



Dylan Rath and Maia Sloan thought Mrs. Rushton deserved some help in the kitchen, so they volunteered to help wash trays for their random act of kindness. Debert Elementary students in Mrs. Rushton's Grade Three Class held a "Random Act of Kindness Day" on April 10th, and students came up with their own ideas to be kind to others. (Harrington Photo)



Jessie Totten (left) and Morgan Barnes (right) receive a helping hand from Brooklyn Robichaud and Gabby Rushton on the swings. Debert Elementary students in Mrs. Rushton's Grade Three Class held a "Random Act of Kindness Day" on April 10th. Students put up posters and made announcements encouraging the whole school to take part. (Harrington Photo)

## Wentworth United Church Women – A Historical Recap

By Hope Bridgewater

Ethel Gilroy recently celebrated her 80th birthday in the company of the Wentworth United Church Women at the hall of the Wentworth United Church. Members of the UCW wished to pay a special tribute to Gilroy as she has been an excellent treasurer since 1976, which spans 37 years.

Going back in Wentworth history, women joined together to raise funds for local churches and community needs. Prior to United Church Union in 1925, this volunteer work was largely done by the Methodists with their organization of the Ladies Aid at the Wentworth Methodist Church "on the hill" at Wentworth Centre for the purpose of helping their three Methodist Churches at the Centre, Lake Road and Victoria. The Presbyterian and Baptist Churches of Wentworth had no women's organizations at that time in their congregations.

In a photo taken by my aunt Greta Tuttle, the members of the Wentworth Ladies Aid are standing as a group. In the photo I see my grandmother Ella Tuttle and my mother Lillian Tuttle. Current members of the UCW may also see their parents, grandparents or other relatives in the photo: Bessie Swallow with son Kenny, Alta Myers, Gussie Betts, Gladys Swallow, Fannie Swallow, Gertrude Henderson, Ann Beebe, Rose Tuttle, Ada Swallow, and Etta Myers. At that time members of the Baptist Church came and joined the Ladies Aid.

Members of Ladies Aid met on a rotation basis at each other's homes. Later, West Wentworth and Upper Wentworth established Ladies Aid units. Units met separately, but arranged a "general meeting" for all at specific times. Although Ladies Aids were officially declared WA's earlier in 1926, the United Church General Council in Toronto again in 1941 decreed the Ladies Aids be called Woman's Associations (WA's), although West Wentworth members still continued to call themselves Ladies Aid. Both Ladies Aid and WA's were active groups and met monthly raising funds for local purposes by quilting, "fancy work," box socials, and suppers in homes. Members paid a 10 cents fee at each meeting. Before cars became the main source of travel, women, single or married, walked or came by horse and buggy or sleigh to monthly meetings. If husbands came, they would talk in the kitchen while the women worked in the front room. All would gather



The Wentworth Methodist Ladies Aid posed so Greta Tuttle could take a picture. The photo was taken prior to 1919. Shown in the photo are: (Back row): Bessie Swallow (holding Kenny), Alta Myers, Ella Tuttle, Gussie Betts, Gladys Swallow, Fannie Swallow, Lillian Tuttle. (Front row): Gertrude Henderson, Ann Beebe, Rose Tuttle, Ada Swallow and Etta Myers. Photo supplied from the files of Hope Bridgewater.

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Ethel Gilroy celebrated her 80th birthday party at a gathering of Wentworth United Church Women who wish to thank her for her excellence as treasurer since 1976, spanning 37 years. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

together for a meal with the men then paying 10 cents. As Ladies Aid/WA's worked solely to raise local funds, the women wished to add a missionary component to their work and in 1947 formed a Women's Missionary Society (WMS) for the entire pastoral charge.

After United Church Union in 1925, the members of both the United Church and Baptist Church still worked together in Ladies Aid, but reorganized so that each had separate treasurers, divided all proceeds equally except for the 10 cents fee at meetings, and alternated executive officers. Each summer, the United Church members and Baptist members each had two separate events for fund raising: The United Church had a Tea Meeting at the Wentworth "flats" and the Baptist members had a Strawberry Festival.

In 1962, the United Church General Council in Toronto officially combined the WA's and WMS' into one organization called the United Church Women. After several years of debate from 1986 to 1991, the three units of the WA's located at West Wentworth, the Valley and the Centre voted on January 1, 1992 to amalgamate on a one-year trial basis into one unit located at the new church built in 1964 across the road from the "old church on the hill." Fortunately, the vote held for future years. Members still met in each other's home until the late 1990's when they began meeting in the United Church hall downstairs from the sanctuary.

The UCW members now meet every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to quilt as a fund-raiser, with time out each month for three Bible Studies and one UCW business meeting. Baptists attend as well, still following tradition. Quilting members like the social aspect of quilting together despite, at times, sore fingers, thumbs, shoulders, arms and backs. Some quilters are such expert observers that they can recognize another quilter's work by her stitches. Other fund-raising is done by catering and by stocking a table with UCW items at community events.

Presidents of UCW since 1962 (several have served more than once) are Emma Little, Mary Betts, Minnie Betts, Myrtle Sprague, Helen Lynds, Hilda Little, Bertha Giles, Florence Palmer, Emma Little, Hilda Little, Flora Little, Phyllis Henderson, Myrtle Sprague, Thelma Redmond, Betty Duizer, Betty Curry, Thelma Redmond, Linda Ogilvie, Hope Bridgewater, Marie Duranceau, Martha Wilson, and Marie Duranceau.

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## Economy & Five Islands News



On April 10th, the UCW's of the Cobequid Pastoral Charge held a joint meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary and to recognition of the cooperation between the units. Pictured above are: Joyce Canning, Myrna Fisher, Carole Dibbon, Linda Field, Eileen Lock, Judy Bristow-Roberts. (Brenda Moore Photo)

By Ruth Thompson

The weather has not been great this spring. It's been snowing or just bad weather for far too long. Sure hope it changes soon.

The ladies and their helpers at the Economy UCW are busy preparing for their catering to the Shoreline Journal's 3rd Annual 90 & 90+ birthday party, which will be held for the invited guests at the Economy Rec Centre on Saturday, May 4th. Maurice reports that over 80 residents from the area had pre-registered. Combined with their spouses or caregivers, he anticipates approximately 115 to attend.

Good Friday service was hosted at Riverside Church, Bass River. Carole Dibbon, Linda Field, Dorothy Carson and Myrna Fisher relayed the story of the crucifixion and resurrection through a series of eggs, each containing a symbol and a message. They are to be thanked for all their efforts.

The service on Easter Sunday was well-attended. Iona Canning was particularly pleased because her daughters, granddaughter and family

were able to share it with her.

The UCW's met on April 10 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Cobequid Pastoral Charge and, also, how they have worked co-operatively over the years to serve the communities of Portauquique, Bass River, Economy, Lower Economy, Five Islands and Lower Five Islands. More activities are planned for the future, including a picnic for everyone living in the area served by the Charge.

The Five Islands Lighthouse Society is working diligently as they prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Lighthouse on July 14.

Sympathy is extended to the Family of the Late Vivian Rutherford on her passing. She will be resting now. Prayers go out to Darlene and her family and to Mary Jane.

I am still enjoying living in Truro, Lots to do here and to see. Thanks so much to Brenda Moore for helping me out. We still need more news of anniversaries, birthdays, or upcoming events. Maurice is more than willing to provide coverage as long as we can get it to him.

## Story Ideas?

Deadline for the June issue of  
**The Shoreline**  
Journal is May 21

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.theshorelinejournal.com](http://www.theshorelinejournal.com)

## DANCE

### Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade

presents

**Ivan and Vivian Hicks**  
with  
**The Berry Hill Band**

Saturday, May 4

8:30 pm to Midnight

at Central Colchester Junior High School