

Title: Corner Stone Box to be Re-Laid. Page 1/2

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Description: An article which appeared in the Alliston Herald describing a time capsule which was uncovered during the demolition of the old Memorial Library.

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Fifty-eight years ago, on June 8, 1923, the "new" Women's Institute building had its cornerstone laid. Behind the cornerstone was placed a tin box.

Now that the building is coming down, to be replaced by a more modern library building, the cornerstone has had to be removed. Workmen found the almost forgotten tin box, and it was handed over to the present Women's Institute.

On Friday, the box was opened and the contents examined at the regular WI meeting held in the town hall, home of the WI until they take their place in the modern building to be completed in the fall. Two WI members present Friday were Irene Ball and Frances Morrow who were there when the box was placed in 1923.

Chairman of the library board, Ken Gradwell, pried open the box's lid and inside were copies of four newspapers - The Globe, the Toronto Daily Star, the Daily Mail and Empire and the June 7, 1923 edition of The Alliston Herald. An envelope, titled The Home Bank of Canada, contained four coins, all dated 1920; a fifty cent piece, a dime, quarter

and a penny. Also in the box was a copy of the Monthly Fashion Book, showing clothes of the day. They didn't look too

different from today's fashions! A handbill, the sort posted on trees in those days to advertise coming events, was included

which invited all residents to the cornerstone laying to be held the next day, June 8.

A featured story in the Herald was the opening of Hill's "big, modern store," to open on Saturday morning, July 16. Another story told of the wonderful new "electric laundry aboard the ship Empress of France." Advertisements, many of them appearing on the front page, were for J.A. McCague Hardware and Automobile Supplies (Phone 24); T.E. Reynolds Pure Food Depot; M.E. Murphy, the home of good shoes, selling "boy's outing shoes for \$1.50 and men's Bowler Oxfords, with double soles for \$2.05;" Lorne McMullin's "no button underwear, dimity combination, no sleeves, for \$1.50 a suit;" and Potter and Coulter's used cars, advertising, "One 400 Roadster, 1921, newly painted for \$325, and a Ford truck for \$175.

WI president Lee Kennett tells the Herald that the tin box, with contents intact, will be placed behind the cornerstone again in the new building, together with another tin box with relevant material of 1981. Until then the old box is in safe keeping at the town office.

Now open

Just as the old library building is due to come crashing down, the "new" temporary library opens its doors officially in the basement of St. John's United Church.

Hours are the same - Tuesdays from 2 - 6, Wednesdays from 2 - 4, Thursdays from 2 - 6, Fridays from 11 - 9 and Saturdays from 12 - 6.

The bookmobile, bringing fresh reading from the Simcoe County Library system, is due to arrive on June 24.

Entrance to the temporary library is through the redwood-coloured door, located immediately east of the main church doors on St. John's, Victoria Street East.



They were there

Irene Ball, left and Frances Morrow travelled back in history on Friday as they helped investigate the contents of a tin box found behind the library building cornerstone. The two women were

members of the Women's Institute, who built the edifice, and were present at the original cornerstone laying on June 8, 1923.

(Herald photo by Judy Scott)



**Ken Gradwell
with 1923 Herald**