyde River for a time and later in the Cornerstone Baptist Church. After selling the farm, Hilda and Laurence built a retirement home on the property; they moved into their bungalow along with "Queenie", their dog in 1974. Hilda went to the Andrews Lodge as a resident in 2003, and following an accident, Laurence joined her. They later moved to the Atlantic Baptist Nursing Home where Laurence passed away on December 12, 2006 and Hilda on March 29, 2008.

"We will remember the spirit of a woman, who gave of herself - hardworking and honest."



Elva Moase ~ Kelvin Grove WI ~ July 13, 1914 - August 7, 2008

Members of Kelvin Grove WI were saddened to hear of the passing of one of their past members Elva Moase. Elva lived most of her life in Kelvin Grove. She married Ralph Moase and they had two sons, Kenneth and Willard, and carried on a farming operation for many years. Elva was a valued member of Kelvin Grove WI for a number of years. During the war years she helped pack boxes for the boys overseas and was an active participant with the WI in the upkeep of the local school.

She was a member of the Myrtle Rhoades WMS of the Kensington Presbyterian Church. Following the death of her husband, she moved to Perrin's Clinton View Lodge where she resided until her passing. Her memory will live with us for years to come.



Garry Havengha ~ Earnscliffe WI ~ 1924 - September 1, 2008

Garry Havengha was born in 1924 in the province of Freslante, North Holland. There were eight siblings in her family. Her name was Gerbrig but our WI members affectionately called her “Garry.”

Garry grew up in Holland and later met and married John Havengha. In 1951 they moved to Bedeque, PEI where they worked for 10 years. It was in Bedeque their two sons were born. In 1961 they bought a farm in Earnscliffe and very soon after Garry joined the Earnscliffe Women’s Institute. She was a great member, a hard worker, a loving wife and mother.

Garry passed away suddenly on September 1, 2008 at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



M. Neva MacEwen ~ New London WI ~ March 30, 1933 - September 4, 2008

“Greatly missed, always remembered.”

On September 4th, 2008 friends and neighbours of New London and area were saddened by the passing of Neva MacEwen. Neva was born on March 30, 1933 the daughter of the late Horace WE & Bessie A. Heckbert of Summerside.

She married Wm M (Billy) MacEwen September 8th, 1956 and moved to New London where they worked together in the family store W. M. MacEwen Ltd. Together they raised 3 children, Derek, Cindy and Heather, and had 3 grandchildren, whom she cherished.

She held various offices in the New London WI and was a valued Life Member of 52 years. She was an active member of her church, St. John’s Presbyterian Church, New London. She was also a valued member of the Regent Chapter #52 Order of Eastern Star, where she held various local and provincial offices.

She will be greatly missed by her sister WI Members.

Anne MacPherson ~ Eldon WI ~ February 13, 1925 - September 16, 2008

Anne was born in Castlebrae, Ireland, and later moved to London where she met a young Canadian Soldier, Ross MacPherson. They later married and she immigrated to Canada with her husband - where they raised three daughters and a son.

Anne was a faithful member of St. Michael’s Church, Iona and the CWL. She was a willing helper for various community projects.

In 2006, she was named Honorary Chief of the Highland Games at Lord Selkirk Park, this being the Year of the War Brides.

Anne was a dedicated Life Member of Eldon WI where her wonderful sense of humor brought a ray of sunshine to our meetings.

She made her home in Eldon until the past few years when she moved to Charlottetown to be with her daughter Elizabeth and husband Alan.

Anne will always be remembered and sadly missed by family and friends.

An old Irish Blessing:

May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back.
May the sunshine warm upon your face.
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God
Hold you in the palm of his hand.

Elsie Murray ~ Brackley Beach WI ~ 1935 - November 27, 2008

The community of Brackley Beach was shocked by the sudden death of Elsie Murray on November 27th. She played a pivotal role in the Brackley Beach Women's Institute and was a strong contributor to the community.

Elsie C. MacDougall was born in the community of Argyle Shore where she attended school, and when she graduated from Union Commercial College, Charlottetown, she was presented the general proficiency award. Elsie moved to Brackley Beach following her marriage to Stanley J. Murray in 1958 and lived on their potato and beef "Murrayhill Farm". Their family of three children, Lynn, Kim and Scott, extended to include Audrey, Chris and Matthew.

During the following 35 years, Elsie's energy and enthusiasm extended to all areas of her life - family, agriculture, the West Covehead United Church, community, 4-H, and tourism - and she was a great promoter of each.

Elsie gave strong leadership to the Women's Institute, serving a total of eight years as president, her most recent term ending in October 2008. Through the years she also served as vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Elsie encouraged all women to become involved in WI and was a major player in initiating projects and activities. Everyone who attended an event in Brackley Beach will recall her welcoming smile and the lemon pies and home-made bread she generously provided.

Kindhearted and always willing to reach out to others, she travelled many miles to ensure neighbours were able to attend meetings and be involved in events. She was a tremendous friend who liked to see other people recognized for their success and accomplishments and always enjoyed a laugh.

Elsie was a unique individual who will always be kindly remembered for her generosity, outreach and willingness to work with others to make Prince Edward Island a better place to live and visit.



Alice (MacRae) Birch ~ Belmont WI ~ February 28, 1908 - December 28, 2008

Alice was born in Hunter River, daughter of the late Edward and Mary Jane (Smith) MacRae. She taught school in Little Sands, West Covehead and Belmont where she met and married Budd Birch in July 1931. They had one son, Wendell, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

Alice was a Charter Member of Belmont Women's Institute which was formed in 1931.

She was a faithful member of Belmont Baptist Church and a Life Member of the Women's Missionary Society.

She enjoyed playing 'Rook', quilting, knitting and singing alto.

Alice continued to enjoy family and friends until her passing at the age of 100 (two months short of 101). She will be missed by everyone who had the privilege to know her.





Flo L. Gunter ~ Brackley Beach WI ~ 1934 - 2008

In the late 1970s, Flo (Lighthouse) Gunter moved from Quebec to Brackley Beach with her husband, Calvin, and children Kevin, Sherrie and Penney.

Community-minded and willing to put her hand to any task, Flo became a member of the Women's Institute, and also served as President in 1987. Flo was the smiling face at the bake table during the annual Christmas luncheon, at fundraising suppers, New Year's Eve parties and early morning Birdwatcher's Breakfasts. She joined with the ladies in the fitness group and shared her love of nature and the outdoors. Active in all community projects, she enjoyed working on quilts for the Red Cross and Anderson House and knitting for the "preemies" in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital nursery. In 2002, she and Jeanne Brewster quilted a special wall hanging for the Brackley Beach

Community Centre which included the names of all the WI members. This quilt commemorated the spirit of Women's Institute as it connects and unites women through working together.

Flo was a loyal friend who had a great sense of fun and enjoyed travelling and new adventures. She enjoyed her family and loved to sew for her children and grandchildren.

It was only through failing health that Flo was unable to attend WI meetings; however, she lives in our memories as an energetic and enthusiastic friend.

Edith Lowry~ Marshfield WI ~ 1920 - 2008

Over the years Marshfield has been blessed with those who chose to make this community their home. And so it was with Edith Lowry and her family who came to PEI from Ireland in 1960. Edith was born and raised in Ireland where she became a Registered Nurse and practiced her profession in her home land as well as in PEI. Edith very quickly became a hard working and faithful member of the Women's Institute taking her part in all aspects of WI work. She was married to Rev. Hugh Lowry, the pastor of St. Columba Presbyterian Church in Marshfield, and raised their children here, a son Owen and a daughter Colleen. Edith and her husband worked together to organize the 1st Marshfield Boy Scout Troop and Marshfield WI became the local sponsor. Edith served the community well, becoming an assistant Cub Leader and also a valuable member of the WMS and Ladies Aid Society. She is remembered as a good neighbour with a gracious manner, and a wonderful Irish brogue. In her later years, Edith lived at the Atlantic Baptist Nursing Home in Charlottetown where she passed away on St. Patrick's Day 2008.

"Tenderly we treasure the past, with memories that will always last."



Jessie MacKinnon ~ Eldon WI ~ 1913 - 2008

Yes, let us believe that she is now without pain, safe in God's garden happy again. That the sunshine and laughter of friends she once knew have greeted her warmly in God's heaven of blue. Eldon Women's Institute mourn the loss of a dear friend and faithful member who enriched the lives of those with whom she came in contact. Jessie was born in South Pinette where she later married Neil MacKinnon, and together they raised a family of six children. She later moved to Eldon where she worked many years as a telephone operator. During the years she willingly held many offices in WI, and was a Life Member. She was always willing to open her home for many events. She was a faithful member of the St. John's Presbyterian Church, volunteered with Brownies and Girl Guides, Legion

Auxiliary, as well as A.M.S. Jessie had many good years of life and her years were full of life, love and happiness. A life well lived.

Dorothy MacLure ~ Brackley Beach WI ~ 1912 - 2008

Dorothy was born in South Granville on 6 May 1912, daughter of Charles and Catherine MacKenzie, and the third of six children. Dorothy began her teaching career of 30 years in South Granville. She secured a job in the Brackley Point one-room school in 1936 and boarded in the community. On November 8, 1939 she married Walter MacLure who had a mixed farm and operated a saw mill. She was a Charter Member of the Brackley Beach WI, established on 18 October 1945, and served a number of years as secretary-treasurer. Dorothy was also a member and the first vice-president of the Brackley Beach Red Cross Unit which supported the war effort between 1940 and 1945 and was the first organization of women in the community. Dorothy gave leadership in many areas, serving on committees and as an organizer of Rural Beautification projects.



The couple later moved to West Covehead where Dorothy joined the WI and was honoured with Life Membership. She continued to teach in this community and helped many students pass the Grade X provincial examinations and advance to college. At the Brackley Beach School Homecoming in 1983, Dorothy addressed the reunion and recalled many incidents - Christmas concerts, visits from the school nurse and travelling during winter. At the time the West Covehead WI disbanded, Dorothy joined the Brackley Beach group where she remained involved and interested in all activities.

She was a tremendous resource in the writing of the history of the Brackley Beach WI.

Dorothy's beautiful quilting, embroidery and hooked rugs won recognition in many provincial, national and international competitions. She enjoyed gardening and travelling and published a book on her community of South Granville and a book of poetry. She was a loyal and devoted member of the West Covehead United Church where she served many years as treasurer, choir member and UCW member.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who submitted write-ups for this special “Memorial Edition.”

- ***If we have made any editing errors or omitted any write-ups or photos, we sincerely apologize.***
- ***Some minor editing has been done but for the most part the content is that of the original.***

Institute News ~ Memorial Edition ~ 2009

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There's an open gate at the end of the road
Through which each must go alone,
And there, in a light we cannot see,
Our Father claims His own...
Beyond the gate your loved one
Finds happiness and rest,
And there is comfort in the thought
That a loving God knows best.

Author unknown