

## **FONDS DESCRIPTION (MBMS-7)**

### **Indian Point Branch, Nova Scotia Women's Institutes fonds**

1919-1928

2 cm of textual records

The first Nova Scotia Women's Institute branch was organized in Pictou County in 1913. The Institute's motto was "For home and country," and in the years that followed, branches were formed in communities throughout Nova Scotia with the goal of providing rural women with an opportunity to learn more about issues relating to their families and communities, share experiences and skills, and become engaged citizens and community leaders. Women in the Lunenburg County community of Indian Point organized a branch in December 1919. The first president of the branch in 1920 was Mary Andrews (Hyson) Wentzell, who also served as branch president in 1921 and again in 1924-25. During the 1920s, the Indian Point branch, which generally had between fifteen and twenty members, devoted much of its efforts to improvements in the community school. Although the number of local Women's Institute branches is now considerably reduced from the organization's heyday, Lunenburg County still forms an Institute District with members organized in two branches.

Fonds consists of a Nova Scotia Women's Institute official minute book covering the 1919-1928 period. The minute book contains lists of branch officers, records of attendance, minutes, membership lists, accounts, and treasurer's annual reports. The branch minutes are detailed and document the many activities of the Indian Point branch, including lectures, social events, the management of branch finances, and projects designed to raise funds for community projects, particularly improvements and programs at the community school.

The records were donated to the Mahone Bay Museum ca. 1999 by Tricia Barr, who found them in the attic of an Indian Point home that had once belonged to a member of the Eisnor family (possibly connected to Mrs. A.G. Eisnor, who had, at one time, served as a president of the Indian Point branch of the Women's Institute).