

Name of Branch: Antelope Ridge Women's Institute

Location: Magrath

Founded: Oct 1973

Disbanded: Dec. 1977

By Oct 1977, they knew they were disbanding and were trying to spend or donate their money if possible. Their options as individuals were to become members at large, or join the "Old Chief WI." They had decided in September to disband because "It was felt by members that we have to pay too much in Dues for each year - \$84. Also that they do not get anything from the Provincial Office in return. Since the assets for the Alberta Women's Institute is \$103,505, it is felt that our dues need not be this much for 5 members." Every member voted in favour of disbanding.



Charter members: Erna Letkeman, Reva Strate, Laura Hildebrandt, Carol Raasch, Jean Wilson, Louise Bengry, Ingrid Brestler, Eunice Watson, Jane McKendry, Kate Morrow, Elizabeth Brown, Nadia Romekia, Isobel Holiday

First Exec: Pres. Erna Letkeman, VP. Jane McKendry, Sec. Jean Wilson, Treas. Ingrid Brestler, Directors: Reva Strate, Eunice Watson, Louise Bengry

Activities: At their first meeting, they had to decide if they had enough members (they had 13). By the end of 1974, they had 16. Then they had a discussion about the name: Milk River Ridge, Magdel, The Ridge, Beautiful Valley, Antelope Ridge. Most WIs were named for school districts, nearby towns/ hamlets, post offices, or for features of the landscape.

They decided that their first standing committees would have just one person responsible, since there weren't many members. These committees were outlined by the provincial executive and generally included such themes as these: Agriculture and Canadian Industry, Citizenship and Education, Handicrafts and Cultural Activities, Health and Home Economics, Social Services, Exchange Programme.

Finances:

At the beg of 1975, Antelope Ridge WI had a little over \$300 on hand, having \$1937.77 in overall receipts for the year, mostly from money earned catering for local events. They spent only \$200 on donations to charitable funds. Most of their funds were targeted to cover expenses in catering or having a banquet – e.g. farm auction sale – spent \$375.93/ received \$466.08; second auction sale – spent \$198.37, took in \$379.49.

Sources: PAA. 91.304.151. Minute Book. Antelope Ridge 1973-77; *History Supplement of the Alberta Women's Institute, 1956-75*. p. 40.