

100 Years of IODE



In Dresden

1914 – 2014

**Catherine McVean Chapter**

Originally

**Sydenham Chapter**



## *The First Fifty Years*

The Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was founded in 1900 by the late Mrs. Clark Murray. Our Chapter owes its origin to the sudden flood of patriotism around which accompanied the outbreak of the First World War in the summer of 1914. Armies were then much more poorly supplied than at present, and the military authorities usually were hard put to supply the necessary food and weapons. It was customary for the women to pitch in and try to provide the troops with a few of the amenities of civilized life.

Accordingly, the women of Dresden held a public meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1914, to organize a local I.O.D.E. Chapter. An organizing committee was formed, composed of Mrs. Osgoode McVean, Mrs. Redmond D. Black and Mrs. Robert Brandon. A week later three members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Kent Regiment Chapter came from Chatham to assist in the organization here. These ladies were Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Rankin and Mrs. Robert Gray. A Charter application was forwarded to the National Chapter proposing:

1. The name of “Sydenham Chapter”, as first choice and “Valcartier” as second choice.
2. Provisional Officers were as follows:
  - Regent – Mrs. Osgoode McVean
  - First Vice Regent – Mrs. Redmond Black
  - Second Vice Regent – Mrs. Thomas Conway
  - Secretary – Mr. J. P. F. Williams
  - Treasurer – Miss Eva Aiken
  - Standard Bearer – Mrs. B. B. E. Tassie
3. Proposed motto – “We Live in Deeds”

The Charter was issued to Sydenham Chapter on this basis. The Chapter name was in honour of Charles Thompson, Canada’s Governor, whom Queen Victoria later made Lord Sydenham.

These ladies were the charter members or “mothers” of the Chapter: Mrs. Osgoode McVean, Mrs. Robert Brandon, Mrs. Thomas Conway, Mrs. J.P.F. Williams, Miss Eva Aiken, Mrs. B.B.E. Tassie, Mrs. H.S. McDonald, Miss Alice McVean, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Thomas Laird and Mrs. Redmond Black.

Mrs. Black donated the Chapter’s first flag, one which has been carried through the South African War.

The first meeting was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1914, with 106 members already enrolled. The Chapter’s first tea netted \$50.00. A bale of material was packed for the Belgian Relief Fund as Belgium has been overrun by the German Army. Next came Christmas boxes for our soldiers who were training at Camp Carling, near London, before going overseas.

All during the war the women worked strenuously to raise money to furnish comforts for the soldiers and even for their dependents. In the month of July 1915, 100 shirts, 100 pairs of socks and 100 bandages were sent to one of the base hospitals in France. The total income for 1915 was \$2,583.00 from which were bought, among other things, one field kitchen and one machine gun for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. Mrs. George Horning (known to all as Grannie) pieced 56 quilt tops which the Chapter furnished and sent to the army. In the fall of 1915, Kent County’s own Battalion was formed - the 186<sup>th</sup> Infantry – based in Chatham. The Chapter undertook to supply the 1500 soldiers there with socks.

A little poem I found which I felt might be appropriate here –

“Thanks lady, for the socks, some fit.

I used one for a helmet and one for a mitt.

Here’s hoping to meet you when I’ve done my bit,

But where in the world did you learn to knit?”

*In 1916 a total of \$5,139.00 was raised as the women continued to knit and fill boxes with the knitted articles, cigarettes, candy and fruit cake. They also began gathering junk as another money raising enterprise.*

In 1918 a tea room was operated near the location of the Red and White Market which netted \$3,312.00 to help finance the growing needs of the Chapter. In charge was Mrs. George Pelton and her capable assistant Mrs. Robert Brandon. These ladies had some amusing experiences. Some American tourists asked for the "half and half" and were greeted with an amazed stare and the question half and half of what? Another wanted Cincinatti Cream and was told that they didn't have that, but they had the best ice-cream there was to be found anywhere.

In 1918 the Influenza Epidemic swept a great part of the world including Dresden. As whole households were confined to bed, a chapter organized a travelling kitchen to bring hot food to those who were unable to care for themselves.

Even with Armistice Day in 1918 the Chapter worked on to help crippled soldiers, soldier's orphans and the starving in Europe. In 1921, the Chapter first sold the Armistice Day Poppies for the benefit of Crippled Soldiers. This was continued until the Legion took over the selling of these poppies.

In 1922, \$2,000.00 was raised to erect a Cenotaph. Embedded in the monument are parchment documents relating to the war years which in the future days may be of great interest.

In 1923, a large plot established in the Dresden Cemetery was designated "In Flanders Field" where a small cross was erected in memory of each of the district men who died in, or as a result of, the war. These have been added to commemorate those of the Second World War and the Korean War.

Mrs. R. D. McAlpine became the second Regent of the Chapter in 1932 and continued in that office until 1947. She joined the Chapter in 1920 and served in one office after another until 1932 when she became Regent. She is still serving in our Chapter in one office or another and is presently our Honorary First Vice Regent.

During these first years after the War we strived to maintain the Peace. We were much concerned with child and family welfare. We provided a friendly welcome and assistance to the Overseas Wives of our Canadian servicemen. The Educational work, starting with bursaries, scholarships and prizes to our local young people led to the War Memorial I.O.D.E. bursaries which were made available in Canadian Universities and Overseas to sons and daughters of men killed or permanently or seriously disabled in the war. Libraries, pictures and flags were given to schools in the community. We took part in Empire Study, Empire work in India, Endowment Fund, Navy League with Ditty Bags, Ex-service personnel with help in the form of money, food, clothing, and other necessities. We worked with the Blind, sending one boy to the school for the Blind in Brantford for eight years and a girl to learn Braille and handicrafts. In 1939, the C.N.I.B. offered to take over if we couldn't meet our obligations. We worked hard to make money by having concerts, card parties, art exhibits, theatre nights, bazaars and even went into the junk business again.

In 1935 our beloved former Regent, Mrs. Osgoode McVean died. We received permission from the National Chapter to change our Chapter name from "Sydenham" to "Catherine McVean" in her honour. A beautiful memorial portrait was hung and unveiled in the Public Library on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1936. This ceremony was attended by over 200 people. There were members of Mrs. McVean's family; prominent members of the Province and County; Mrs. W. C. Lumbers of Toronto, President of the National Chapter and executive members; Mrs. Wm. Morrison of Hamilton, President of the Provincial Chapter and executive members; our own chapter and townspeople. In hushed silence Mrs. Robert Brandon removed the Flag from the portrait and the Rev. Dr. Treanor gave the Dedicatory Prayer. Mrs. Lumbers paid glowing tribute to Mrs. McVean as did Mrs. Murray Campbell, the Municipal Regent who presided over this ceremony. A luncheon had preceded this ceremony.

In 1937, Mrs. Robert Brandon won the prize for the best essay on the work of the Order, given by the Provincial Chapter.

In 1919, a large silk flag embroidered in maple leaves, was encased in a glass frame, with brass rail and commemorative plaque, and placed in the post office. Those who gave their lives in World War One were represented by red leaves; other service men by green, and two nurses with gold leaves.

The outbreak of war in September, 1939, found the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire with its organization from coast to coast again ready to take its part in the Empire's war effort. We had drives for warm new clothing and blankets to send to Britain for children evacuated from the cities, nursery and comfort bags, and parcels for prisoners of war, clothing and bedding for Poland. We contributed to the Bolingbroke Bomber which cost \$100,000.00 and helped with the adoption of the ship "Ontario".

Our war work grew with boxes for our own local boys overseas twice a year, and socks for the Kent Regiment. In 1941, 653 articles valued at \$1,175.00 were sent. In 1943, 2821 articles were sent overseas and \$2,545.00 was raised. In 1944, our prayers were especially needed for the soldiers overseas and the anxious ones at home when many letters of sympathy went out. Sewing was done at the Library work room two evenings each week. Perpetual upkeep for the Dresden Cemetery Soldiers' Memorial plot was arranged. The chapter sponsored a Girl Guide Troop arranging transportation to camp and meetings away from home for the girls.

In February of 1947, Mrs. Harold French became the regent of Catherine McVean Chapter and continued in the office until 1952. During this term the chapter prepared a Memory Book containing the history of each Dresden boy serving in the armed forces in World War two with rank, number and photo if possible. This permanent record was placed in a suitable cabinet in the Public Library where it may be seen and referred to whenever necessary. A bronze plaque was added to the Cenotaph as a permanent memorial to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

An important item, as far as the Educational work was concerned, was presenting our local scholarship along with the National I.O.D.E. Scholarship to a student from Dresden High School who went on to become Dr. Edwin Carroll, a now famous physician and surgeon.

Classes were held in English for New Canadians who have since been granted Canadian Citizenship and some of whom have become well respected business people in our community. Some of these were sponsored by the chapter at the Naturalization Court in Chatham.

The Chapter sponsored a Well Baby Clinic each month and is still doing so with I.O.D.E. members assisting each month at the clinics.

Our community was honoured by a visit from the Prime Minister of Canada – Honourable Louis St. Laurent and some members of his cabinet. Flags were purchased by the Chapter and given to every pupil of Dresden Public School to commemorate this occasion.

A picture of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was placed in the Dresden Theatre Lobby and the Czech Hall and flags were given to the Czech Hall and to the Kinsmen Athletic Park.

Since 1952 Mrs. French has continued to serve the Chapter as Sec; Services Sec; Empire and World Affairs Sec; and Honorary Second Vice Regent.

Mrs. Gordon Clark succeeded Mrs. French in February, 1952, as Regent of the Chapter until 1954. During this term, the Chapter took part in a Memorial Service for the Late King George VI arranged by the Ministerial Association. In 1953, the Chapter also took part in the Civic Coronation Service for Queen Elizabeth II. A Coronation tea was held in the United Church. A painting of the Queen was presented at the official opening of the Lambton-Kent District High School. In 1954, \$50.00 in awards were presented to the Dresden Public School and have been presented each year since that time.

The Chapter entered a float in Dresden's Centennial Parade when four members holding I.O.D.E. standards will recall the bumpy ride

along North Street. The fortieth Anniversary of Catherine McVean Chapter was marked by a dinner with Mrs. J. H. A. Oliver and Mrs. R. S. Reynolds of Chatham, bringing greetings from the Provincial and Municipal Chapters of which they were officers at that time. During this term the Lambton Kent Memorial Arena was officially opened a picture of the Queen was presented on behalf of the Chapter. Classes for New Canadians still continued and several social get-togethers were held when lunch was served by the members. Card parties, rummage sales, and tickets sold on various articles financed our many projects.

Succeeding Mrs. Clark as Regent in 1954 through 1958 was Mrs. Francis Foster. We will return to the work of the Chapter under Mrs. Foster's guidance, in a later paragraph.

In 1958 to 1960, Mrs. Gordon Spence was Regent of the Chapter, when renovations and repairs were made to the Cenotaph. Mrs. Spence, (with the Standard Bearer, Mrs. Gordon Clark) was among the I.O.D.E. Regents in the Chatham Official Welcome Party for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip. A flag was presented to Uncle Tom's Grave and the usual educational awards were presented to the Public and District High School.

Skipping the years, 1960, 1961, Mrs. Arthur's Hoyles became the Regent of the Chapter in 1962 continuing until 1964. The Chatham and Kent County Municipal Chapter June meeting was held in the form of a Luncheon. A picture of the Queen was presented to S. S. #22 Dawn Township. The members continued knitting when many articles were sent to the children of Korea and other faraway places. Donations were sent for a new Eskimo Hall being built in the Arctic. Beginning in 1963 \$25.00 per year was forwarded towards a National I.O.D.E. Scholarship to commemorate Canada's Centennial year in 1967. Two flags were presented jointly with Branch 113, Canadian Legion to the Czechoslovakian Friendship Hall on the occasion of its re-opening ceremonies. Gifts were sent to the Ontario Hospital and to Westminster Hospital in London. Members assisted in the March of Dimes and sponsored the C.N.I.B. campaign, with Mrs. G. W. Blandford as convener.



We now return to the work of the Chapter under the guidance of the present Regent, Mrs. Francis Foster, who has served three terms, 1954 to 1958, 1960 to 1962 and 1964 to 1965. In February 1964 there was talk of disbanding the Chapter because no one seemed willing to take over the responsibility of becoming Regent. Therefore, the members of Catherine McVean Chapter are truly indebted to Mrs. Foster for graciously offering to serve as our Regent for this, her third term.

In 1955, the chapter opened a "Thrift Shop" as a means of financing our work; this has been most successful. Members have contributed many faithful hours cleaning, sorting and marking clothing for sale. The Memorial Flag of World War I was removed from the Post Office and placed in the Council Chambers. Mrs. Foster attended the Provincial I.O.D.E. in Hamilton in 1956, when she was presented to Governor General Vincent Massey and attended tea at Government House. In 1957, the Chapter was hostess to the Chatham and Kent County Municipal Chapter for its June meeting. The Annual Valentine Luncheons were begun during this term and a German boy adopted with \$50.00 being sent each year. The usual prizes were presented to the Public and High School and the Annie Brandon Memorial Medal for general proficiency to the Public School was instigated. A picture of the Queen was presented at the official opening of St. Michael's School. Gifts were sent each year to the patients in the Ontario Hospital in St. Thomas. A Flag was presented in Jun at the official opening of Uncle Tom's Museum.

## *Fiftieth Anniversary – October, 1964*

The Golden Anniversary Dinner of Catherine McVean Chapter, I.O.D.E., was held in the Legion Hall in Wednesday, October 14, 1964, with Mr. J. T. (Ted) McVean and Master of Ceremonies. Following the traditional parading of both the Kent County Municipal and Chapter Standards, and a toast to the Queen, Mrs. Francis Foster, Regent, welcomed guests and introduced the Head Table dignitaries. Representing Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County were Municipal Regent, Mrs. L. T. Wilson, who brought greetings; Mrs. Murray Campbell, Mrs. R. M. Merritt and Mrs. W. L. Cusksey. Mayor Dr. P. Laird Gibbs, brought official greetings and words of congratulations from the Town of Dresden. Musical members were presented by the Canadian Southernaires Barbershop Quartet of Chatham, and Mrs. R. M. Merritt, Municipal Standard Bearer, gave an appropriate address.

The History of the Chapter, which was prepared by Mrs. Harold French and Mrs. O. S. Johnston, was read by Mrs. Johnston. Mrs. L. T. Wilson, assisted by Mrs. Donald Dusten, Membership Convener, presented 25-year pins to the following seventeen members: Mrs. Cecil Gammage, Mrs. A. Stewart Tassie, Mrs. Wallace Laird, Mrs. W. B. West, Mrs. George Lawrence, Mrs. A. C. Rigsby, Mrs. John Houston, Miss Helen Wilson, Mrs. Wilson Clark, Mrs. Stanley Clapp, Mrs. Walter Lawrence, Mrs. Harold French, Mrs. John McVean, Mrs. R. D. McAlpine, Mrs. Francis Foster, Mrs. J. A. Ruttle and Mrs. James Burns.

A point of interest was the table on which were displayed a portrait of Mrs. Catherine McVean, for whom the Chapter is named; two Charters, the original granted in 1914 to Sydenham Chapter, and the second granted in 1936, re-naming the Chapter "Catherine McVean". Birthday cake and coffee were served to the guest at the close of the evening. Mrs. Harold French was General Convener of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration.

## *History Update: 1965 – 1974*

In 1965, Mrs. George Blandford became Regent and continued in office until 1969. In May of 1965, the “Thrift Shop” was closed; this had been operated by the members since 1955 and all proceeds were used for Chapter projects. A new Flag was presented to Uncle Tom’s Cabin. An Antique and Heirloom Show and Tea was held at the Dresden United Church Hall for the first time and proved quite successful.

The Citizenship Court in Chatham was assisted by the Chapter in welcoming New Canadians. Also, in 1965, the Chapter was instructed to use the initials I.O.D.E. in place of Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. Many gifts were purchased and distributed to patients in the Ontario Hospital in St. Thomas, as well as to the blind persons in our area at Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold French presented a Travelogue on “The Orient” in the Public School Auditorium in the spring of 1966. The Town of Dresden took over the care of the Cenotaph during this year and became responsible for cutting the grass and planting ornamental shrubs and flowers. An Art Show was held, with local artists displaying their work, and the Chapter sold tickets to the Fashion Show, “Wives of the Fathers of Confederation”, which was travelling across Canada in advance of the Centennial Celebration.

The Boy Scout Building Fund was given a sizable donation and a picture of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II presented at the official opening. Mr. Douglas McCallum, C.N.I.B. Field Secretary, attended a December dinner meeting at the Canadian Legion Hall and showed a film “Good to be Back” to members and guests.

Canada’s Centennial Year, 1967, saw another Antique Show undertaken by the Chapter, with exhibitors and dealers from the area taking part. The members were in Centennial dress and Miss Lynn Sanderson, Dresden’s Centennial Queen, took part in this festive event. The Chapter entered a float in the Town’s Centennial Parade with Education

and Services as its theme. Miss Beth Butler and Miss Barbara Hooper represented the High School and Public School respectively on the float, as they had been recipients of the I.O.D.E. General Proficiency Awards in June, 1967. The Standards on the float were held by Mrs. Harold French and Mrs. O. S. Johnston. This year was the first for the New Canadian Flag to be paraded at the I.O.D.E. meeting, the Union Jack becoming the Flag of the Order. A Centennial Silver Dollar was added to all awards given to the students at both local schools.

A bronze plaque was purchased for the Cenotaph for a fallen Korean Veteran, Pte. Raymond Enos, and was unveiled by the Regent, Mrs. Blandford, and dedicated at the November 11<sup>th</sup> service.

In October 1967, Mrs. Gordon Clark, a former Regent and valued member, passed away.

Mrs. Stewart Tassie, Honorary Regent of the Chapter, was presented with her 50-year pin, and receiving 25-year pins were Mrs. O. S. Johnston and Mrs. Kenneth Wright. In February, 1967, Mrs. Arthur Hoyles, past Regent, was presented with a Life Membership.

The Lambton-Kent Composite School was officially opened in December and a new Canadian Flag was presented by the Chapter.

The annual June picnic for the Blind was held in Dresden in 1968 at the United Church Hall and the members supplied the lunch and proved suitable entertainment. The Semi-Annual June Luncheon of the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County was also held at the United Church Hall with 100% attendance by the members of the Catherine McVean Chapter. The Dresden Area Central School held its official opening and a picture of The Queen was presented.

This was the tenth year that the "Annie Brandon Memorial Medal" was awarded at the Elementary School, and it was decided to continue to give a Medal for General Proficiency in Grade VIII, but to rename it the "Catherine McVean Memorial Medal", in memory of all departed members.

Since her retirement as Regent in 1969, Mrs. Blandford has continued to serve the Chapter as Education Secretary, Standard Bearer and in other offices, and has served as Municipal Secretary of Chatham and Kent County for five years. She is presently Municipal Echoes Secretary, and Mrs. Donald McGorman has taken over the duties of Municipal Secretary.

Mrs. J. D. Thomson succeeded Mrs. Blandford as Regent in February, 1969, and continued until 1971. A new adopted school at Nestor Falls was assigned to the Chapter. This is an Indian Day School for children from the age of four to fourteen.

Mrs. Arthur Hoyles received her 25-year pin in 1969, and Mrs. R. D. McAlpine, Honorary 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Regent, received her 50-year pin in February 1970, with Mrs. George Lawrence, Honorary 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Regent, being presented her 50-year pin at the April meeting, held in her home.

The Kent "Sing-Out" group from Chatham, along with the Kent Kordsmen, presented a musical program for the Chapter in May of 1969 in the L/K Composite School Auditorium. This money-raising venture proved fairly successful. Miss Marion Miller, a Thamesville girl and music student at The University of Western Ontario, was sponsored by the Chapter for the Lucy Morrison Memorial Bursary, and received \$200.00 towards her education.

Girls in the House of Correction, Galt, were assisted by the Chapter with gifts, Services Secretary, Mrs. Donald Spearman, having brought this need to the Chapter's attention. Mrs. Pete McGarvey gave a talk and showed slides on her "Journey of Compassion" and the Chapter responded by presenting her with a donation to the Compassion Fund. Municipal Regent, Mrs. J. P. Glendenning, of Wallaceburg, visited the Chapter and gave an inspiring talk, encouraging the members to keep I.O.D.E. in the forefront of all community activities. Mrs. Retna Arya, a Chapter member and native of India, entertained members at a regular meeting with slides of her homeland and a demonstration of how to wear the "Sari", the official dress of India. Her picture appeared in Echoes.

A booth was rented at the Dresden Exhibition and the Service work articles made by the members, as well as literature on Educational work done in Dresden and at both Provincial and National levels were displayed. Tickets were sold on a set of children's lawn furniture as well as on a Barbie-Doll and wardrobe. This proved a very rewarding project. Mrs. J. C. Blandford, Provincial Junior Chapters Secretary, visited and gave a talk on the formation of a Junior Chapter. Twenty members attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County, I.O.D.E., held at the Holiday Inn on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1970.

Since 1971, Mrs. Thomson has continued to serve the Chapter in other offices and is presently Education Secretary as well as Municipal Education Secretary.

In February 1971, Mrs. Roy S. Johnston became the 10<sup>th</sup> Regent and remained in that office until 1973. Mrs. Johnston has the distinction of being the first third-generation member to join I.O.D.E. in Dresden, her grandmother, Mrs. Nelson Perry, having joined Sydenham Chapter in 1914 during the first World War and her mother, Mrs. Harold Sharpe being a member of Catherin McVean Chapter until her death in 1964.

The 1971 the Senior Citizens Centre was opened in Dresden and we helped them with a donation and coat rack. Mrs. Gordon Spence and Mrs. Lloyd Payne were recipients of 25-year pins during this year.

Our first I.O.D.E. Auction Sale, convened by Mrs. J. D. Thomson, was held in the Lambton-Kent Arena, with articles being donated by members and interested citizens. Other booths operated by the members included a bake table, book sale, rummage sale and refreshment booth. This one-day effort proved most successful, with over \$1,000.00 being realized for Chapter work.

An Area Conference was held in Chatham in November, in place of the Semi-Annual Provincial meeting, and was very well attended by our members. We came to the aid of the first Blood Donor Clinic to be help locally since the war years, and have continued to assist annually.

The Regent, Mrs. Johnston, and Mrs. Harold French were appointed to serve on the War Graves memorial Committee, which was headed by Branch 113, Royal Canadian Legion. A new soldiers' plot is to be constructed at the Cemetery and permanent markers erected for each World War I and World War II, as well as the Korean veteran, who gave his life in the service of this country. The Chapter donated a marker for the new plot, and a dedication service of the War Graves Memorial was held in September, 1972, with our Regent, Mrs. Johnston, representing the Chapter.

Mrs. Andrew C. Rigsby was presented with her 50-year pin at the February 1972 meeting. Mrs. Rigsby was a member of the Mary T. Bray Chapter, Chatham, prior to moving to Dresden.

In June of 1972, the Second Annual Auction Sale was held at the Scout Hall and amazingly enough, many articles turned up and the event again proved a financial success. The two local School Libraries, as well as our Adopted School in Nestor Falls, were presented with a copy of Canada 67.

The Catherine McVean Chapter assisted the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County when Miss Marion Miller "In Concert" was presented at the Thames Theatre, Chatham, with profits to assist Miss Miller, a most talented pianist, in furthering her musical studies in Europe. A total of \$1,050.00 was raised for this purpose with the co-operation of the sixteen Kent County Chapters.

Mrs. Harold French, former Regent, Honorary 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Regent and Life Member, died on May 10 of 1972. In honour of her 34 years of service to this Chapter, and her dedicated interest in all phases of our work, a Gold Medal Award was donated by one of our members, Mrs. J. A. Ruttle. The "Norma French Memorial I.O.D.E. Award" is presented annually to a Grade 13 student for General Proficiency at the Lambton-Kent Composite School.

One of our local blind, Bill Hooper, who has been assisted by the Chapter since 1931, is now being sent each year to the Lake Joseph Holiday Centre for the Blind for a two-week vacation. A donations was

made to the Cedar Springs School for the **Retarded** "Swimming Pool Fund". Also in 1972, the organization spoke to our members, outlining its services and needs. From this meeting a donation was made in the form of several blankets, a cervical collar and other necessary medical equipment.

Mrs. Johnston still serves the Chapter, presently as our C.N.I.B. Convener, and is now 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Regent of the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County.

Mrs. Donald Dusten began her term as Regent in February 1973, and is now holding the office for her second year in this, our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. During 1973 and 1974, our membership increased greatly in numbers, and the homes became too small for the swelling membership. The monthly meetings were moved to the Lambton-Kent Composite School and on occasion to the Canadian Legion Hall.

The 1973 C.N.I.B. Blitz reached an all-time high of \$1,400.00 under the convenership of Mrs. R. S. Johnston, with the assistance of the Ladies Auxiliary of Branch 113, Canadian Legion and the Kinette Club in the Town, and the Molly Creek W. I. and the Lindsay Road Untied Church Women in the rural areas. The Third Annual Auction Sale was held and one again was a financial success.

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County was hosted by this Chapter in June of 1973, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, Mrs. C. T. Lowe as guest speaker. She showed films and spoke of our Provincial project at Attawapiskat, a Cree village on James Bay. Two of our members, Miss Helen McVean and Mrs. Velma Craig, entertained the members with several piano duets. The C.N.I.B. June Picnic was also held here and was hosted by the Chapter in the United Church Hall, with entertainment and a picnic lunch provided by the members.

In July of 1973 a former Regent, and Life Members, Mrs. Arthur Hoyles died.



A monthly visiting program, under Mrs. Lloyd Payne's direction, was set up for the two local Nursing Homes. Each patient is remembered on his or her birthday with a small gift and birthday cake served to all the patients. Some form of entertainment is also provided. This has been a most rewarding project to all our members who assist in visiting. A School for handicapped children opened in Rawleigh Township, the Developmental Centre for Children, and is aided by two faithful volunteers from this Chapter, Miss Grace Kyle and Mrs. G.L. (Pat) Dunlop.

In June of 1974 a Penny Sale was held in conjunction with the Fourth Annual Auction and Bake Sale, with profits reaching a new high of \$1,165.00.

The I.O.D.E. Rose, under Mrs. Blanford's convenership, is being sold by our members. This is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Project of National Chapter, I.O.D.E., and in Ontario all profits from the sale of the roses will be used in the field of Genetics in our "Concern for Children" program.

Our Chapter membership is on the upward swing, with fifty-three members and one Honorary member, Miss Jean King, answering the roll call in 1974. Receiving 25-year pins in October of this year are Mrs. Donald Dusten and Mrs. R. S. Johnston.

Over the past ten years, as in the previous fifty years, the members have continued to sew and knit for the services department. Each member donates a nursery bag of needed articles, annually, to our bale. The shipments to Provincial Headquarters, Hamilton, are increasing each year in both size and value, with our interest in the needy and less-fortunate remaining steadfast. I.O.D.E. Calendars are placed each year in the Elementary and Secondary School Classrooms, as well as in the local Library and Municipal Offices. The Valentine Luncheon, a project initiated by Mrs. Harold French to raise funds for our Educational work has proven increasingly popular and this year reached its 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The Chapter's interest in Education continues and during our sixty years we have contributed some \$7,000 to awards for deserving students.

“Volunteerism” is a word synonymous with this Chapter and members presently assist at Child Health Clinic; T. B. Clinic; C.N.I.B.; Cancer and Ability Fund canvasses; Blood Donor Clinics; driving blind persons to Clinics; Cedar Springs Hospital; Disability Centre for Children to name but a few. Over the years, donations have been made to many local projects, namely Girl Guides and Brownies, Scout Hall, Minor Hockey, Girls' Softball, Arena Fund, Swimming Pool Fund, War Graves Memorial, Christmas Cheer Fund, burned-out families, and numerous other worthwhile causes. Cards and flowers are sent to sick and bereaved members and our present convener, Mrs. Kenneth Wright, has been looking after this most capably for twenty-two years.

During the last six years, interest in Municipal and Provincial meetings has been excellent. Our contact with fellow members, our increased knowledge of all phases of the I.O.D.E. work has spurred us to greater endeavour. At one Municipal meeting we had 100% attendance; in 1974 ten of our members attended the Provincial Annual Meeting, Hamilton, and eleven members were present at the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of National Chapter in Toronto. It was a great privilege to see the workings of the Order at the highest level.

Credit, too, goes to our local press, whose excellent coverage of our meetings and projects has done much to increase interest and keep the public informed of I.O.D.E. in Dresden. May we continue to honour our Sixty-Year heritage and “labour loyally for the welfare of our Country”.

In reviewing the Chapter's Sixty Years in Action, it is gratifying to note that the work of our Chapter attracts women of all age-groups, and to know that the appeal of our work and the fellowship and co-operation in our Chapter make it possible to fulfill our original motto – “We Live in Deeds”.

## *Chapter and Community Flashbacks*

Down through the last sixty years, the insignia and the initials I.O.D.E. have become synonymous with community service. The ideals and purposes of the organization have been updated where necessary, but in essence, they have remained unchanged.

In this booklet, we have reprinted the History of our Chapter, as prepared for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1964, along with an update of the last ten years. We feel, too, that while historical records are essential, they often incline to omit or overlook the trivia of who did what, and when. For this reason, we are appending a “Flashback” section, gleaned from old newspapers files. The clippings all have a familiar ring...change the names and dates, and you have the I.O.D.E. of 1974... active, vital, concerned, and still serving.

Nov. 26, 1914: Mrs. N. Perry and daughter Grace, of Detroit are visiting the former's son George Perry, North Dresden.

Dec. 3, 1914: I.O.D.E. Effort a Big Success: The Daughters of the Empire met with a grand success Wednesday evening, when through the kindness of Mr. Ab Sharp, they were given free use of the moving picture hall. The citizens band played in front of the hall during the evening, which helped in measure to draw the crowds. The proceeds in all amounted to \$96.00, which was forwarded to the Central Committee at Ottawa for the Belgian Relief Fund.

Jan. 28, 1915: Special attractions at the Opera House on Friday evening "Greeting from the Allies", Craig's Orchestra. The latest song hit was "A Woman Recruiting Song", and two amusing plays were put on by members of the I.O.D.E. in interest of Red Cross work. Popular prices were 25¢ and 35¢.

The Allies were composed of seven little folks: Servia, Miss Catherin McVean; Russia, Master Edgar Lindsay; France, Master Granton Brandon; Belgium, Miss Ona Martin; England, Master Redmond Black; Japan, Master Donald Jeffs; Canada, Miss Hilda Conway. We understand the ladies have in the neighbourhood of \$100.00 for the Red Cross Fund from the evening's entertainment.

Feb. 25, 1915: I.O.D.E. Paardeburg Tea in the Library. Collection at the door – given generously.

April 22, 1915: The I.O.D.E. held a sale of ready to wear goods and served tea for three afternoons to raise funds for a bed in the Toronto University Hospital. A large crowd enjoyed the teas which were served in the R. Aikin Store. The proceeds amounted to about \$40.00.

Ford Touring Car – Made in Canada – Price \$590.00, James McGregor, Ford Dealer, Dresden. Ad appeared in Dresden Times Thursday, April 22, 1915.

The Bridge Store: Help the Daughters of the Empire by visiting A. Wicks Store on Thurs. May 6, 1915. On that day Mr. Wicks will give a

percentage to the ladies on all goods sold in his big double store. Tea will be sold and served by the ladies.

May 20, 1915: The Gun Club shoot given in aid of the I.O.D.E. was decided success. The ladies took charge of the ammunition and the targets. After all expenses they realized \$34.65 which we consider very good.

July 15, 1915: The Field Kitchen – The raising of the funds necessary for the purchase of a field kitchen by the ladies of Sydenham Chapter I.O.D.E. will be completed and a formal presentation will be made at London by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. It is expected that the Officers and a large number of the I.O.D.E. members will attend the presentation ceremony in London.

Aug. 19, 1915: Machine-Gun Club holds the Prettiest Garden party ever – clears \$90.00. The girls of the I.O.D.E. Machine-Gun Club are to be heartily congratulated on their first attempt to raise funds for the machine gun for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Battalion.

June 16, 1916: George Eberlee, Tom Newman, Frank Brewer, Arthur Barrett and Clayton Ripley of the 186<sup>th</sup> Battalion were week-end visitors here.

Aug. 31, 1916: Miss Helen McVean will commence her piano classes the first week in September.

Sept. 21, 1916: The I.O.D.E. will serve a good hot dinner on fair day in the Methodist Church Basement – meals served all day. Dinner 35¢, supper 25¢.

July 13, 1916: Jan. 21 is the date of the I.O.D.E. entertainment. A beautiful Patriotic Pageant will be presented, entitled “Britannia’s Daughters, Her Allies and Her Forces”. This will be followed by an amusing play “His Model Wife”. Keep this date in mind.

Jan. 13, 1916: The following telegram was received by Mrs. O. McVean last week from Mary R. Gooderham of Toronto, who is

Regent of the National Chapter of the I.O.D.E. of Canada. The telegram speaks for itself: -

“To Mrs. Catherine McVean,

Regent Sydenham Chapter I.O.D.E.

Hearty congratulations to officers and members of chapter for your magnificent work for the Empire in this testing time of all loyal subjects, and my sincere good wishes for continued strength and success in the coming year”.

Nov. 16, 1916: The I.O.D.E. wished to express to Mrs. Lot Hazzard their appreciation of her splendid work, she knitted one hundred pairs of socks for the chapter. They also wish to thank the Women’s Institute of Dawn for contribution of socks, and Lindsay Road Ladies’ Aid for work being done by them.

Nov 23, 1916: Chapter members decided to take a holiday, when it was announced by the secretary, Mrs. M. G. Williams that there would be no more meetings until the first Friday in January 1917. Presumably, they were recuperating from packing and shipping another large overseas bale, which contained, among other items “16 vermin shirts”. At the same time, the Ontario Liquor Board placed a ban on liquor masquerading as invalid port wine.

Mar. 9, 1916: The Daughters extended a “hearty invitation to the members of F. Company of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion to a banquet in the town hall, in honour of the Dresden members of the 186<sup>th</sup> Battalion.” An orchestra would in attendance, and a good program was promised.

In the same year, men of sedentary habits were advised in an advertisement that Rexall Orderlies were the ideal laxatives, their action being gentle and natural. The “Saxon Six” touring car was priced at \$1,050., while the “Saxon Four” Roadster was listed at \$550.

In April of 1916, the Chapter sponsored a “big local production”, a three act play “All of a Sudden Peggy”. Cast included Gordon Brooks, Morley McKay, John Stewart, Frank Weese, J. W. Stevenson, Laura Boylan, Eva Aikin, Grace Carscallen, and Mary Osgood McVean, as “Peggy” in the lead role.

Apr. 5, 1917: I.O.D.E. Expresses Thanks. Sydenham Chapter I.O.D.E. wish to than the Women's Institute of Wabash for the following – 24 sheets, 52 pillows slips, 26 white pajamas and socks. Also the ladies of the Lindsay Road Ladies' Aid for trench caps, night shires and socks, the ladies of the Presbyterian Ladies' Aid for a donation of \$10.00 and Mrs. A. Dunlop and Mr. T. Tiffin for \$5.00 each.

May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1917: Will those who have not already adopted one of our boys overseas for July 1<sup>st</sup> be sure and get the name and address of one form Mrs. Williams at one.

May 31, 1917: National Executive requests all members to pledge themselves to two meatless days and two potatoless days, - because of world hunger.

Jan. 11, 1917: Notice: The members of the I.O.D.E. will meet at the Public Library on Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock in order to go to Tupperville to open a new chapter there.

Feb. 15, 1917:

ANNUAL REPORT I.O.D.E. Feb. 1916 – Feb. 1917

(Crowded out last week)

Donation Soldiers' Home, England	\$25.00	
General Christmas Fund	10.00	
Canada Tobacco Fund	25.00	
Belgium Relief Fund	25.00	
Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund	5.00	
French Red Cross	25.00	
Recreation Tent, Camp Borden	25.00	
Equipping 2 cots in Chatham infirmary	7.00	
Express and postage	15.55	
Wool and Red Cross supplies	526.26	
Furnishings for library	33.96	
Expenses Fair Day for plays, pic. Shows, etc.	168.93	
Prisoner of War Fund	24.00	
Emergency Fund	30.00	
Amt. sent to head office	21.00	
Supplies for boxes, pins for members, etc.	<u>83.33</u>	\$1,064.03

Receipts

Balance in bank Feb. 1916	155.85	
Proceeds of teas	229.79	
Donations received	63.57	
Membership feeds	42.00	
Tobacco donations	14.35	
Proceeds of Play	119.25	
Proceeds of celebration fair days	227.04	
Proceeds of picture show	146.40	
Proceeds of Patriotic dance	88.50	
Interest on money	5.03	
Conservation money	<u>168.81</u>	<u>1,260.65</u>
Balance on hand		<u>\$196.68</u>

Eva. G. Aikin, Treasurer



Sept. 5, 1918: Will every parent or relative of Dresden Soldiers overseas give their address to Mrs. F. T. Myers Secretary I.O.D.E. Monthly boxes are to be sent to the boys, and the I.O.D.E. are anxious to have the correct address, so that the boxes may be received quickly.

Aug. 15, 1918: The I.O.D.E. expects every member to do her duty, and sell five tickets for the Chautauqua. The committee in charge has very kindly offered a commission of 20¢ on each ticket sold by Chapter. If each member will do her share, a considerable amount of money will be realized for our Soldier Boys.

Apr. 25, 1918: The Jack Wells Chapter of the IODE packed at the Library Saturday afternoon, 32 boxes for the boys of Dresden who are at the front. The boxes contained socks, tobacco, trench candles, candies, sugar, toothpaste, magazine and soap. They expect to ship at once.

Mar. 13, 1919: The Regent, Mrs. McVean, was present at town council meeting, and asked what was planned in the way of “a war memorial to commemorate the memory of our boys who went to Flanders to fight the Hun”, and backed her question with the announcement that the IODE had \$500. to assist in erecting such a memorial, with more forthcoming.

Aug. 11, 1921: The Chapter did its bit to bring “culture” to the community, by assisting in the Chatauqua troupe’s visit, for a “week’s program of inspiring education and entertainment”. Presumably, residents had to make a choice, as the Majestic Theatre was featuring the fourth serial installment of “The Son of Tarzan”.

Sept. 28, 1922: Armistice Day, Nov. 11 will again be observed – IODE are marking this day “Poppy Day” and our girls will sell Poppies on the street all day. A parade to the cemetery is also being planned to which the school children and G.W.V.A. are invited. Ministers are invited to give five minute addresses at the Service to be held at the soldiers’ graves.

Apr. 5, 1923: IODE members met at the Public Library, to entertain old and new members and co-workers in the Red Cross, at an afternoon tea in honour of the homecoming of their Regent, Mrs. O. McVean. She, it was reported “related her many and varied experiences in London and on the Continent in her usual graphic style, holding her listeners to the last moment”.

Nov. 6, 1924: The G.W.V.A. had invited members of Sydenham Chapter to attend a divine service in the Methodist Church, and later to walk with the War Veterans to the Cenotaph where a bronze tablet bearing the names of the fallen heroes of Dresden and vicinity would be unveiled by mothers of those heroic dead. The month before, in October, members had sold poppies, with proceeds to help pay for the bronze plaque.

“The City of Dresden” a noted freight and passenger boat, which plied Lake Erie for many years, was sunk near Port Burwell, and its captain drowned.

Mar. 13, 1924: To make sure that proper thanks were extended, the Chapter published two advertisements thanking Mr. F. Wells, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Morley McKay, as well as others who had helped make a euchre and dance party successful.

In Wallaceburg, Mrs. A. St. C. Gordon entertained at seven tables of bridge in honour of Miss McArthur of New Mexico, who was a house guest of the Gordons. Out of town guests included Mrs. Alex McVean, Miss Hettie McVean of Dresden, and Miss Jarvis of Chatham.

Oct. 3, 1929: Mrs. Osgood McVean was in Toronto last week attending a meeting of the National Committee of Immigration of the I.O.D.E. Mrs. McVean is the Provincial Convener of this Committee. Miss Charlotte Whitton, National Convener came up from Ottawa to address this meeting.

May 30, 1929: the May meeting of the Daughters of the Empire took place in the library on Wednesday afternoon and was a very pleasant occasion, it being the Welcome Home meeting to the Regent

Mrs. Osgood McVean who had been absent in England for some months. This is the first meeting at which Mrs. McVean has presided since her return. An address of welcome was given by the treasurer, Mrs. Brandon and a beautiful bouquet was presented by Mrs. J. J. French to Mrs. McVean on behalf of the chapter. Mrs. McVean graciously thanked the members for their welcome, the flowers and for carrying on during her absence remaining loyal to her and the Order at all times.

Matters of business were taken up, including the Child Welfare work which will be continued in our town. Mrs. McAlpine is secretary of this work, not only for the local chapter but for the county.

It was decided to send a letter of appreciation to Mrs. J. R. Burgess for her work in behalf of the Order, as secretary, and a message of sympathy in the continued illness. She received flowers, as did Miss Mary King.

Mrs. C R. Gammage was secretary for this meeting in the absence of Mrs. King through illness.

After the Chapter meeting, the presentation of the CHAPTER was made to the new girls' Chapter. Flight Lieut. James McVean Chapter took place with charming ceremonies. This is now the Baby Chapter of the Province.

Apr. 18, 1929: A dance put on by Sydenham Chapter I.O.D.E. assisted by the new Flight Lieut. James McVean Chapter to entertain the cast of the "Musical Review" on Friday evening was largely attended and very successful. Miss Doris Rankin of Chatham was given a prize for the fancy Balloon Dance. A charming feature was the Irish dancing of Misses Frances and Dorothy Webster who were in Irish costumes.

Jan. 17, 1929: The I.O.D.E. aids in Canadianization – gifts to school care in Northern Ontario.

Oct. 1930: Neilson's Chocolates at 60¢ lb. at Dusten's Drug Store.

Oct. 2, 1930: Margaret Blackburn, secretary of FLT. Lt. James McVean Chapter I.O.D.E., requested a good attendance for a meeting to be held at the home of Miss Hilda Convay.

July 26, 1934: Mrs. & Mrs. Kenneth Wright of Detroit, who had been on a motor trip to Muskoka and other pints, spend a few days with Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sharpe and family before returning to the city.

Miss Rhonda Anderson was successful in passing her year's examinations t the College of Education, Toronto, and also in passing her Art Course, and is not entitled to teach in the Collegiate Institutes and High Schools of Ontario. Miss Anderson is to be congratulated on the fine results of her year's work.

Miss Helen Wilson spent Sunday with relatives in St. Joachim.

10 lbs. granulated sugar 58¢; 1 lb. raisins 15¢ at Wicks grocery

Silk bloomers 39¢; Summer corsellettes 98¢ at R. W. Tyrells's

Corn Flakes 6¢; Salmon large tin 19¢;  
Dreadnaught toilet paper 3 for 20¢ at Stroup's

Mrs. Wiley and her sisters Mrs. W. L. Olsen of Saskatchewan, and Mrs. James A. Taylor of Brantford have returned from Chicago, where they visited their sister Mrs. Alex Karr.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Rigsby and little daughter Margaret were weekend guests with Mr. & Mrs. C. L. O'Brien at Erieau.

Playing at the Majestic, Marie Dreasler in "Her Sweetheart".  
Jack Oakie, Ginger Rogers in "Sitting Pretty".

Grace Barrett and Jean Tedford were presented with pictures by Mrs. J. A. Anderson, Education Secretary of the I.O.D.E. The girls won these awards for essays on Empire subjects.

Kay's Café 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special – Banana Split Sundae 10¢.

Empire Day, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1934: Rev. Harold Parr delivered a stirring speech to the pupils of the Public and Continuation Schools at the Cenotaph. Principal Curtin acted as Chairman, and the Primer and First Class under the direction of Miss Jean King rendered delightfully the song "Our Flag". Mrs. McAlpine, Regent, presented prizes for the essay contest. Miss Gertrude Robinson's class sang "Ye Mariners of England".

May 14, 1936: I.O.D.E. May Meeting – held at the home of Mrs. George Lawrence – a new charter was presented, changing the name from Sydenham Chapter to Catherine McVean Chapter in honor of its founder and Regent for 18 years. Presenting the new Charter, Mrs. C. M. Kenny, Municipal Organization Secretary, quoted from a letter from Mrs. Ernest, Provincial Organization Secretary: "At best wishes to the lucky Chapter to bear so dear a name, what a standard they have to live up to". Mrs. R. Brandon speaking for the members said: "Although the Chapter is dropping the name Sydenham, the members felt the most suitable and acceptable memorial that can be given is to have her home Chapter bear her name". A new member, Mrs. Wilson Clark, was welcomed to the Chapter.

May 26, 1936: At the M&P Store, P&G soap was offered at 10 bars for 31¢. Kellogg's Cornflakes 3 pkgs 23¢ and 100 lbs. of bread flour for \$2.39.

Mar. 26, 1936: At the town hall, a three act musical comedy "It's a Knockout" was presented by the I.O.D.E. Chapter.

At the March Meeting, Mrs. R. D. McAlpine gave a report of the Municipal Meeting in Chatham, and included extracts from the address on "Our New King Edward VIII". Mrs. R. H. Parr and Mrs. John A. McVean assisted in serving.

May 13, 1937: Catherine McVean Chapter receives a Provincial Award. The essay was written by Mrs. Robert Brandon, who received the prize while attending the recent Provincial meeting in Hamilton. The purpose of the competition was to arouse "a keener interest among

its members in certain phases of its work undertaken by the organizations”.

That month Chapter members participated in a Coronation Day parade and Tree Planting Ceremony. The fire hall bell was rung and reveille was sounded at 6:00 a.m., the time of the actual crowning of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth I.

Dec. 14, 1939: At the December meeting, Mrs. R. D. McAlpine suggested that the Chapter work with the Red Cross one day a week, and also individually. The same meeting saw the presentation of a flag by Mrs. Walter Lake of Ridgetown with the I.O.D.E. crest embroidered in the centre and “used by Mrs. McVean in her years of happy service in the Chapter”. The flag was to be draped over Mrs. McVean’s picture in the library.

At the same time, an advertisement advised that someone, by mistake, had left a boat in the backyard of The Dresden Times office, and the owner could have same by proving property and paying for the ad.

Mar. 14, 1940: Again, the war work effort is noted in the meeting report, which stated that the I.O.D.E. sent a shipment of woolen goods to the soldiers in Finland, valued at \$109. It wasn’t all work, as Chapter members took time out for a dance and selected as their patrons and patronesses, Mr. and Mrs. George Chambers, Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Ruttle and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sayers. For those who danced, “a gay evening with sweet music” was promised; and for those who didn’t, a floor show was planned at intervals. Participants were to be The Webster Sisters; Arthur Lennon as soloist; Mrs. James Burns and Miss Kay Burns, duet; and Miss Margaret Munn in a solo.

Oct. 3, 1940: Letter from Pte. Alec Pattison, from England, “We saw a couple of enemy bombers shot down near the camp just after supper last night, it may sound cruel but we all cheered when they went down”.

Oct . 17, 1940: To raise funds for overseas Christmas Boxes, the Chapter sold tickets on a painting by Michael Kousall.

Nov. 1940: Meeting Highlights – Peggy Grieves welcomed into the Chapter ... War Work Committee sent cigarettes and Christmas boxes to 35 soldiers from this community in England ... Meeting then took the form of a shower for Christmas gifts for pupils of our adopted school at Pinewood, Northern Ontario, a Victrola was also donated for the school ... It was decided that old papers, rags, iron etc. would be collected once every three months.

Apr. 1941: Johnston's Groceteria offered bread for 6¢. Peas 3 tins 25¢, 75 lbs. potatoes \$1.35.

Jan. 1944: Members of the Chapter brought books to a meeting at the home of Mrs. James Burns; the books to be used as a "book shower for the Public School". That same month, I.O.D.E. in Ontario announced a campaign to buy \$100,000 worth of books for the men and women of the armed services. The task of supplying books was undertaken at the beginning of the war, by special request of the Department of National Defense and over one and a half million books had already been shipped, when announcement of the new appeal was made.

In February of 1944, word was received that the new domestic water system for the Town of Dresden has passed necessary tests, and the water was now fit to use for domestic purposes.

War casualties of that year included Capt. R. A Tiffin, Pte. Hugh McFadden, Paratrooper John McKernan Jr. A few months earlier, in November 1943, a local paper proclaimed that "Alex Blackburn was Very Much Alive". He had been reported earlier as a casualty in Italy, in the same issue and in the same story which told of the death of his brother, R. A. (Arch) Blackburn, also with the armed forces in Italy.

Dec. 11, 1947: Mrs. Robert Brandon read an address at the unveiling of the World War II bronze plaque at the Cenotaph, and said, in part"....today, we are unveiling another bronze plaque bearing this

names of those men who did not return from this last momentous struggle". She referred to a similar plaque purchased by the Chapter following World War I.

June 17, 1948: May activities, which highlighted films on the Royal Wedding, Empire Day exercises at the schools, and contributions to British welfare were reviewed at the regular meeting of the Chapter.

One thousand Legion members from Zone 3A converged on Dresden to commemorate D-Day, and to pay solemn tribute to fallen comrades.

Jan. 17, 1952: Again, the Chapter was involved in war work ... at the January meeting a letter of appreciation was read from Pte. Jerry Card, in Korea, for a Christmas box he'd received. The same month, Christopher Dixon celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had moved to Dresden in 1877 and was present at the cornerstone-laying ceremony of the Methodist Church. His descendants included Mrs. J. A. Ruttle, a granddaughter.

Gary Cooper was featured in a Majestic film, and later the same year, Don McGorman staged a dinner for the championship Dresden Senior Baseball Team, which Mr. McGorman's firm had sponsored.



# *From 1974 to 1989 . . . . .*

## **Sixtieth Anniversary, 18 October 1974**

The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Catherine McVean Chapter IODE was held on Friday, October 18, 1974. The head table guests were paraded in the strains of *Land of Hope and Glory* with Mrs. L.G. Payne at the piano. Regent Mrs. Donald Dusten introduced our special head table guests: Mrs. E.F. Mackay, president of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE; Mrs. Carl Watson, Area Vice President of the Provincial Chapter of Ontario IODE; Mrs. Charles Carrick, Municipal President of the Chatham and Kent IODE; Mrs. Alan Christmas, Provincial Standard Bearer, and their husbands. Many former members were in attendance, Mrs. R.D. McAlpine was presented her Life Membership. Our master of ceremonies was the grandson of Mrs. Catherine McVean, Mr. Ted McVean. Dancing followed the evening meal.

In November, 1974, the Chapter presented \$500 to the Arena Building Fund.

Dr. Jack Ruttle Night was held in November and the chapter assisted with arrangements. This was a community event. Dr. Ruttle is husband of a chapter member, Mrs. Rhoda Ruttle. The event was held at the Lambton-Kent Composite School.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IODE nationally was celebrated in 1974. The IODE Rose was sold across the nation, with the funds raised in Ontario going to the Concern for Children Fund.

### **1975: Mrs. Donald Spearman, Regent.**

Mrs. A.S. Tassie, a valued member of the chapter passed away in January 1975. She was a life member, honorary vice-regent, and a 50 year pin member.

The chapter continued to raise funds, by convening the 17<sup>th</sup> Valentine luncheon; the art and craft show and a formal dance in

October. Overall \$4,000 was raised by the chapter. IODE calendars were placed in the schools. In the education department, awards were presented to the students in public and high schools, with a new award added: The Boy of the Year and the Girl of the Year. The local C.N.I.B. canvass raised \$7,730. The members continue to visit the rest homes and celebrate residents' birthdays with gifts and a cake.

An IODE float was entered in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dresden Agricultural Society, with Mrs. Jack Thomson convener.

Mrs. George Lawrence, honorary vice-regent and a 50 year member, passed away.

The chapter planted two rose beds, one at Dresden Post Office and the other at the Soldiers' Memorial plot at Dresden Cemetery.

Dues were raised to \$8 annually and membership reached an all-time high of 55. This was also the year of the Women's Lib.

### **1976 – Mrs. Donald Spearman, Regent.**

An organ concert was held in April with George Heldt, organist, with an excellent attendance. The art and craft sale in June showed a sizeable profit and an excellent attendance.

The IODE dance in October with Mrs. Marvin Unsworth as convener was a great fund raising event. Four quilts were made by chapter members and realized a profit of \$520.

### **1977 – Mrs. Gordon Clauws, Regent.**

Again in 1977, the fund raising by the chapter was terrific. Mrs. John McGorman and Mrs. R.S. Johnston were on the CFCO radio broadcast to publicize the particulars of our annual craft show.

Mrs. Stanley Clapp, a long time member, passed away.

Miss Marion Miller, a pianist from Thamesville, was given assistance to further her education in music. She attended the

University of Western Ontario and then went on to further her studies in Europe.

This was the first year of the Dresden CivicFest which was a fund raising event for the Lambton-Kent Memorial Arena, and IODE members helped in many areas of this event.

The Silver Jubilee Dance {25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coronation of H.M. Elizabeth II} was held in November, with Mrs. J.D. Thomson as convener.

A further \$700 was donated to the arena fund.

Eye glasses were collected for the Caribbean.

1987: A new nursery school was opened in Dresden and financial assistance was given by the chapter.

Mrs. R.D. McAlpine, a member from 1914-1978, and regent from 1932 to 1947, passed away.

### **1979 – Mrs. G.L. Dunlop, Regent.**

This was the year of the “TOBE COBE T-SHIRT”. A booth was set up at the International Plowing match, which was held in Kent County. This was a Municipal project to raise funds for the neo-natal care unit at Public General Hospital. Members of our chapter helped sell T-shirts at the plowing match and over \$83,263 was raised by the chapters in Kent.

We made a quilt to raise funds and this was displayed at the plowing match. Profits from sale of tickets was \$420.

The CNIB picnic was held in Dresden with chapter members helping with lunch and games.

The Pauline McGibbon Cultural Centre was opened in Chatham and our chapter donated \$100 to this building fund.

1980: We started working on a Record of Service Book of are people who had served in the armed forces. The committee wrote many letters to get information and pictures of the service people.

We continued to support Catherine Bogaert in her ballet studies. An organ recital and Sweet Adeline musical was presented. We also showed films at the rest homes with help from the library board.

### **1981 – Mrs. Donald Spearman, Regent.**

Miss Helen McVean, a valued member, passed away.

The Dresden and Area Armed Service Record Book {1939-1980} was put on display. A shelf was built in the town hall as a permanent place for these volumes. A Wintario grant was received to help with the cost of publication. Mrs. Anthony Stranak was convener of the project.

Mrs. A.C. Rigsby was presented with her 60 year pin and a life membership. She spent 12 years in the Mary T. Bray Chapter in Chatham and 48 years in Catherine McVean Chapter.

The neo-natal unit was purchased and presented to Public General Hospital in Chatham.

Mrs. Francis Foster was presented with her 50 year pin.

A centennial birthday calendar project was undertaken by the Chapter. Birthdays of Dresden residents and friends were placed on the dates they were born for 50¢. Pictures of old Dresden buildings were printed on calendar months, and sponsored by business or interested people as advertising, to help defray costs of printing.

The Dresden and Area Service Book was put on display at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 113 for three days. The members served tea and cookies during this display.

1982: Dresden's Centennial Year.

Tennis courts were built in Dresden and a donation to this project was made by our chapter.

A centennial float designed by Mrs. Paul Weese and committee depicted our World War I field kitchen.

A plaque was placed on the cenotaph for a Korean casualty.

The Dresden and Area Service Book was presented to the town on June 20, 1982, with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario participating in the presentation.

A donation of \$1000 was made to the arena to buy a refrigerator and stove.

### **1983 – Mrs. Robert Sutton, Regent.**

The semi-annual meeting of the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County was held in Dresden at the United Church hall. This was a very warm evening, but well attended by all chapters in the county.

Donations were sent to Black Tickle, a settlement in Labrador. Clothing, knitting and money were sent to help the people of this community.

A picture of Queen Elizabeth II was presented to the new Lambton-Kent arena.

A donation was made to help purchase new flags for the Chatham court house.

Mrs. Hazel Kyle, an honorary member, passed away in September 1983.

1984: The chapter members were entertained by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 113, at a dinner dance. A copy of the Dresden and Area Service Record book was presented to the Legion. They in turn presented the chapter with a certificate of appreciation.

We celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding a dinner dance at the Lambton-Kent Memorial Arena.

Mrs. J.A. Ruttle passed away on February 19, 1984. A memorial fund was set up by her family, named the Rhoda Ruttle Memorial Award. This fund is administered by Catherine McVean Chapter. The award is presented at the Lambton-Kent Composite School to a deserving student going on the higher education in the technical or academic area.

Mrs. William Webster, a member of the chapter, passed away on September 17, 1984.

Three concerts: Sounds of Christmas and Brass Factory were presented throughout the year.

The chapter members worked at four bingos during the year, sponsored by the Dresden Kinsmen Club.

### **1985 – Mrs. Thomas Whitson, Regent**

An appreciation day was held at the Leisure Centre with a certificate of appreciation being presented to the Dresden Fire Department.

The CNIB picnic was hosted by Catherine McVean Chapter in June.

The Norma French Memorial Award was renamed the Catherine McVean Memorial Award. Plaques were presented to the Dresden Area Central School to update the recipients of the Annie Brandon Memorial Awards, 1961-1969; and the Catherine McVean Memorial plaque from 1970 to date. Also, the Norma French Memorial Award plaque and a Rhoda Ruttle Memorial plaque were presented to the Lambton-Kent Composite School. Each year the names of recipients of these awards will be placed on the plaques.

1986: A fashion show by Miss Pattie Robbins was presented at the Lambton-Kent Composite School.

A giant flea market was held at the arena, with a penny sale in conjunction. The articles for the penny sale were donated by chapter members.

### **1987 – Mrs. Phil Ford, Regent**

The Cemetery Chapel Fund received a donation from the chapter.

BINGO: The committee members, Mrs. Paul Weese and Mrs. Phil Ford met with the Chatham Township Bingo Hall Committee. Our chapter was given the opportunity to work at the bingos one night a month. A duty roster, consisting of 12 members on Lists A and B, was set up for each night. This has proven most successful financially to the chapter. A bingo account was set up in July and to December, a total of over \$4,653 was raised.

Another fashion show was co-ordinated by Patti Robbins for October 1987.

Four fifty year pins were presented as follows: Mrs. Walter Lawrence, Mrs. Wilson Clark, Mrs. James Burns and Miss Helen Wilson.

This year the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Citizenship in Canada and the fifth anniversary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms is being observed. To help commemorate these anniversaries, the chapter sponsored an essay contest for Grades 6, 7 and 8 students at the three local schools, with the title *What it Means to be a Canadian*. The winners of the contest presented their papers at an IODE meeting. They were presented with a monetary reward.

Mrs. Velma Craig passed away December 5, 1987.

A plaque was placed in the Lambton-Kent Composite School for the Catherine McVean Memorial Medal recipients.

A foot clinic was set up at the Green Acres apartment building for the first Wednesday of each month. This is assisted by chapter members and we also purchased some supplies needed for the clinic.

The skating club and gymnastics club asked for assistance and in order to receive a donation, we asked them to assist at a bingo. These clubs needed funds to purchase equipment and ice time.

The chapter sponsored a young student from Lambton-Kent Composite School to tour Europe with an American Youth Tour Band. The student performed at our semi-annual municipal dinner held in Dresden.

A yard sale was held at one of the member's homes, with articles donated by chapter members.

Bingo again flourished in 1988 with \$14,348 raised. {There are two teams of 12 persons on each team who take turns every other month at a bingo for approximately four hours} What a way to raise funds!!! Mrs. Paul Weese is convener of this project.

We voted to donate \$5,000 to the swimming pool. The cheque was presented in February of 1989.

Instead of ordering calendars for 1989, we have decided to donate money direct to the National Education Fund. We have put IODE calendars in the schools up to this time. Due to the number of calendars obtainable free of charge, it was permitted by the National Executive to change our manner of supporting the National Education Fund.

Because of the funds raised by bingo, we were able to spend a total of \$6,282 on education and \$5,095 on service work.

Meals on Wheels began operating in Dresden and members are donating their time to this project by delivering meals or helping prepare them. We also gave a donation for needed supplies.

We are in the process of making a set of Chapter By-Laws, which has been requested by the Municipal Chapter of Chatham and Kent County IODE. After 75 years, why not?



New pictures of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip were presented to the Lambton-Kent Composite School at their commencement exercises.

The Registered Blind were taken on a boat cruise on *The Lady Thames* leaving the Chatham Boat Club and continuing downstream to the lighthouse.

Three “Talking Books” were purchased for the blind in our Dresden area, and one unsighted person was sent to summer camp at Lake Joseph.

A young authors’ conference was held at the Dresden and Area Central School. The IODE sponsored group pictures of the students and the author, to be given each school.

A donation of \$1,200 was made towards the purchase of a computer at the Lambton-Kent Composite School library software project.

### **1989 – Mrs. Donald Spearman – Regent.**

Many functions have been planned for this special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Listed below are funds we donate each year at the following levels:

**NATIONAL:** ship and pack Labrador Day Car, Eskimo Toy Fund, Peace Garden, Boots for Labrador

**PROVINCIAL:** Labrador Snak-Pak, Veterans Overseas Parcels, Concern for Children, Women’s Crisis Centre, Children’s Treatment Centre, bales of clothing to provincial headquarters, Eskimo Toy funds, Lucy Morrison Fund.

**LOCALLY:** Students to United Nations seminars, nursery school donations, figure skating, Girl Guides, baseball, minor hockey, Pet & Hobby show, Kinsmen Santa Parade, Christmas cheer, layette for local use, toys locally, rest home visits with gifts and birthday cake (monthly), elementary school awards, secondary school awards, St.

Michael's R.C. school awards, IODE calendars placed in schools, books and money to adopted school.

Kiwanis music festival, fire victims, collect eye glasses and hearing aids, toys to the Salvation Army, good grooming kits, food and money to the women's centre; Ability Fund, March of Dimes, work at Red Cross blood donor clinic (twice a year) Canadian Cancer Society, Travelling Tooth Brushes, Vial of Life, donated Braille machine for CNIB, members do volunteer work at Public General Hospital, donation to St. John Ambulance building fund, science fair donations.

Christmas food parcels for Women's Centre and Christmas Cheer instead of gift exchange, donations to town Christmas Cheer Baskets as well as canned goods, worked on the 1982 Centennial Committee, worked each year at the Dresden CivicFest, Craft Show from 1974 until 1985, excluding 1984, penny sale items were donated by chapter members for all craft shows and yard sales.

Our standard present at all meetings, at funeral homes, Decoration Day, Remembrance Day and Chapter projects.

Members volunteer at local canvasses for Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Fund, etc.

Membership throughout the last 15 years has remained almost constant between 50 and 55, and the age range between 25 and 90 years.

Members attend the semi-annual meetings of Municipal, annual meetings of the Provincial Chapter, Provincial annual meetings in London and Hamilton, also National Chapter meetings when held in Toronto.

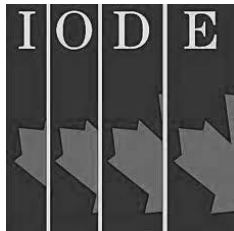
Summer picnics have been held at the summer home of one of our regents on Walpole Island.

Local CNIB members are driven to their Kencha Club meetings in Chatham monthly, to summer picnics, to appointments. We conducted the CNIB fund drive until it came under United Way.

We have many dedicated members in the chapter = just to name one, Mrs. Kenneth Wright who has been our Cards and Flowers convener from 1952 to date.

These are just some of the things our members have done over the past 15 years, and gives special meaning to our motto *WE LIVE IN DEEDS!*

*Seventy-Fifth  
Anniversary  
Dinner*



**Catherine McVean Chapter**

**IODE**

*Dresden, Ontario*

**Wednesday, October 18, 1989**

**1914 - 1989**

# The Regents

Mrs. Osgoode McVean*	1914-1932
Mrs. R.D. McAlpine*	1932-1947
Mrs. Harold French*	1947-1952
Mrs. Gordon Clark*	1952-1954
Mrs. Francis Foster	1954-1958
	1960-1962
	1964-1965
Mrs. Gordon Spence	1958-1960
Mrs. Arthur Hoyles*	1962-1964
Mrs. George W. Blandford	1965-1967
Mrs. J.D. Thomson	1969-1971
Mrs. Roy S. Johnston	1971-1973
Mrs. Donald Dusten	1973-1975
Mrs. Don Spearman	1975-1976
Mrs. Gordon Clauws	1977-1978
Mrs. G.L. Dunlop	1987-1980
Mrs. Don Spearman	1981-1982
Mrs. Robert Sutton	1983-1984
Mrs. Tom Whitson	1985-1986
Mrs. Phil Ford	1987-1988
Mrs. Don Spearman	1989

\*deceased

## Life Members

Mrs. Roy S. Johnston      Mrs. A.C. Rigsby

## 50 Year Members

Miss Helen Wilson      Mrs. James Burns

Mrs. Francis Foster      Mrs. Walter Lawrence

## 60 Year Member

Mrs. A.C. Rigsby

# **Programme**

Procession: Land of Hope and Glory

O Canada

Presentation: WE LIVE IN DEEDS

Grace: Mrs. Andres Rigsby

Toast to the Queen: Mrs. O.S. Johnston



Buffet Dinner



Welcome and Introduction of Head Table Guests

By Regent Mrs. Don Spearman

Civic Welcome: Mayor Tony Stranak

Greetings: Mrs. V. Jewiss, Municipal President

of Chatham-Kent IODE

Introductions: An historic look at Dresden and Area

Closing Remarks

The Queen

Retire Flags

## Officers for 1989

Honorary Regent.....	Mrs. A.C. Rigsby
Honorary Vice Regent .....	Mrs. Walter Lawrence
Regent .....	Mrs. Don Spearman
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Regent.....	Mrs. Phil Ford
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Regent.....	
Secretary .....	Mrs. Allen Thompson
Assistant Secretary.....	Mrs. George Blandford
Treasurer .....	Mrs. Gordon Clauws
Citizenship Sec'y .....	Mrs. O.S. Johnston
Echoes Sec'y.....	Mrs. Allen Thompson
Ass't Echoes Sec'y .....	Mrs. Robert Sutton
Education Sec'y .....	Mrs. Paul Weese
Membership & Organizing .....	Mrs. Phil Ford
Public Relations .....	Mrs. James Babcock
Services Sec'y.....	Mrs. Tom Whitson
Assistants to Services.....	Mrs. Alex MacTavish and Mrs. Don McLure
Standard Bearers .....	Mrs. A. Stranak, Mrs. C. Faas
Councillors (Chairwoman).....	Mrs. R.S. Johnston ..... Mrs. Norman Wilmott ..... Mrs. Lloyd Wismer ..... Mrs. O.S. Johnston ..... Mrs. James McLean ..... Miss Helen Wilson
Standard Bearers .....	Mrs. G.L. Dunlop
Cards & Flowers .....	Mrs. Ken Wright
Nursing Homes .....	Mrs. Gary Richmond
C.N.I.B. Convener .....	Mrs. Borden Brown