

**Name of Branch:** Vermilion Women's Institute

**Location:** Vermilion is located at the junction of Hwys 16 and 41, 60 km west of Lloydminster

**Organized:** 1915; celebrated 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1974

**Charter Members:** n/a

**First Executive:** n/a

**Disbanded:** current in 2005

**Activities:** In a letter from Olive Clark to Elizabeth Lefsrud in 1974, Olive lists the activities engaged in by her WI over the past 60 years:



- During the first world war, we adopted a prisoner of war in Germany and sent money monthly; worked for and supported the Red Cross
- Several hundred pairs socks knitted for service men; gum, cigarettes and chocolates were included in the parcels
- Candles made and sent to the front
- [undecipherable] boxes they placed in rural schools for Belgium relief fund
- Gave supper for returned soldiers
- Furnished a hospital room and did same again in later years
- Mitts and sweaters were knitted for relief fund along with other clothing, also money donated
- Gave fair prizes for school children's work
- Gave regularly to the Armenian relief fund
- Second War food parcels were sent to England, they would sometimes pick out a member's relative to send one to
- Seamen's socks and scarves were knitted, layettes and clothing given to needy families
- Picnics were held yearly with families invited
- Of recent years wheel chairs and crutches have been provided for community use free of charge
- Centennial project, a bench was placed outside the Post Office with the centennial symbol attached
- Batteries for an elderly member's hearing aid, were bought yearly when she could no longer attend meetings
- Decks of cards have been supplied for Senior Citizens' Lodges

**Notable Members:**

**Book of Remembrance:**

- [Olive Clark](#) was born in 1909 in England and emigrated to Vermilion with her husband in 1951. She became a Charter Member of Thornccliffe WI that year and then moved to the Vermilion WI in 1955 when Thornccliffe disbanded. Olive served many leadership roles in WI and received her 30 year pin in 1981.
- [Annie Garnett](#) emigrated to Canada with her husband in 1929 and was a Charter Member of Wildmere WI, serving many leadership positions, organizing many new WI branches. Annie left Wildmere in 1975, when it disbanded, joining the Vermilion WI at that time. A WI member for 44 years, she was given a Life Membership in 1983.
- [Anne Green](#) graduated from Camrose Normal School in 1927, teaching in many locations before marrying in 1936. She joined the Vermilion in 1945 and received her 40 year pin in 1985. "A joy to be around, Anne had a good sense of humor. In her later years, she and Joseph spent winters in Mesa, Arizona. Each Christmas she sent a long newsy letter to be read at the meeting."
- [Margit Nelson](#) and her husband emigrated from Sweden in 1930. She joined the Vermilion WI in 1969 on her retirement to town. She is remembered for her willingness to help out and for her baking skills, contributing Swedish Tea-Rings to bake sales.

**Sources:** *Book of Remembrance* Vol. 2; 1928, 1931 Convention Reports; private correspondence from Olive Clark to Elizabeth Lefsrud 1974; WI History Supplement; *Home and Country* (Spring 2005): 5