

Name of Branch: Glendon Women's Institute

Location: Glendon is 39 km north of St. Paul, Alberta

Organized: Oct. 22, 1938

Charter Members: Rowena Munro, Mrs. A. Crowther, Ruby Nesimiuk, Mrs. L.C. Knight, Alice Leach, Adelia Bahry, Margaret King, Annie Chibanoff, Inez Smith, Mrs. E. Smith, Mrs. A.G. Miniely

First Executive: Rowena Munro, pres; Mrs. A. Crowther, first vice-pres; Ruby Nesimiuk, sec-treas; directors: Mrs. L.C. Knight, Mrs. A. Miniely, Mrs. E. Smith

Disbanded: c 1981 as listed by Cole and Larmour



Activities: From Glendon's local history book, *So Soon Forgotten*, we find a snapshot of the massive amount of work accomplished by this WI branch in its four-decade history. "Members were just becoming acquainted with the aims and purposes of the organization when they were called upon to contribute to the war effort. The challenge was readily accepted and time and effort was freely given in preparing parcels for overseas and raising money for the various war charities. For some time after the cessation of hostilities, contributions of clothing, food and money were sent to help the destitute of the war-ravaged countries.

The attention of the branch was then turned to matters nearer home, in an effort to make our community a better and happier place in which to live. Financial aid was given to the school skating rink and hockey club. Perhaps the greatest undertaking was the building of a curling rink for which the sum of \$1550.00 was raised. In more recent years, the main project has been contributions to the local hospital, where total donations have amounted to over \$1500.00. The sum of \$660.00 was donated towards the purchase of an anaesthetic machine from a fund sponsored by the WI. Other donations include sheets and flanalette, Christmas tree fund, bed lamps, invalid chairs, vacuum cleaner, labor on lawn and flower beds, radios, mixmaster, lamp for operating room, tea towels, wheel chairs and crutches, overbed tables, bed socks, commode, toys for the children's ward, twenty-three suits of pyjamas, three pairs knitted slippers, six pairs of cloth slippers, one cap and one housecoat for the children's ward, three sets of sheer curtains, high chair, drapes, twenty-two cubic foot deepfreeze, sewing, mending, and pantry donations. The WI contributed enough paint to paint the main hallway of the Glendon Hospital. A silver-plated New Year's baby cup is given annually. From 1957 to 1980 seventeen baby cups were presented" (*So Soon Forgotten*, p. 333).

In addition to these infrastructure and other projects, the Glendon WI has offered many prizes in the areas of music, the arts, and scholarly achievement and campaigned for many charities focused on health and well-being.

In its last decade of operation, though, the Glendon WI turned its work from community involvement to one of handicraft proficiency. At the Provincial handicraft competitions, from 1975-1981, Glendon WI won a third, a second, and five firsts.

For the first 30 years of its existence, Glendon was a one-branch constituency; one wonders if the vibrancy and productivity of this WI branch is not, in large part, due to the fact that, if a job were going to be done, the WI would have to do it on its own.

Sources: Glendon Historical Society. *So Soon Forgotten: A History of Glendon and Districts*. Glendon, AB: Glendon Historical Society, 1985; 1939 Convention Report; PAA 2007.0380/55. Box 2 AWI Branches Vol. 1 [no date]; Cole, Catherine C. and Judy Larmour. *Many and Remarkable: The Story of the Alberta Women's Institutes*. Edmonton: Alberta Women's Institutes, 1997. 125-131; private correspondence [from unknown sender] with Elizabeth Lefsrud, 1974; photo taken from *So Soon Forgotten*, p. 334.



Glendon Women's Institute Centennial Quilt, 1967. Members, L-R: A. Severin, A. Erickson, E. Yaceyko, F. Spasiuk, M. Fewchuk, M. Laniuk, H. Doonanco, D. Taschuk, Mrs. Tom Deamer, M. Shypanski, M. Rachinski, G. Pshyk, M. Watrich and V. Luchkanych.