

FWIO centennial celebration plans are well underway

By Geraldine Campbell

Erland Lee and his wife, Janet, were courageous people. In February 1897, they went up and down the roads, in cold, snowy weather, to ask the local women to come and hear a dynamic speaker, Adelaide Hoodless. Millions of women throughout the world will be saluting their courage and foresight in establishing the Women's Institute during the centennial celebrations in 1997.

Two years ago, FWIO set up a steering committee to be the overall planners of the year of celebration, with sub-committees set up to handle specific projects.

Among the many ideas already put into place is that FWIO adopt the environment as its focus for the years leading up to 1997.

In August, the FWIO centennial logo was unveiled. It will be used in publicity as well as on mementos of the centennial celebration.

Plans are underway to have a centennial postage stamp which will allow all Canadians to participate in the historic celebrations.

A special program will be developed for the use of all WI branches on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 1997. Imagine the impact of all the WI members saying the Ode and Mary Stewart Collect at the same time.

A special rose, called Laura Rose, is going to be produced. Laura Rose was responsible for organizing the second Women's Institute in the world at Whitby in 1899. The Laura Rose Branch (near Guelph) are looking after this project. The rose will be available for sale before 1997, so that it will be in full bloom all over Canada in 1997.

A pictorial, or coffee table book, will be available in November 1996. This book will show the history of Women's Institute throughout the 100 years. Contributions will be sought from members during the next few years.

A limited edition, fine bone china collector plate will be made for sale in 1997. A special competition to design the plate will be open to Women's Institute members.

It is hoped museums throughout Ontario and Canada will arrange displays showing the work of WI throughout the years. The

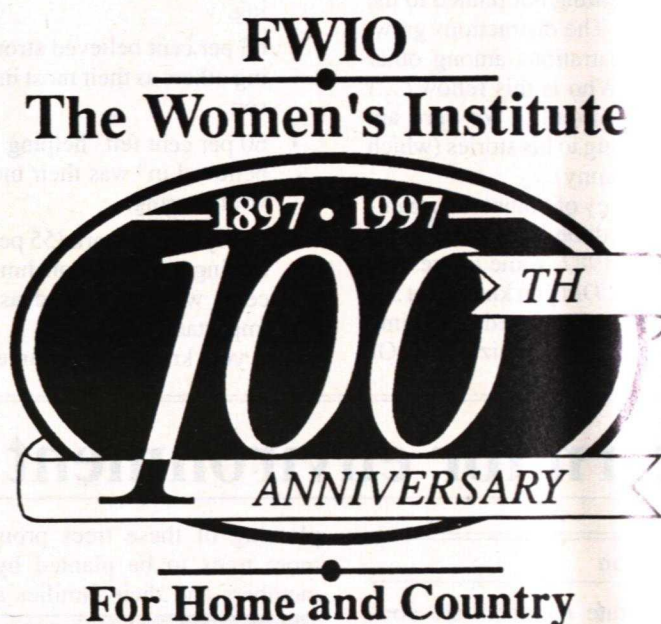
Tweedsmuir History Books will be a great source of information for this project.

All this preliminary work costs money. As a way of raising money, we have the Blue Bag Project. Instead of getting plastic bags every time you go shopping, take along a blue bag with the WI crest on it. The Centennial Committee will receive \$2 for every bag sold. They need the money, but even more importantly, you will be helping the environment. These bags will

be available at provincial functions such as conferences and workshops, and through board directors if you order before each board meeting.

There will be many more activities being announced as 1997 gets closer. This celebration is for all to share.

Geraldine Campbell is FWIO Public Relations Officer.



Logo designed by Stormont woman

The design of Evelyn Tinkess was picked from 123 entries as the one to adorn all FWIO centennial memorabilia and publicity information.

Mrs. Tinkess, a member of Avonmore WI for 55 years, said she was surprised and proud to have her design chosen as the winner. Although she doesn't consider herself a professional, she has taken an art course and has been designing for her branch for many years. "I love trying these kinds of things," she added.

The oval in the centre of the logo represents the world since WI is a world wide organization, explained Mrs. Tinkess. The

ribbon denotes the birthday celebration. The above version is a black and white reproduction. In colour, the WI blue and gold is added.

Rena Cunningham of the Centennial Logo Committee reported to the FWIO Board in August that logo contest entries were judged by Doreen Reid, WI member and printing company owner; Harvey Brydon, Graphics Instructor at Loyalist College; and Zdenek Kvarda of Aluminum Star Co., a designer and maker of plaques.