



Preserving the past

About 25 Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History curators attended a workshop in Winchester last Wednesday on researching and preserving local history. Guest speaker Marilyn Snedden of Almonte, Eastern

Ontario area curator, examines a history book with Margaret Johnstone, president and curator for the Winchester Women's Institute.

Winchester Press Apr. 17/85

Protection of the white trillium

The Floral Emblem Act established the white trillium as the official floral emblem for the Province of Ontario. For many years and through-out several generations, we as Ontarians, have been told that it is against the law to pick the white trillium.

The only real protection offered for the white trillium is the Provincial Parks Act, which stipulates that no plant can be cut or removed from a provincial park without authorization from the Minister of Natural Resources. Breach of this regulation can result in a fine of up to \$500. Unfortunately, provincial parks take up only 4.2% of the province's land boundaries -- unless they have the blessing to grow within them.

The Floram Emblem Act was introduced in 1937, by a member of the Ontario Legislature, William Guardhouse. The bill instructed that the "trillium grandiflorum" or white trillium, would be the official floral emblem for the province. This was initiated in response to the urgings of the Ontario Horticultural Society, and the adoption of similar floral emblem laws by the provinces of Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Alberta.

As such, the white trillium has developed into a singularly distinct and identifiable symbol of



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our provincial heritage. With there being no specific law to protect this flower I introduced legislation, the Floral Amendment Act, to rectify this. The bill instructs that anyone wilfully killing, injuring or interfering with the white trillium, will be guilty of an offence liable to a fine of not more than \$200.

The support and interest this bill has generated, has been overwhelming. Lawyers from British Columbia have even written to me, enclosing a copy of a similar law established in that province to protect a variety of flowers.

Incremental steps in the protection of our environment are essential. For every small step we take towards preserving both the wildlife and fauna surrounding us, the closer we will come to realizing the essential importance of the ecosystem to our survival.

The Ottawa-Carleton Review/Weekly Advance, Wed., July 18, 1990

South Mountain WI celebrates 50th



SOUTH MOUNTAIN — On May 11, 1936, 11 women from the South Mountain area got together, put in an annual membership fee of 25 cents and formed a chapter of the Women's Institute.

On Friday afternoon members of that chapter celebrated its 50th birthday.

"After 50 years, we aren't getting older, we are getting better," past chapter president Sandy Weagant told a full house of members and well-wishers at the South Mountain Community Hall.

Joined in the celebration by members of neighboring WI chapters and by the Pittston UCW, the South Mountain WI celebrated the historic birthday with songs, poems, a comedy and recognition of the achievements of the WI.

Greetings were made by Helen Burns, a member of the Women's Institute's provincial board of directors, and district president Ruth Alguire.

Once a division of Junior Farmers known as "The Jolly Homemakers", the South Mountain WI has earned a reputation for community support.

The chapter is currently involved in activities ranging from fundraising for the hospital to supporting a foster child in Sri Lanka. In addition to its charitable works, the institute has tried to preserve some of the past from the onslaught of the fast-paced present.

Said Weagant, "Crafts lost during the industrial revolution, such as quilting, candle wicking, and needlework, are again being taught by Women's Institutes."

"This is a great way to end my term," said current president Barb Black. "To see so many members and friends here to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the South Mountain Women's Institute."

Following a comic fashion show by the Pittston UCW and some rousing musical numbers by the Mountain Senior Citizens band, a special anniversary cake was cut by charter members Ruby Robinson and Dorothy Thomas.

"Our group has had fun over the last 50 years serving the community, helping others, making new friends and touring the area," said Weagant.

"Our Tweedsmuir book has been kept up as much as possible, providing the only record of development of the community for the next generation."

"In short," she said, "I quote the words of our code, 'We seek the common weal, the good of all mankind'."



Would you believe the latest in jewellery fashion? Would you believe an 18 carrot necklace? Pittston UCW member Alice Connors



A-one ... a-two ... a-three ...

Members of the Mountain Senior Citizens Band toasted the South Mountain Women's Institute on its 50th anniversary with a medley of songs during a Friday afternoon tea in South Mountain

Winchester Press Wed., April 16, 1986