

INSTITUTE NEWS

Memorial Edition



2026

*We would like to take this opportunity to
thank those who submitted memorials
for this special Memorial Edition.*



*If we have made any editing errors or omitted any
write-ups or photos, we sincerely apologize.*

*Some minor editing has been done.
For the most part, the content is that of the original.*



**Anna "Fay" Oatway
Tryon WI
2024**

Fay was born on January 26th, 1944. She lived and attended school in North Tryon then attended Union Commercial College in Charlottetown. Fay married Arnold MacLeod and they had three children. After they separated, Fay and her children moved to Toronto, where she lived and worked closely with her sister. After a few years, she moved back to the Island and lived and worked in Charlottetown.

She then married Ed Darby. They lived in Tryon for a few years and ran her uncle Keith Thomas' variety store. While there, Fay started the Tryon Women's Institute (maybe with a little influence from her Aunt Leona, Mrs. Frank Ross!). Fay and Ed enjoyed camping and spent many years at Dunollie Campground.

After Fay and Ed separated and while working at the Motor Vehicle Branch, she met Merrill Oatway. They lived in Milton, PEI, until she passed away on May 7th, 2024.

Fay was always very crafty and knitted many baby hats for our hospitals, hats and mitts for the homeless, and sweater sets and dishcloths. She also loved tole painting and making fleece blankets.

Fay loved dogs. She bred and raised German Shepherds for a few years and then had Silky Terrier dogs which she also bred and raised. Many of her dogs are all across Canada and USA. Fay also trained dogs and had her own Annadean Kennels, where she helped many people train their own dogs. Fay and her friends travelled to and held many dog shows. Fay and Merrill were both very active in the Winsloe Lions Club. Fay is the mother of three children, Wanda Green, Bonnie MacDonald, and Kenny Darby.

Fay will be missed by many!

"A life well-lived leaves behind a trail of beautiful memories."

Morning Has Broken

(Lyrics by English Author Eleanor Farjeon—1931)

Morning has broken like the first morning, Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world.
Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from heaven, Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.
Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning, Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day.



**Catherine "Kay" Mitchell
Village Green WI
2015**

The death occurred unexpectedly at Whisperwood Villa, Charlottetown, on February 23, 2015, of Kay Mitchell, formerly of Village Green, aged 97 years. Kay was predeceased by her husband, Robert 'Bob' Mitchell (1999). She is survived by her children: Glenda (John) Power, Joan (Billy) Adams, Sterling (Cynthia), Erroll, and Gloria Mitchell. Kay was grammy to 8 grand-children and great-grammy to 4 girls.

Her love of birds (especially hummingbirds), flowers, and cats will be remembered by everyone. Kay loved to knit mittens for both children and adults – her family and friends cherish the mittens given to them by Kay.

Kay was a charter member of the Village Green Women's Institute (1981). She was always ready to lend a hand with any branch projects. Kay was an integral part of our branch and was presented with a Life Membership in 2007.

Her absence has left a void with her family, friends, and her WI sister members.



**Barbara Joy Green
Tryon WI
2024**

Aged 91, Barbara Joy Green (nee Withington) died peacefully at her home in Victoria, PEI, surrounded by her children. She was predeceased in 1990, by her husband of 35 years, Robert Paul Green.

Both Barbara and Paul grew up in Portsmouth, England. Two months after they married, they emigrated to Quebec, Canada, in 1955, where they raised their six children.

Barbara was a life-long learner, passionate about reading and continued education. She graduated with two university degrees in the history and philosophy of religion. She was elected the first woman municipal councillor in her small Quebec town and was chief organizer of several provincial and federal elections for her riding.

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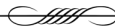
In 1968, Barbara and Paul visited Victoria-by-the-Sea for a family vacation and fell in love with the Island. They felt very welcomed by the community and returned every summer after that.

After her husband's death in 1990, Barbara moved to Tryon Point Road to live year-round. She had bought and renovated the old Holland homestead, admiring the history and beauty of the place. She quickly became involved with her community, passionate about gardening, learning and the environment. She was an active member of the Tryon WI, the Tryon River Watershed, the Island Nature Trust, the Crapaud Library, and tutored children in her home.

To celebrate fifty years of living in Canada, and in gratitude for the many opportunities Canada had given her, Barbara bought 12 acres of land in Tryon and then donated the land to the Island Nature Trust to be reforested and conserved for future generations.

Barbara's actions spoke as loudly as her words – she lived and loved life to its fullest, wanting to preserve all that is good for future generations! We miss you!

“When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.”



***Helen Janice Carr
Tryon WI
2025***

Heaven gained a very special angel on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, with the passing of Helen Janice Carr (nee Howatt) age 87 at the Summerset Manor, Summerside. Formerly of Tryon, PEI, Helen was predeceased by her husband, Delbert, 69, on July 23, 2023.

Helen is survived by her loving daughter Debbie, son-in-law Mervin, her grandson Jason, and great grandson, Jager MacDonald. Helen is also survived by sisters, Jessie McPhail (Neil - deceased) and Heather (Wendell) MacDonald and brother-in-law, Myron Matheson.

Helen was involved for many years with our Tryon Women Institute as treasurer, secretary, and president. She was always there with a helping hand. Helen brought a lot of fun to meetings and always made Christmas very special for our WI group by singing Christmas carols and acting the parts of the songs.

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We were always invited to Helen and Delbert's home for meetings, and he would join us in a few jokes.

Helen worked for over twenty years at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Crapaud. She was well-loved by all, and if she knew of anyone in need in the community, she would be sure to drop off food, especially her famous lemon squares. She loved her home, especially her kitchen, her flower beds and family celebrations.

She was a very religious person and supported her church as much as she could. She was a long-time member of the South Shore United Church and the UCW. She loved singing in the choir, and helping with social events like community suppers, dinner theatres, take-outs and much more.

Throughout it all, people remember Helen for her laughter, her kindness, her generosity, and her sense of humour. We were so blessed to have such a great person and friend in our community. We all miss her very much.

"May the peace and serenity of the Almighty One surround you."



***Isabel Mary Maud (nee MacLeod) MacKinnon
Uigg-Kinross-Grandview WI
2025***

Isabel was born on the Scentia Road on September 17, 1928, the daughter of Dingwell and Mary MacLeod.

Isabel attended grade school in Vernon and then went on to Prince of Wales College. After graduation she taught school in Earnscliffe, Cherry Valley and Vernon.

Isabel decided to enter the nursing profession and in 1955 graduated from the PEI Hospital School of Nursing. She was

hired to work in the maternity ward at the PEI Hospital. In 1956, she was one of two nurses approved to take specialized training in obstetrics at the Royal Victoria Hospital (part of the McGill University Health Center) in Montreal. When they returned, they were asked to serve as the Supervisors on the Maternity Ward.

In June 1958 Isabel married John D. MacKinnon, Kinross where they settled on a farm. Isabel was active in all aspects of their beef and tobacco farm including the day-to-day tasks and the book-keeping. Isabel and John raised four daughters Sandra, Susan, Johann, and Hughena. While busy on the farm they ensured that they made time to support "their girls" in their activities.

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Isabel was a life-member of the Uigg-Kinross-Grandview WI. She was always willing and ready to participate in activities of the club. She firmly believed that the WI was at the heart of community whether it was the coordination of senior dinners, bridal showers, meet-your-neighbor events, etc. In later years, Isabel and John enjoyed annual trips to Florida where they visited with former Islanders and enjoyed sightseeing.

At home Isabel loved gardening and reading. She enjoyed visits with friends and neighbors.

Isabel passed away at home on November 4, 2025.

She is fondly remembered and sadly missed by her family and WI friends.



"I am not there; do not stand and weep.
I am the breath of wind that whispers low,
The golden light that makes the daisies grow,
The quiet strength in ancient trees that keep
Their silent watch. In every lovely thing,
In starlight bright, in birds that soar and sing,
You'll find my love, a presence ever near,
For in this beauty, I am always here."

Author Unknown



Psalm 18:28

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light



Roberta Wight
North River WI
2025

On Monday, May 19, 2025, family & community lost a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend by the passing of Roberta Wight.

Roberta was the daughter of the late Robert and Myrtle (MacPhee) MacDonald of Nine Mile Creek. where she grew up and attended the local rural school. Roberta was one of eleven children.

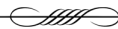
Roberta married Elliott Wight on September 6, 1958, and were married for 67 years. She was the cherished mother of two

sons, Windsor (Nancy) & Darrell (Krista). She was loved dearly by her five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Roberta worked many years at The Guardian newspaper. She was also a well known volunteer.

Roberta was an active member of the North River WI for 60 plus years. She was presented with a Life Membership and was always a valued member. She served on all executive levels and committees. For many years, Roberta chaired and organized the Red Cross swimming program for the North River area.

Roberta devoted many years of service to Christian education at the Zion Presbyterian Church. She was a great support to her husband Elliott, a well-known violin player at many Saturday night dances at the North River Fire Hall and other venue across the Island.

Most of all, Roberta loved her family. She was proud of each one and their accomplishments. Many times we would hear family stories. She was a gracious host and all felt welcome to have a chat or cup of tea.



Phyllis Evelyn Watts
Dunstaffnage WI
2025

Phyllis Evelyn Watts was born on March 7, 1935, to Olive and Bill Dover of Dunstaffnage. She was the oldest of four children.

She attended Prince of Wales College for one year then worked as a medical secretary at the Polyclinic, then at Veterans Affairs, retiring in 2003.

In 1954 she married Dean Watts of York. They made their home in

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Sherwood where they raised their two boys, Kevin and Brian.

In 2003 they sold their home and built a new home in Suffolk. Phyllis was an active member of Park Royal and Central United Churches, involved with the UCWs at both churches.

In Dunstaffnage she was an active member of the Seniors Group and the Community Center.

Phyllis joined the Dunstaffnage WI in 2004 and was a member of the branch until 2016. She also loved music, cooking, baking and playing cards.

Phyllis passed away on February 7, 2025, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. She was predeceased by her husband in 2020 and her son Brian in 2022.

She is greatly missed by family and friends.



Kaye Larkin
North River WI
2025

Kaye Larkin received the Senior of the Year Award in 2018 because she was an enthusiastic volunteer, an avid environmentalist and had a great love for seniors. From the time she began her 35 year career as a Licensed Nursing Assistant at Beach Grove nursing facility, her passion for the elderly was always present. Kaye maintained contact and involvement with seniors through the weekly Cornwall Seniors' Lunch Program, organized a church group to meet with seniors in their Cornwall facility complete with food, fun and entertainment, and assisted in weekly church services at Hillsboro Hospital.

Kaye's love of nature and the environment was manifested through her many flowers, particularly her roses which brightened many a day for others. She held positions with the PEI Rose Society. Kaye's many other contributions to community included holding various positions with the North River Women's Institute of which she was a Life Member. She also served on the Provincial WI board holding various convenorships. Kay served in many positions with the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Women's League, Cornwall, also serving several terms on the Provincial Executive of the PEI Catholic Women's League. Kaye was a faithful volunteer for the Alzheimer Society of PEI in its annual fundraisers and supported other organizations in the interest of helping others, as with the Mikinduri Children of Hope Foundation.

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Kaye served as the first Chair of the Environment Committee of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and organized and supported many worthwhile endeavours.

It is impossible to list all of Kaye's attributes as she helped others in their daily lives because of her selfless gestures and "behind the scenes" activities. Many have been blessed by receiving the fruits of her baking, produce from her garden, as well as spiritual and material support. She has contributed many pictures to albums thus creating precious memories for people.



Louise Anita Mills
North River WI
2025

Louise Mills was born in Cape Traverse to Alf and Magda Norring, immigrants from Denmark. She was the youngest of six children.

She attended Prince of Wales College, and in January, 1961, she married Thomas Frank Mills. They had four children, David (Karen), Cindy (Roland), Joel (Kathryn), and Julie, plus 5 grandchildren, Chelsey, Ryan, Madison, Carson and Brandon.

Louise worked for the Department of Social Services until her retirement. She faithfully attended the Hampshire United Church and was a long time member of the North River Women's Institute serving as treasurer for many years. She was also a Life Member of the Institute. She also volunteered with Meals on Wheels and was very active with the North River Volunteer Fire Department. Louise was a member of a reading group and therefore she always had a book to read. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles.

Louise loved cooking and baking and was well known for her biscuits, her strawberry and raspberry jams, beets and pickles. She loved her garden, especially her bird feeders.

After a brief time at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Louise passed away to be with her long-time best friend and partner, Tom. She now rests peacefully at Tom's side in Hampshire United Church cemetery.

Louise will be sadly missed by her family, friends and WI members. Rest in peace, Louise, our friend.



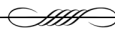
JoAnn N. Smith
North River WI
2025

JoAnn was born in Charlottetown, daughter of the late Donald and Gladys (Janes) MacAusland. She was predeceased by her son, Blake Doyle, brother Donnie, and her mother in law, Rita Ann Smith. She is survived by her husband of 35 years, Howard, and her sons Blair (Angela) Doyle and Brodie (Dorieann) Doyle. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. JoAnn cherished the time spent with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Heather Bowlan.

JoAnn loved to read, travel, and explore the Maritimes with Howard. Spending time with family and friends was important to JoAnn, and the door was always open to visitors.

Her green thumb assured their home was filled with plants and flowers. Her love of animals gave a happy home to many pets over the years. Her broad knowledge of family history and storytelling ability will be greatly missed. Her social network was extensive and her recollection of events and time were appreciated by all.

JoAnn was a valued member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Holy Redeemer Parish in Charlottetown. The members of the North River Women's Institute miss JoAnn, her friendship, her helping hands, and welcoming personality.



Beautiful Isle of Somewhere

Somewhere the sun is shining,
Somewhere the songbirds dwell;
Hush, then, thy sad repining,
God lives, and all is well.

Refrain:
Somewhere, somewhere,
Beautiful isle of somewhere;
Land of the true, where we live anew,
Beautiful isle of somewhere.

Somewhere the day is longer,
Somewhere the task is done;
Somewhere the heart is stronger,
Somewhere the guerdon won. [Refrain]

Somewhere the load is lifted,
Close by an open gate;
Somewhere the clouds are rifted,
Somewhere the angels wait. [Refrain]



Frances (Sherren) Tremere
Hampshire WI & Greater Charlottetown WI
2025

Frances was born in Howlan, PEI, the seventh of eleven children born to Lester and Ethel Sherren. She passed away in May 2025, at 91. She lived a full life, not just in years but in the countless meaningful ways she touched those around her.

She married Wendell Tremere and they settled in Hampshire. Together, they had three children: Bennett, Gary, and Susan. In the mid-1950s, while the children were still very young, she trained to be a nurse. Frances began her nursing career at the Infirmary in Charlottetown. She later returned to Hunter River, working alongside Dr Ellis and other physicians where she provided professional, compassionate, and confident care to countless patients. Many people remember how Frances carried herself with quiet dignity— always upright and dressed immaculately in her crisp white uniform and nurses cap. She dedicated over 25 years to the medical office while being a devoted wife, loving mother, proud grandmother, and tireless volunteer.

In the early 1970s, Frances took it upon herself to establish the first TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly chapter in PEI. Over time, she helped to form many more chapters across PEI and eventually became the Provincial Coordinator. Frances answered countless questions from members, visited chapters regularly and organized rallies and Provincial Recognition Days. She travelled across North America, proudly attending International Recognition Days in Atlanta, Georgia; Ottawa, Ontario; Santa Clara, California; Louisville, Kentucky; and even Hawaii. Frances frequently ranked in the top ten out of over one hundred coordinators for excellence in membership growth in her region.

Frances was a Life Member of the Hampshire Women's Institute, where she actively participated in initiatives such as the Legacy Garden, roadside clean-up efforts, and volunteering at Old Home Week. She and her husband Wendell worked with a community group to renovate the community hall in Hampshire and they completely sealed the entire interior pine paneling with polyurethane.

Frances and Wendell were founding members of the Central Queens Funeral Co-Op, once again demonstrating their belief in supporting others through all of life's seasons.



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After 54 years of marriage, Frances' beloved husband passed away, and she moved from her family home to Charlottetown. She quickly became involved in her new community, joining the Park Royal United Church choir, volunteering at the Mount and the Upper Room. She became a charter member of the Greater Charlottetown Women's Institute.

Frances lived a life marked by kindness, strength, and dedication to others. As a nurse, volunteer, community leader and beloved matriarch, Frances gave of herself freely and with grace. She had a wonderful sense of fun — she could pull off Minnie Pearl at a community concert and dress up as Mrs. Claus at Christmas parties. At a time when most people were giving up their cars, Frances boldly leased a new one—at 90 years young!



Betty Alma (Rogerson) Millar
Wilmot Valley WI
2025

Wilmot Valley WI honours and recognizes Betty Millar for her leadership and commitment to the Women's Institute, her community and family.

Betty was born in Cape Traverse, PEI, in 1934, daughter of the late Winfred and Caroline Rogerson, and wife of the late Edgar Millar. She moved to Wilmot Valley where she raised two daughters on the family farm. Betty was a Charter Member and Life Member of the Wilmot Valley WI for over 60 years. She was

an active member until the last year before her death. She served several terms as President and in various convenorships. Betty also served proudly for two terms as the Provincial WI President for PEI. Over the years Betty has opened her home for various community activities and gatherings. Betty also served during the WI Legacy Bike Tours and traveled with the bikers assisting with meals and lodging. Betty was always a wealth of WI information and guidance for the younger members.

Her outstanding dedication to service was not only with the WI and home. She was an active member in her Church, community schools, a hospital volunteer, as well as a volunteer for various charities and a member of the Summerside Cooperative Board of Directors. She has served as an Elder at her church and belonged to the United Church Women and Fellowship groups.

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Betty was known for her warm and giving personality. She loved spending time with her two daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She enjoyed her traveling, and her housekeeping and baking skills were her trademark over the years!

Betty passed away peacefully at Clinton View Lodge on November 8, 2025, at the age of 91. Betty was an integral part of our branch and community and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.



***Lottie Crabbe
South Milton WI
2025***

Lottie was born on April 27th, 1936. She grew up in Hazel Grove where she later worked at the local Post Office. She married Stewart Crabbe in 1956. Lottie and Stewart moved to Halifax for one year, then returned to Milton where Stewart ran a meat shop for many years. When Stewart retired they built a new home on the Crabbe Road.

Lottie was the mother of 5 children; Brian (Anne), Donna Taylor (Wendell), Faye Wood (Wayne), Wayne (Anna), and Doug (Sandy). She was a proud grandmother of 16, a great-grandmother, and the great-great grandmother of one.

Lottie sold Tupperware for many years and travelled the Island to host parties. She was a very outgoing person, always willing to do her part in the community. She loved playing cards and other games.

She was a member of the South Milton WI until the branch closed in 2018. She was the branch Treasurer at that time. She moved to Brackley in 2021, then to Andrews Lodge in 2024. Lottie passed away on March 23rd, 2025, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

“Miss You, Good Friend. Rest in Peace”



Patricia "Pat" Clare (Melanson) Willis
South Milton WI & Highfield WI
2025

Pat was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia, on March 17, 1943 and moved to Sackville, New Brunswick at a young age. While she was attending Mount Allison University she met Vernon Willis of PEI and in 1963 they were married.

Pat was the mother of two children. Heather lives in Halifax and Kevin (Lisa) reside in Sherwood. She was the proud grandmother of 2 grandsons, Coulton (Lauren), and Rease (Brianna) who attends the University of British Columbia.

Both Pat and Vernon were teachers on PEI for two years, moving to Sudbury, Ontario, in 1965. In 1966 they taught for one year in Capreol, Ontario. In 1967 they moved to Deep River, Ontario, where their daughter Heather was born.

During this time, they established a yearly summer home in Canoe Cove. In 1971 Kevin was born. Pat continued to teach part-time.

They moved back to PEI in 1979 and built a new home in Sherwood where Pat ran a kindergarten. Pat and Vernon moved to Milton in 2005, where Pat became a member of the South Milton WI, serving as Secretary for many years. Pat was a community-minded member and a wonderful hostess who opened her home for Christmas parties and invited friends to summer outings at her cottage in Canoe Cove.

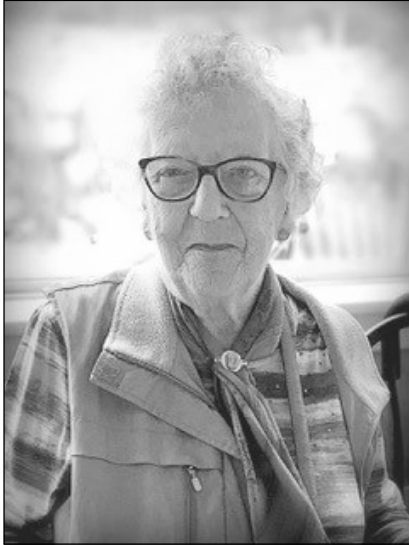
Pat and Vernon enjoyed camping throughout North America, and in 1984 they toured Great Britain. Those who knew Pat were aware of her great fondness for dogs, having a total of four during her sixty-two years of marriage.

With the closing of the South Milton WI branch she became a member of Highfield WI for two years until her health forced her to slow down.

In 2023 she moved to the Prince Edward Home where she passed away on October 15, 2025, following a long battle with dementia. Pat is greatly missed by her family, WI sisters and everyone who knew her.

"Rest in Peace, Dear Friend."





**Anita Gallant
Sterling WI
2025**

Anita Gallant was a faithful member of the Sterling Women's Institute in Stanley Bridge for 72 years, and she is greatly missed by all those who knew her and were blessed to be part of her circle. She served her community faithfully and her memory will live on within our WI members, with kindness and gratitude for her presence.

Anita joined the Sterling WI in 1953 when she married Tommy Gallant and moved to Stanley Bridge where they would raise a family of seven children.

Over the years Anita served in all positions of the WI, and in 1983 she was made a Life Member. She worked on many WI projects over the years alongside other strong women in the Stanley Bridge WI. She shared memories – often lighthearted and fun – of working with these women. “I looked forward to the meetings. I went to every one, I didn’t miss too many,” Anita said. Notably, she was a member of the publishing committee which produced The History of Stanley Bridge in 1998.

She helped the WI raise money for its activities by making food for the countless events that the WI held. She remembered going to many Meet Your Neighbour nights over the years at the Stanley Bridge Hall that were organized by the Women’s Institute. “We just did everything out of good will,” Anita said.

In the 1970s the Institute held concerts at its Hall to raise money. That was the beginning of the ceilidhs which are now held at the Stanley Bridge Hall six nights a week in summer. Anita’s son Leon Gallant plays twice a week and Anita worked at his shows for years, greeting people and selling tickets at the door. Annual visitors to Leon’s shows were delighted to see her smiling face every summer.

Up until her last few months at 96 years of age Anita still attended the WI’s regular meetings, adding humour and friendship to its gatherings. She was a memory bank for our WI and reminded us how important the WI can be to women’s lives.

Anita attended St. Ann’s Catholic Church in Hope River all her life. Her husband Tommy had a deep sea fishing business that he operated when lobster season was over, and she helped out with that business.

Anita died peacefully at home on August 3, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was the loving mother of Philip Gallant (Christine), Stanley Bridge; Michael Gallant (deceased); Stephen Gallant, Stanley Bridge; Phyllis Carr (Robert), Stanley Bridge; Bonnie Gardiner (Alvin) Lawrencetown, NS; Leon Gallant,

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Stanley Bridge, and Barbara Blacquiere (Rick deceased), North Rustico.

She is also survived by her 10 loving grandchildren; by her sisters, Lorraine Carr (late George) and Inez Doiron (late Louis); brother, Dales Doiron (Barbara); sisters-in-law, Bernice Doiron and Louise Doiron; brother-in-law, Norman Kennedy; and special nephew, Leonard Gallant (Shirley). She is also lovingly remembered by many nieces and nephews.



***Dorothy Jeanette (Weeks) Smith
Pleasant Valley WI
2025***

The death of the oldest former resident of Pleasant Valley occurred at the Atlantic Baptist Home, Charlottetown on December 14, 2025.

Dorothy Jeanette (Weeks) Smith was born in Pleasant Valley on August 29, 1923 to her parents Golden and Cassie (Sharpe) Weeks. She was the wife of the late George Smith.

Dorothy and George lived their married life on their farm on the Smith Road, Pleasant Valley, where they raised a family of 2 boys and 3 girls: David and Dianne (twins), Vivian, Arnold, and Nancy. Dorothy and George also provided a loving caring home to foster girls Judy and Anita MacKeenan. They were blessed with a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dorothy was a very talented woman where she excelled as an excellent cook and seamstress as well as a good neighbour and friend to many. For many years she spent the summer working the desk (or doing whatever she could) at the family-owned Bayview Motel in Cavendish. This was a job she excelled at as her warm, pleasant personality would greet the many tourists who visited the motel.

Dorothy was a valuable member of Pleasant Valley WI for many years where she served as Vice-President, President, auditor, director and various convenorships.

She was a member of Pleasant Valley United Church where she worked tirelessly to help retain it as a memorial building when the congregation joined together with several other united churches in the area to become Central Trinity United Church.

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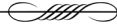
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Dorothy was a UCW member where she held various positions. She and George were among the founding members of the Pleasant Valley Seniors' Club. She was a very gracious host for many WI and UCW meetings.

Dorothy travelled in her senior years by bus to various places of interest with other seniors, especially her cousin Eileen.

In later years she left her beloved community of Pleasant Valley to become a resident of Andrews of Stratford and later the Atlantic Baptist Home in Charlottetown.

This fine lady will be missed by her many friends and her loving family.



***Joan Gail Bernard
Greenvale WI
2025***

The members of the Greenvale Women's Institute were deeply saddened with the sudden passing of our dear friend, neighbour, and WI sister member Joan Gail Bernard on December 10, 2025.

Joan was born on March 10, 1941 in Greenvale to the late Honeywell and Catherine Spence. She attended the one room schoolhouse in Greenvale and later attended Union Commercial College secretarial program in Charlottetown. Joan was the beloved wife of the late Jimmy Bernard and loving and devoted mother of Kenny (Brenda), Cathy Parkman (Deryl); grandmother of Jodi (Jason), Kayla (Kelsey), Jordan, Kendra (Chris), Chantal (Olmo); and great-grandmother of seven. She was predeceased by her son, Dougie.

Joan worked for 47 years at the Ship Store at Marco Polo Land Campground where she cherished lasting friendships with coworkers and the seasonal campers. In her spare time Joan was always up for whatever was happening—a card party or concert, a celebration, a trip, supper out, or just a visit.

During her quiet time you could find her at home knitting or reading.

Throughout her life, Joan was an activity member of Central Queens United Church and Life Member of the United Church Women's group. Joan contributed to the many activities and was always willing to help whenever called.

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Having spent most of her life in Greenvale, Joan was deeply devoted to the community. She always made sure the one room schoolhouse, that later served as the community centre, was cared for.

Joan was a dedicated Life Member of the Greenvale Women's Institute, most recently holding the position of President at the time of her passing. Over the years, Joan held various positions as President, Vice-President, acting as Secretary on occasion as well as serving on various convenorships and special committees. As a dedicated member of 55 years, Joan could always be counted on to help with or lead the many WI activities such as takeout suppers, craft and bake sales, fundraisers as well as many community activities.

Greenvale Women's Institute will remember Joan for the many ways she contributed to our group and to the community.



***K. Irene Bernard
Long River WI
2025***

Friends and neighbours in Long River were saddened by the passing of Irene Bernard on November 1st, 2025, at the Prince County Hospital. Irene, born January 8th, 1939. was the daughter of the late Halsey and Charlotte (Bernard) Profitt of Burlington PEI.

Irene married Alvin Bernard of Long River and they moved to the Bernard homestead. Together they raised four children, Eleanor, Sandra, Blaine and Darlene. With her passing Irene also leaves six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Irene was made a Life Member of Long River WI. Her acts of kindness and thoughtfulness were often done behind the scene, but in her own quiet way she showed genuine care and concern for others.

Irene enjoyed playing cards and putting puzzles together. She also loved visits from her family and friends.



Gladys "Lolita" (Gamble) Lowther
Crapaud WI
2025

Gladys grew up in Lady Fane and taught school before she moved to Crapaud and married Norman Lowther. Together they raised six children.

She became a WI member shortly after her marriage and was involved in all aspects of WI including the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. She became a Life Member in 2002.

Over the years she was considered a "jack of all trades". She was heavily involved with the Crapaud Rink and Crapaud Exhibition as Secretary-Treasurer. She was an accomplished knitter, cake decorator and any other craft she could seek out. A very competitive woman, she would challenge Dede and Lorna to beat her at bread making at the Crapaud Exhibition and sought out exhibitors (using whatever means of intimidation that would work). She was a devoted member of her church. She put family and friends first. She left quite an impression in our community and will be missed. Gladys passed away peacefully at the South Shore Villa on January 16, 2025.



Helen "Ruth" (Wright) MacDonald
Crapaud WI
2020

Ruth grew up in Searletown and moved to Crapaud when she married Norman MacDonald. She was a teacher and a busy farm wife and with her husband raised five children. She became a WI member shortly after her marriage and was involved in all aspects of WI for over 60 years, holding executive offices, and becoming a Life Member.

Ruth generously contributed to the community for the benefit of many. Besides WI she was involved in several other organizations including the United Church Women, Abegweit Branch UEL, Order of the Eastern Star-Crystal Chapter, and school associations. Whatever was needed, Ruth simply got on with it and did it in her quiet and thorough way. She will be missed as a valued member of the community. Ruth passed away at the Prince County Hospital on April 28, 2020.



Gertrude Ada Ferguson
Crapaud WI
2025

Gertrude grew up in Victoria and moved across the river to Crapaud when she married Sheldon Ferguson. She became a busy farm wife and with her husband raised a family of four children.

She became a WI member shortly after her marriage and was involved in all aspects of WI. She was a valued volunteer at the old Crapaud Rink and a dedicated assistant at the Crapaud Exhibition.

She will be remembered for her beautiful handiwork which her family treasures in their homes. Gertrude dedicated her life to her family, her church and her community. A good friend, a good neighbour and loyal worker is how we remember her. Gertrude passed away on January 10, 2025.



Aletha ("Dede") (MacFadyen) Harvey
Crapaud WI
2025

The Community of Crapaud was saddened to hear of the passing of Aletha "Dede" Harvey on January 9, 2025.

Dede grew up on a farm in Augustine Cove and moved to Crapaud after marrying Hubert Harvey. It was here that they raised a family of six children. Dede worked side by side with her husband operating Crapaud's local grocery store.

Dede was an active WI member and Life Member for over 60 years, serving on the executive many times and also volunteering on the WI Provincial Board.

She was a valued community member and will be remembered not only for her WI work but also for the many volunteer hours she gave to the Crapaud Exhibition, the local rink and especially her church. We remember a life well lived.





Ada "Lorna" Nicholson
Crapaud WI
2022

Lorna was born in Augustine Cove and moved to Crapaud after marrying George Nicholson. Lorna became a busy farm wife and together with her husband raised a family of four sons.

Lorna became a WI member shortly after her marriage and was a loyal member for over 60 years. She became a Life Member in 1995. She held several positions, primarily as Secretary-Treasurer. She took part in many Crapaud community endeavors. She also served as Secretary-Treasurer for the Crapaud Exhibition for many decades. Ada volunteered in the canteen at the old Crapaud rink for years and was a staunch member of her church. She was admired for her beautiful knitting and hand crafts. We will remember Lorna's quiet manner and warm smile. Lorna passed away on September 1, 2022, at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



Lois "Marilyn" (Best) Myers
Crapaud WI
2022

Marilyn was raised on a farm in Tryon and moved to Crapaud after her marriage to Sheldon Myers. She became a busy farm wife and continued her profession as a Registered Nurse. She and Sheldon together raised a son and a daughter.

Marilyn joined WI shortly after her marriage and continued to be an active member for over 40 years and became a Life Member in 2002. She held positions in our group and always focused on health and agriculture. She was one of the first women to serve on the Crapaud Exhibition Board. She served her church faithfully and fulfilled all her roles with quiet dignity. We remember a good friend.

Marilyn passed away on October 16, 2022, at the Provincial Palliative Care Centre.

**When Someone You Love Becomes A Memory
That Memory Becomes a Treasure**



June Adele Hockin-Caseley
New Glasgow WI
2025

June Adele Hockin-Caseley, the daughter of Reginald and Doris (Inman) Hockin, was born on June 27, 1947, in Summerside, PEI. June had two siblings, an older sister, Helen, and a younger brother, Robert, and was close to both. June also had a very special bond with her mother and was heartbroken when she passed away prematurely due to illness.

June lived her life to the fullest and saw each day as a gift from God. She loved to chat and had a lovely warm smile. She also loved to laugh, and her

laughter was contagious.

June was known for her love of hats, and she loved to dress up! This complimented her flair for entertaining. June knew how to put on a lovely spread, and she had many talents – cooking, baking, and decorating – all designed to make her guests feel right at home. June loved to go on outings with friends to afternoon teas and vintage fashion shows.

Over several summers, June worked as a shopkeeper at Avonlea Village. She enjoyed “playing the part” and had fun ordering vintage items to decorate the shop and looking for ways to encourage customers to make purchases. And of course, she owned several lovely hats and bonnets to appeal to buyers!

June joined the New Glasgow Women’s Institute in September 2005, and was soon taking part in a full range of activities. She became Vice-President and worked with President Jacquie Laird. A few years later, she became President herself and was heavily involved in organizing what became a main fundraiser for the group, the New Glasgow WI Fashion Show, “Coffee Party with a Flair.”

One of June’s fondest memories was when she met John Caseley, the man who would become her husband. June was so happy on their first date at a restaurant in New London that she stood up and sang Doxology! Many who were present were quite moved and sang along. June and John were married on October 21, 1995, by a stream located on their beautiful country property on the Centre Road.

June was very proud of her sons Michael and Robert, and she took special delight in her grandchildren Lola and Ronyn. She loved spending time with her sons and grandchildren, and her visits with them were a highlight of each year. June passed away peacefully with her family by her side on September 4, 2025. She was a capable and enthusiastic member of WI, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and a lovely person who will be missed by her many friends.



***Ruth Lord (Dunsford) MacNevin
Bonshaw WI
2025***

Ruth Lord (Dunsford) MacNevin was born in South Melville in 1936, the daughter of William and Gertrude MacNevin. She taught school for over 33 years, including a one-room schoolhouse in South Melville and the Bonshaw School. She married Sheldon MacNevin of Bonshaw and was the mother of Grant MacNevin and Tracey MacNevin Callbeck. She was a member of the Bonshaw United Church, and organized Sunday

Hymn Sings, with a collection for a community member in-need. Years later, people would remember those helpful gestures. She was also a United Church Explorers Leader, Sunday School Teacher, and Elder.

Ruth was artistically gifted, taught painting at Community School, and ran a shop with Sheldon next to their home in Bonshaw called Brookside Crafts. She was a lifelong member of Bonshaw Women's Institute, both in its former and current Branch. Ruth was a role model for everyone and is dearly missed by family and friends.

She lived by the motto – “don't forget to be kind.”

How Did They Live

(Author Unknown)

Not, how did they die, but how did they live?

Not, what did they gain, but what did they give?

These are the units to measure the worth

Of a person as a person, regardless of birth.

Not, what was their church, nor what was their creed?

But had they befriended those really in need?

Were they ever ready, with a word of good cheer,

To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?

Not, what did the sketch in the newspaper say,

But how many were sorry when they passed away?



***Berendina 'Dinie' Speelman
Uigg/Kinross/Grandview WI
2025***

Dinie was born in The Netherlands in April 1937, and was one of ten children born to Berendina and Gerhard Hillen. She and her family lived through WWII, which greatly affected how she saw the world around her. She had compassion for people that followed her throughout her life.

As a teenager Dinie was a drummer in a marching drum band and during a music and sports competition in 1954, she met Andries (Andy) Speelman. They dated briefly until Andy emigrated to PEI in 1955 to work. For the next 2 years they exchanged many letters and continued to grow closer as a result. He returned to Holland in late 1956, and they were married on March 1st, 1957. A month later they immigrated to Canada as a married couple. They had no family with them and Dinie spoke no English. There were multiple challenges to overcome as newcomers, but despite the struggles she was very proud to become a Canadian citizen on July 18th, 1962. As a young couple they moved numerous times following job opportunities before settling on the farm in Uigg in 1963. By this time their three oldest children had been added to their family with two more following in the years after.

After settling in Uigg, Dinie became involved in the Women's Institute in 1963 and received her Life Membership in October 1983. She served in various roles locally as well as a term on the Provincial WI Board as International Affairs Convener. She truly enjoyed this and made many dear friends.

She also volunteered as a leader for 4-H at the community level for many years and even served as the Provincial President for a term. Dinie loved to sing, play games, and go on road trips. She also liked reading, doing puzzles and embroidery. And during the warmer months she could be found puttering in her flower gardens.

Music was a big part of her life. She was in choirs in Holland growing up, and continued to sing in the church choir as an alto as long as she could. Dinie, along with Andy, were members of the Charlottetown Christian Reformed Church from when they first arrived in PEI and when services were still done in Dutch. Dinie's faith was an integral part of her life, and she was involved in many areas of the church. These included, but were not limited to, Calvinettes Girls group, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Coffeekbreak Womens group leader, Seniors Bible Study, and, of course, the choir.

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As their children started to get older, Dinie and Andy opened their home to become foster parents for about 7 years. She and Andy loved watching their family grow. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were a source of joy and pride for her.

She was predeceased by her husband, Andy, and her daughter Wilma. She is survived by her sons, Siemen (Wendy) and Rick (Rachel) and her daughters, Diana (Ron) and Cynthia. She is also survived by thirteen grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed.



Florence Jessie (Stewart) Wight
Lower Montague WI
2025

Florence Jessie (nee Stewart) Wight, daughter of the late Jimmy & Madie (MacPherson) Stewart, had an idyllic childhood growing up on the farm in her beloved Caledonia, PEI, along with her siblings Viola (deceased), Pearl, Malcolm (Bud), Sally, James (deceased), Winston, Roy, & Milford.

After moving to, and working in, Toronto, she returned home to PEI, married Merrill Wight, and together, had three children, Sharon (Ogawa), Darren, & Michelle. They also had three

grandchildren, Dillan, Tamara, & Griffin.

The family moved to British Columbia in the late 1960's, where she and Merrill enjoyed many adventures and made lifelong close friends. However, after many years away, their homesickness for 'The Island' brought them back home to eastern PEI for good where the love of her large, extended family played a huge role in Florence's life, as did Florence in theirs. She truly enjoyed weekly gatherings with siblings to play Euchre, Auction and 45's.

Florence was active in her community and extended a helping hand by visiting neighbours and people in hospital, often gifting her delicious gumdrop cake and date squares. She was highly regarded by her Sturgeon United Church family, serving as treasurer for many years; a valued member of the Montague 50+ Club, sharing her quilting skills and participating in weekly card games; and a treasured member of the Lower Montague Women's Institute (LMWI).

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As a Life Member of the Lower Montague Women's Institute, Florence played an active role. She was one of the first to volunteer to help whether it was selling tickets on fundraisers, working at Yard Sales and Ceilidhs, putting together Christmas seniors' baskets, cleaning the hall, participating in the annual Roadside Cleanup Campaign, etc. She was a regular attendee at meetings and served on the LMWI executive as secretary for several years. Florence enjoyed hosting LMWI members for meetings, card games and quilting afternoons, generously sharing her expertise.

A true and loyal friend and neighbour, Florence could be relied upon to provide a listening ear, good advice and to keep a secret. Despite her health struggles, Florence remained positive, relying on her inner strength & her deep faith and she was always appreciative. She was kind and compassionate, often thinking of others before herself. She enjoyed a good story and possessed a dry sense of humour.

Florence was a golden thread that wove her family, community, and the LMWI together, creating an unforgettable beautiful friendship. We miss you 'gentle soul.'



***Elizabeth "Betty" Ann MacDonald
Lower Montague WI
2025***

Elizabeth 'Betty' Ann MacDonald was the beloved and devoted daughter of Harry and Rita (nee Kelly) Dunn. Growing up in Elmsdale, Prince Edward Island with her siblings Rayburn, Paula and Geralda, Betty was shaped by the strong example of her own mother, whose deep commitment to community and service reflected the very spirit of the Women's Institute. That legacy stayed with her throughout her life.

The choice of a teaching career led Betty to her greatest adventure: Meeting her devoted and loving husband Paul MacDonald. Together they raised three cherished and compassionate daughters – Dr. Sarah MacDonald (Wroblewski), Paula (Gillis), and Kelly (Rushton). Betty and Paul's life adventure expanded, and hearts exploded with the birth of their five adored grandchildren Lauren, Keira, Kayla Rae, Dani Grace, and Mac.

Betty devoted her life's work to serving others as a teacher, where her kindness, patience, and

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thoughtfulness made her beloved by generations of students. She had a natural way of making people feel seen and valued, and her classroom was a place of care and encouragement. Guided by a strong and steady faith, she also shared her gifts through teaching Sunday School, quietly living out the values she held dear.

After her retirement from teaching, Betty volunteered at the Loan's Cupboard of the King's County Memorial Hospital, took up golfing, enjoyed travelling with Paul to visit family in Cape Breton and Calgary, spent winter months in Florida with friends, and together with Paul explored new destinations like Maui, Ireland, and South Korea. However special the vacation, Betty appreciated returning to their beautiful cozy home, boating on, and taking long walks along the Montague River and spending time with neighbours and friends.

Her involvement with the Lower Montague Women's Institute (LMWI) was a natural extension of who she was — a woman deeply committed to her community and always ready to help. She was often the first to prepare a meal for someone in need, offering comfort not just through food, but through genuine compassion. Betty's positive attitude and upbeat personality greatly contributed to the atmosphere of the LMWI meetings. She was complimentary of other's talents and contributions. Betty was also a beautiful cook, loved trying new recipes and sharing her delicious creations at LMWI meetings such as her seafood chowder, pickles, scones, and cinnamon rolls. Her own personal favourite was any type of cookie!

Above all, Betty devoted her life to being a loving daughter, mother, wife, sister, and a loyal, caring friend. Her generosity of spirit, unwavering kindness, and dedication to others will continue to be remembered and felt throughout the community she served so faithfully.

Betty, you truly touched the lives of your fellow LMWI members. We greatly miss your strength, calming presence and beautiful smile.

Your Light Remains

You taught us with a gentle hand,
And helped our minds to grow,
You showed us how to understand,
More than we used to know.

The lessons that you gave to us,
Will guide us through the years,
We thank you for the care and trust,
And dry our loving tears.

Though you have gone to take your rest,
Your voice is in our heart,
We'll try to be our very best,
And make a brand new start.

(From a student on the passing of a beloved teacher. Anonymous.)





***Jeanette Mary Ross
Lower Montague WI
2025***

Jeanette Mary Ross was born to parents Stewart and Ethel (Buchanan) Adams. She grew up in Victoria Cross with siblings Wilbert, Rita (Rogerson), Joyce (Jay), and Marlene (Crawford) In her early working years Jeanette lived briefly in Charlottetown but mostly she carpooled to Charlottetown where she worked for Blue Cross and the Hospital Services Commission. After years of commuting, Jeanette worked with, and later retired from, Provincial Health Care at Access PEI in Montague where she became a staple of the Lower Montague Community for many decades.

As a life long lover of music she and Robert enjoyed attending dances and social events with friends. A fabulous housekeeper and homemaker and a great cook, Jeanette along with Robert raised their four children Kevin, Blair, Darlene (Kerr), and Darren in Lower Montague. She was a true 'hockey mom' driving her boys to practice, spending many hours in local hockey rinks, and travelling with them to tournaments. Jeanette was very family oriented and adored spending time with her eleven grandchildren and six great grandchildren. A lover of flowers, gardening was one of her special interests and Jeanette loved developing new flowerbeds and caring for plants and shrubs.

Jeanette demonstrated true strength as she faced many obstacles and trials in her life. Despite her own health challenges, she provided great care for her husband Robert at home and deeply missed him after his death in 2017. In Oct 2023, Jeanette's strength was once again tested when her two sons Darren and Blair died just three weeks apart. She relied on her faith and the support of close family and friends to deal with her grief.

A kind woman and good listener, Jeanette developed and nurtured life long friendships. She loved going to Tim Horton's with friends for coffee and a chat. When she could not get out, she kept in touch with her good friends by phone. Jeanette loved to laugh and enjoy life.

Shortly after getting married and relocating to Lower Montague she joined the Lower Montague Women's Institute and was a devoted member for many years. Jeanette never lost interest in her community and in late years when she moved to Montague she would always inquire what the Institute members were involved with and how the LMWI Hall renovations were proceeding. The Lower Montague Women's Institute members salute you. RIP Jeanette



*Joyce V. MacFadyen
Augustine Cove WI
2025*

Seventy-five years ago, Joyce married Gerald (Jeddie) MacFayden and moved to her forever home in Augustine Cove. She devoted her entire life to her home, community, the family farm and all the support and work that was entailed in being a farmwife.

Joyce grew up in Charlottetown and was an active member of a figure skating club. After her move to the Cove, it was a novelty for the locals to see her out on the ponds doing her twirls and spins. She spent many years teaching young skaters skills at the local rink.

As innovation made homemaking less intensive, it allowed her to be an active and involved mother to her three hockey enthusiast boys. Her love of the outdoors was a lifelong affair, and she and Jeddie fulfilled a dream to skate on the Rideau Canal on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Joyce was a lover of house plants and everyone would admire the geraniums that lined her sun porch windows from Spring to Fall. She had a real green thumb when it came to her beloved African violets, and her home was well decorated with beautiful plants of all kinds. Her interest in flowers was very visible around their property. Over the years, Joyce won many prizes for her baked goods and flowers at the Crapaud Exhibition. As a result of her support in this regard, the Augustine Cove Women's Institute received hundreds of dollars for our Branch with Joyce having the first, second or third largest number of entries in the Domestic Science Division of the exhibition.

Joyce was a life member of WI, and for many years served as Treasurer. She supported every effort that the Institute embraced; be it the annual bean suppers held to support the local school, or the roadside cleanup every spring. She supported the many charities and organizations that the provincial WI undertook. Her exemplary contributions helped to make our local and provincial organization such a respected part of our Island way of life. For her continued service, Joyce was honored with the Golden Book of Recognition Award in 2021. She remained an active and important contributor to the success of the Augustine Cove's WI branch throughout her life.

Joyce died suddenly, just shy of her 98th birthday. She leaves behind her husband of 75 years, her three boys and their families (including six grandchildren and seventeen great grandchildren.

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall



Jennie Macneill
Avonlea WI
2025

Born in Bayview, PEI, January 4th, 1929, Jennie Macneill was the daughter of the late Alfred and Annie (Toombs) Moore. Jennie was the devoted wife of John Macneill, who pre-deceased her. She was the loving mother of daughters Sylvia Ostridge, Elizabeth Orr (Gordon), and sons Robert (Jo-Anne Caza) and David. She was a very proud grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of three.

Jennie was a long-time member of the Avonlea WI. Her first meeting was in 1952, which was the inaugural meeting of the branch. She worked diligently on behalf of her branch until 2017, marking an incredible 65 years as a member. She was awarded a Life Membership in 2020.

Jennie was a teacher and a historian. In 2019 she joined her branch as a participant in the dedication of Montgomery Park in Cavendish. The park is dedicated to the famed author, Lucy Maude Montgomery, a close relative of Jennie's.

Throughout her 65 years as a dedicated member of the Avonlea WI, Jennie upheld exacting standards of procedure for the conducting of business. She served in many capacities including several terms as Vice-President. Jennie was committed to her church and her community.

She passed away in 2025 at the age of 96. Jennie will be remembered for a "Life Well-Lived." She will be missed.

PEI Women's Institute honours all past members who appear in this year's Memorial Issue.

It is our distinct pleasure to recognize the years of commitment and service by each of these women.

Their work for Women's Institute cannot be measured. It has made our communities and this province strong, resilient and beautiful.

Thank You



Pearl Ada (Robinson) MacNevin
West Devon WI
2025

Pearl Ada (Robinson) MacNevin passed away at the Maragaret Stewart Ellis Home in O'Leary on May 12, 2025, formerly of West Devon, in her 86th year.

Pearl was born on 1939, to Wiliam and Vera MacNevin of West Devon. She married the late Horace MacNevin and lived on the family dairy farm in West Devon where they raised five children (Holly, Harold, Norman, Janet and Heather). She was a special grandmother to ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Pearle worked hard on the farm and in her garden.

Pearl was very involved in her community with the West Devon United Church, West Devon Sunday School, Life member of the West Devon Women's Institute, and West Devon Ladies Aid. In her spare time, she volunteered to fundraise for the Red Cross, Cancer Society, Diabetic Association and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Pearl was an active member of the West Devone WI and held the secretary – treasurer position for many years.

In the last few years of Pearl's ailing health, the West Devon WI members would meet at her home, and she so much enjoyed sitting around her kitchen table after the meeting, sharing lunch in her china tea cups. Pearl was always ready for fun and nonsense at our meetings. At one particular meeting held in March, we held collection by paying for every item we had on that was green. Pearl paid the most as she had died her under garments green too.

Pearl will be fondly missed by everyone who knew her; family, community, and our WI branch.





Lillian Rose (Gray) MacLean
West Devon WI
2025

Lillian Rose (Gray) Maclean passed away suddenly at her home in O'Leary on October 13, 2025, formerly of West Devon, in her 80th year.

Lillian was born on April 22, 1944, to Wilbur and Doris Gray of O'Leary. She married the late John MacLean and moved to West Devon where she worked hard on the family farm raising five sons (Dwayne, Milton, John, Glen, Steven) and two daughters (Connie and Mary). She was a special grandmother to twenty-two grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

Lillian was a member of the O'Leary UCW, West Devon Women's Institute, and a volunteer at the West Prince Caring Cupboard. She was also active in raising funds for community organizations through her years of volunteerism. Lillian enjoyed making and giving quilted items such as tea cozies, quilts, and bowl warmers to people in her community. Lillian and John shared their love for travel and music with many trips to Ireland. Lillian had a passion for family tree history, and this was often discussed at our monthly WI meetings.

Lillian's sudden death was a shock to everyone, and she will be dearly missed by family, friends, and our WI branch. When someone touches your life, they are never forgotten.



Look at This Tree

Look at this tree,
And remember me.
Think of all the smiles.

Dance in our memories.
Remember our traditions.
Re-live the fun.

I know you will grieve.
But let its growing leaves
Remind you of me.

Anonymous

The History of Funeral Flowers

Understanding their Significance and Evolution



The tradition of using funeral flowers dates back thousands of years, reflecting the deep symbolic meanings attributed to flowers and their connection to life, death, and remembrance. Across different cultures and historical periods, funeral flowers have been used to express grief, offer condolences, and celebrate the life of the deceased. Today, these customs have evolved, incorporating both traditional and modern practices.

The earliest recorded use of flowers in burial practices dates back to around 62,000 B.C. when archaeologists discovered remains in a cave in Iraq. Analysis of the site suggested that flowers had been placed around the bodies as part of burial rituals. This early use demonstrates that the practice of incorporating flowers at a funeral is not a modern invention but has deep-rooted historical significance.

In Ancient Egypt, flowers were highly symbolic and often included in funeral practices to honour the dead and ensure safe passage to the afterlife. Garlands made from lotus flowers, papyrus, and other native plants were used in burial rites. They believed that flowers represented rebirth, making them a fitting tribute to accompany a deceased person on their journey to the next world.

Similarly, in ancient Greece and Rome, flowers held a sacred role in burial customs. Flowers and garlands were laid on graves, and sometimes, the deceased were adorned with floral wreaths. Each flower carried symbolic meanings related to remembrance, honour, and the afterlife.

In early Christian burials, flowers were used to symbolize the hope of resurrection and eternal life, a tradition that continues in many Christian denominations today.

From Website "Orchid Memories"
orchidmemories.co.uk

*This book is in memory of those who served as
Women's Institute members and passed away in the years
2015, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2025*

Ada "Lorna" Nicholson
Aletha "Dede" Harvey
Anita Gallant
Anna Oatway
Barbara Green
Betty MacDonald
Betty Millar
Dini Speelman
Dorothy Smith
Florence Wight
Frances Tremere
Gertrude Ferguson
Gladys Lowther
Helen "Ruth" MacDonald
Helen Carr
Irene Bernard
Isabel MacKinnon
Jeanette Ross
Jennie Macneill
Joan Bernard
JoAnn Smith
Joyce MacFadyen
June Hockin-Caseley
Kay Mitchell
Kaye Larkin
Lillian MacLean
Lois "Marilyn" Myers
Lottie Crabbe
Louise Mills
Pat Willis
Pearl MacNevin
Phyllis Watts
Roberta Wight
Ruth MacNevin

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Health & Safety
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Environment
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International Affairs/
ACWW Provincial Coordinator*

*Jennifer Stenhouse
Karen MacRae
Elaine Pottier
Nancy Wu
Sarah Outram
Janet Wright
Helen Nicholson*

The Institute Ode

**A goodly thing it is to meet in friendship's circle bright,
where nothing stains the pleasure sweet, nor dims the radiant light.
No unkind word our lips shall pass, no envy sour the mind.
But each shall seek the common weal the good of all mankind.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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