

HISTORY



ARGYLL  
CHAPTER



1980

ARGYLL CHAPTER

IMPERIAL ORDER DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE

CHARTERED MEMBERS

ONE FLAG

ONE THRONE

ONE EMPIRE

Mary G. Ponton  
Zetta S. Marsh  
Bertha H. Vermilyea  
Amy I. McFee  
Helen G. Wallbridge  
Edith R. Hyman  
Helen G. Vermilyea  
Amy R. Wallbridge  
Mary S. Orr  
Flora M. Brown

November 10, 1910.

HISTORY OF THE ARGYLL CHAPTER IODE

The Argyll Chapter IODE is proud to owe its inception to that outstanding gentleman, Lt. Colonel Thomas Stewart, who on November 1, 1910, called a meeting of those interested in military affairs. The result of that historic gathering at the old drill shed on Church Street was the creation of the Argyll Chapter of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire by Charter, dated November 10, 1910.

According to the constitution set up by Lt. Col. Stewart, only wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of active Officers of the Argyll Light Infantry would be eligible for membership.

Another ruling passed at this meeting was that the wife of the Commanding Officer should be Regent of the Chapter and as Lt.-Colonel Stewart was not married he asked the wife of Colonel W. N. Ponton to undertake this office during his regime.

Princess Louise, wife of the Duke of Argyll, became the Honourary Regent, as her husband was the Honourary Colonel of the Regiment.

The motto adopted by the Chapter was 'Nulli Secundus' (Second to None).

At the first regular meeting there were sixteen members present and the National fee was twenty five cents.

The Chapter's initial project was to raise funds to buy a hospital bed to put in the Belleville General Hospital, for use by men in the 15th Regiment.

From its inception, the Chapter has concerned itself with community service, particularly in the fields of education and welfare.

A fund was started in April 1912, when the 'Rose Ball' was held. Tickets sold at fifty-cents and one hundred dollars was cleared after expenses. By 1914 sufficient funds had been raised to furnish and equip a ward 'Argyll Ward' in the Belleville General Hospital. During that year bedspreads were purchased for twelve beds in the ward.

The Union Jack flag was presented by the Chapter in December 1913, to the High School Cadet Corps. The flag presentation was made to Colonel Hughes, Minister of Militia, who in turn presented it to the Cadets.

In June 1914, colours were presented to the Queen Mary School Cadets. These colours were competed for by all the Cadet Corps in the City and the presentation was made by His Royal Highness, Duke of Connaught, who was visiting Belleville.

The war years, 1914 - 1918, were very active ones for the members. The Chapter provided substantial lunches for the volunteers of the 34th Battery, 49th Battalion and the 15th Regiment. There were some 240 men who left with the First Contingent to go to Camp Valcartier for training.

Miss Geen, a member of the Chapter, volunteered as an army nurse at the front and was presented with a service wrist watch before departing for England.

Money to support the Chapter's many activities was raised through Music Festivals held in the Armoury and teas given in members' homes.

Dishes for entertaining were purchased from England in 1914. They bear the Argyll Light Infantry crest with I.O.D.E. printed underneath; the background is white with blue printing and a gold band.

Chapter members formed a 'Knitting Circle' which met weekly to knit socks for soldiers. Members provided clothing and comforts for the men of the Battalion who were at the front. They also supported the Hospital Ship Fund, Red Cross and Belleville Patriotic Fund.

In June 1915, Mrs. Marsh, Regent, donated a silk flag which was presented to the Queen Alexander School Cadets by Major General Hughes.

On Christmas Night, 1915, the Chapter members entertained the soldiers of the 80th and 155th Battalions at a Christmas Tree Party, with each soldier receiving a Christmas stocking. As the Battalion was stationed in Belleville at the time, many of the wives were visiting their husbands, and they were invited to attend the party. Mrs. Marsh, Regent, provided Christmas and New Year's dinners for the 34 guards at the Munitions Factory. This work was credited to the Chapter.

On July 29, 1916, Battalion Colours were presented to the 155th overseas battalion, which had many officers and men in its ranks. The sum of \$250 was donated by Colonel and Mrs. Marsh to buy the flags.

In 1917 the Colours were returned to the Chapter by Col. Allen of the 155th for safekeeping. They were reposed in St. Thomas's Anglican Church.

Chapter members prepared hundreds of lunches for

the soldiers when they were leaving on their journey overseas, as well as providing clothing and comforts for men of the Battalion who were at the front.

Tag Days, no longer retained, were a feature of the early history of the Chapter. Assisting the Red Cross in their work, was another project which was commenced in the infant years of the organization.

The presentation of flags to public schools and the awarding of scholarships for academic excellence were begun in those earlier years. Both those activities have been continued and broadened in the years following.

In 1924 a set of pictures which were donated by the National Chapter to commemorate the heroic deeds of our Canadian Soldiers during the First World War, 1914 - 1918, were presented to each school on the eve of Empire Day. A gift of ten dollars was given to the most proficient student in the First Form Commercial.

Grenfell Mission in Labrador was supported for many years as well as the Navy League.

On January 1, 1928, the Chapter held the New Year's Tea Dance in the Officers' Mess. This event had formerly been given by the officers of the Argyll. The Chapter hosted this dance for the next three years.

A silver tea service which had been presented by the officers of the 15th Battery, Argyll Light Infantry to Col. A. A. Campbell on September 23, 1872, came into the possession of Mrs. S. D. Lazier, who presented it to the Chapter in April 1928.

In 1929 the Argyll Ward at the Belleville General Hospital was redecorated with proceeds from a Bridge Party, held for that purpose.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, the Chapter's focus again became the support of Officers of the Argyll Light Infantry who were serving overseas.

Donations were also given to other organizations, including the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Bomber Fund, the Blood Clinics, the Endowment Fund, the Kinsmen Fag Fund, the Sailors and Minesweepers Fund, the Salvation Army, the Polish Relief and the Service Centre Fund.

In September 1943, the Chapter adopted a ship, 'HMCS Snowberry', and donated \$200 for comforts for the men. A five-gallon coffee urn, washing machine, irons and toasters were purchased for the ship in 1944.

With the end of the war, in 1945, the Chapter's efforts were channelled to various Relief Funds overseas; as well as to assisting at the reception given in honour of the returning Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

Sewing and knitting, so important during the war years has always remained as a function performed by auxiliary members. Parcels are shipped to the IODE Headquarters to be sent to the needy, both in Canada and wherever tragedy strikes in the world.

Support was given to families in England following the War. The residents of the 'Old Folks Home' were not forgotten by the Chapter during their busy times and fish dinners and Christmas parcels were a part of their regular programme.

The year 1952 was a historic one, in that it saw the Chapter pledging its allegiance to Elizabeth II, on her succession to the throne. In that same year, the Red Cross approached the Argyll Chapter requesting assistance in the serving of refreshments when their Blood Clinics were held in Belleville. This duty has been cheerfully carried out from that year to the present day.

The Hospital Building Fund became the chief recipient of the Chapter's donations in 1954; and a substantial donation to the Hurricane Fund was forwarded to IODE Headquarters.

Wives of the Officers of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment were invited to join the Chapter in 1954 when the two Units were amalgamated. Their favourable response resulted in a noticeable increase in the number of new members in that year.

It was in the mid fifties that the Chapter became involved in work with new Canadians. A tea is served and a welcome extended to all new citizens following the Citizenship Court.

In 1967 donations of funds were sent to Korea for milk and x-ray equipment. It was also in that year the Argyll Chapter published a 'Centennial Cook Book' in honour of Canada's 100th Birthday. Recipes were collected from members, friends and wives of dignitaries such as Earl Rowe - Lt. Gov. of Ontario, Lord Tweedsmuir, Commanders at CFB Trenton, Honourary Colonels, M.P.'s, M.P.P.'s and Mayors.

In 1970 the Chapter amended its Constitution to become an open Military Chapter. Ladies who were Canadian citizens or British subjects were



eligible to be voted on for membership.

The Argyll Chapter in concert with the St. Julien Chapter, donated beautiful IODE rose bushes to the Corby Park in 1975 - the 75th Birthday of the IODE in Canada. A bed and mattress were donated to the Cheshire Home on John Street during the same year.

A donation was made to the First Adventure Child Development Centre for the purchase of films and teaching aids in 1976. During that year the book 'Glimpses of Canada' was placed in each elementary school in the City.

Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee, in 1977, saw a flurry of activity. As the Chapter's Jubilee project, original sconce lights were restored and installed on the mantel of Glanmore House, the Hastings County Museum.

Donations have also been made from time to time to the Military Museum of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment.

The Chapter received a Centennial Award for service during Belleville's Centennial Year, 1978, in recognition of its efforts to make the year a successful and enjoyable one. During that year the Regent presented the Chapter with five dozen coffee spoons engraved with 'IODE' on the handle.

During the International Year of the Child (1979) the Argyll Chapter awarded a bursary to assist Flight Sergeant, Karen Sharp, attain a flying scholarship, as part of the Chapter's education programme. Donations were also made towards the ten travelling incubators used in the North West Territories and to the sending of a refrigerator, used for storing serums, in Bangladesh.

Locally donations were made by the Chapter to Progress House, a crisis centre for ladies, in Belleville.

A framed portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip was presented to the new Susanna Moodie Elementary School in January 1980. A similar presentation over the years has been made by the Chapter to every school in the City.

In April 1980, the members were pleased to learn that the Provincial Chapter of Ontario, had accepted the Argyll Chapter's suggestion to provide braille machines required by volunteer brailleists. These braille machines will be purchased through the Lucy Morrison Memorial Fund.

The Argyll Chapter is proud of its Community Service role, especially in the fields of Education and Welfare. Seasonal and full time activities include the awarding of Rotary Music Festival prizes, a one-hundred dollar scholarship annually to the son or daughter of a Canadian or Commonwealth Veteran attaining the highest aggregate in Grade Thirteen papers while in attendance at a Belleville Secondary School.

IODE Calendars are supplied to the classrooms of the Belleville Public Schools. Over the years assistance has been given to the Family and Children's Services and the Retarded Children's school. Many members assist local Cancer and Blood Clinics. At Christmas welfare baskets are given to local needy families. Members attend Citizenship Courts, presenting Maple Leaf pins and certificates to new Canadians. Following the Court Ceremony, tea was served in the Officers' Mess. However, due to the frequency of the Courts

and the increased number of new Canadians, refreshments are now served at the County Court House.

Books and magazines were collected and shipped to servicemen in Europe. In recent years they have been donated to the Belleville General Hospital. Members participate in the knitting and sewing of layettes, children's clothing (sweaters, slacks, dresses, mitts, etc.) quilts, hospital gowns and property bags. A percentage of these articles are used at home and the remainder are sent overseas to 'Save the Children Fund' to be distributed to countries in need. Donations are also sent to Provincial Headquarters for Canadian and International projects.

REGENTS - ARGYLL CHAPTER - I O D E

1910 - 1911	Mrs. W. N. Ponton
1912 - 1916	Mrs. Z. S. Marsh
1916 - 1918	Mrs. S. W. Vermilyea
1918 - 1920	Mrs. G. Wallbridge
1920 - 1922	Mrs. C. Van Der Water
1922 - 1924	Mrs. R. Vanderwater
1925 - 1926	Mrs. E. Keeler
1926 - 1928	Mrs. A. W. Gribble
1928 - 1931	Mrs. E. A. Geen
1931 - 1932	Mrs. E. Keeler
1932 - 1936	Mrs. E. A. Geen
1936 - 1943	Mrs. A. B. Gribble
1943 - 1945	Mrs. B. C. Donnan
1945 - 1947	Mrs. G. M. Miller
1947 - 1948	Mrs. G. M. Davison
1948 - 1949	Mrs. J. Cousins
1949 - 1950	Mrs. E. Fairman
1950 - 1951	Mrs. W. D. Wilson
1951 - 1954	Mrs. E. Fairman
1954 - 1955	Mrs. G. Base
1955 - 1957	Mrs. E. Fairman
1957 - 1961	Mrs. A. Duffy
1961 - 1963	Mrs. A. Cunningham
1963 - 1965	Mrs. E. F. Smith
1965 - 1968	Mrs. K. Willcocks
1968 - 1970	Mrs. F. R. Allan
1970 - 1972	Mrs. H. Kokesh
1972 - 1974	Mrs. J. B. Milroy
1974 - 1976	Mrs. H. G. Birkenshaw
1976 - 1978	Mrs. M. Smith
1978 - 1979	Mrs. G. Scott
1979 - 1981	Mrs. L. Foley
1981 - 1982	Mrs. C. Morgan
1983	Mrs. L. Cole

ARGYLL CHAPTER - I O D E

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1980

*Honourary Regent* - Mrs. Gavin (Marjorie) Scott

*Honourary V/Regent* - Mrs. Fred (Mary) Sprague

*Regent* - Mrs. Lorne (Iris) Foley

*Vice-Regents* - Mrs. Charles (Doreen) Morgan  
- Mrs. Duncan (Sue) Campbell

*Secretary* - Mrs. Phillips (Joyce) Till

*Treasurer* - Mrs. Howard (Kaye) Kokesh

*Education* - Mrs. Wm. (Bev) Bacon

*Services* - Mrs. Hubert (Edna) Campbell

*Social* - Mrs. Brian (Stella) Milroy