

Name of Branch: Brightwood Women's Institute

Location: Stony Plain area an hour west of Edmonton

Organized: June 1917

Charter Members: There were fourteen charter members, among whom were Mrs. Pallister, Mrs. Maddock, Mrs. Ed Johnson. The highest enrolment was in 1918, when there were 26 members. Membership fee was 25 cents.

First Executive: Mrs. Pallister, pres; Mrs. Ed Johnson, vice-pres; Mrs. Maddock, sec-treasurer

Disbanded: 1927

Activities: The Brightwood WI engaged in the usual war work, including dealing with sugar rationing. They all agreed not to put frosting on their cakes, so when two women turned up to a meeting with frosted cakes, they were each fined 10 cents.

As with most WIs in Alberta, the Brightwood branch was very involved in supporting the Hall. In addition to the usual cups, dishes and lamps, the WI bought a piano for the Hall in 1921.

Since education was the prime goal of the Women's Institutes, the Brightwood WI sponsored demonstrations on making hats, candy, and cream-puffs. They gave and listened to talks on child care, sewing, keeping butter fresh in summer, raising chickens, and making cheese. And they paid special attention to a registered nurse who gave them talks on home nursing, including maternity nursing, treating pneumonia, and treating wounds. This branch purchased home nursing supplies that could be loaned out at no charge.

Much of their community work centred around the children of the district. The WI supplied a Christmas Tree at the Hall each year, with presents and treats for the children. The gifts were ordered from the Eaton's or Simpson's catalogue. In addition, the Brightwood WI provided the children with hot chocolate at school and helped needy families. Like many other WIs, Brightwood also took responsibility for a travelling library.

The WI decided to disband in 1927, since several women had left the district and a Community Club had taken over much of the work normally done by the WI and the UFWA. There simply weren't enough people to support the three organizations, so people chose to continue with an organization that they controlled locally.

Sources: [1924](#) Convention Report; Pembina Lobstick Historical Society. *Foley Trail: A History of Entwistle, Evansburg and the Surrounding Districts*. Vol. I. 1984, p. 279.



