As all of you members know, since you read your wonderful summer newsletter created by Deborah, and, as I think Lenay sent out an e-mail mentioning it?? – this is our 40th year. As archivist, I have made a commitment to ferret out through the year tidbits of our history that I hope will be interesting and maybe of inspiration as we move through these next ten years.

So, this being our picnic month, I decided to take a look back in time and this is what I discovered.

The first picnic was held in 1977 at the Naval Communication Picnic Area (wherever that is). It was in the evening. 9 of the 15 members and their husbands attended. It is written: “The hillsides overlooking the wooded areas were beautiful..”

The second picnic was held in 1978 at the Cheltenham Radio Station – wherever that is/was.

From that point on 38 annual picnics were held in August, with a couple in July, and were all in the homes or members.

I had to apply my detective skills to verifying this, as picnics were not mentioned in our yearbooks until the 1986-87 book and no pictures of this event were in any of these scrapbooks.

Then, no mention again for the 1988 to 1991 editions. In 1991 “picnic” surfaced under “Dates to Remember” in the back of the book, and continued there until 1996/97 when it went into the new Calendar of Events section in the front of the book. In 2002-2003 the placement changed to List of Events at the end of the programs pages.

There was often no mention in the yearbook as to who was hosting the picnic. That meant going to the scrapbooks to verify – and in the early days there were no pictures. Toward the end of the process I couldn’t verify any picnics from 1978 to 1982 and I had a couple of later ones for which I had no info.

So, I took to the minutes and, luckily, found all the answers there except for one, which Julie was able to verify. Thank you Julie.

In listing all the dates and who hosted them, I saw something very interesting. I saw a member, who generously offered her home – perhaps when noone else stepped up. But, then, again, it might have been because her environment was so lovely. Whatever the reason, I wanted to say Thank You, as the archivist for the club, to this woman who hosted the picnic for NINE years. So…….

Throughout the years of documentation, when words were used for the picnics they reflected: wonderful food, good conversation, relaxing time, enjoyable, successful and I think we’ll be able to add these words to this year’s event.

That ends the bit of history for this event. Thank you.