

Memories by Sandy (Dawson) Clarke, former member SI Peterborough

I was a member of the original Venture Club. In fact, I have a silver spoon given for outstanding service to the club. I was also involved with the conference held at the Empress Hotel. How dressed up we all were...hats a definite requirement.

The tea we sponsored at the Y.W.C.A. Was a candle tea with members making candles at my home (my parents' home) on Saturdays. We also made Christmas corsages for coats. We learned how to make bows for these and had many fun times putting corsages together. Easy to sell these, as all the young women Venturists turned the charm on and each married man we knew bought a corsage for his wife. The Toronto Venturists enjoyed coming to Peterborough especially visiting a member's cottage for a weekend. When I moved to Toronto I joined that Venture Club.

With no Venture club in Whitby where I moved after marriage, I knew little about that club Or Soroptimists until Joyce Fee approached Oshawa women about having a Soroptimist Club. A friend who was approached told me about this club and, recognizing the name, supported it fully. Oshawa had had a Soroptimist club many years earlier....in fact, I believe member Jean Frolic had been a provincial governor. With Rotary clubs now including women members, many chose to join that service club. Also, 15 members were mandatory to retain the Soroptimist charter. Sadly, our group had a constant 13! We were forced to fold. My last connection with the Peterborough Soroptimist club was to attend a dinner at Peterborough Golf and Country Club and make a speech and presentation for the 50th (or was it 60th?) anniversary. I also remember a conference at Holiday Inn which my friend and I attended on the Sunday. That must have been about 20 years ago.

I well remember Phyliss Braund and her famous mince meat. If I am remembering correctly, she never did share her recipe so Soroptimists were unable to continue the practice of making and selling mince meat after her passing.

I taught with Maureen Palmer and Eleanor Carroll and remember Joyce Fee, Eileen Stanbury and Diane Hutchinson from Soroptimist get togethers.

NOTE

Forming a Venture Club The sponsorship of a Venture club provides Soroptimist clubs with a way to mentor young women entering the business and professional world. As a Venture club member, these young women not only have the opportunity to receive mentoring and guidance from established business and professional women, they also can conduct volunteer projects that improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.

Sponsoring a Venture club is a commitment to provide advice, guidance and support, and to instill a passion for the Soroptimist mission.