

# 85th ANNIVERSARY HELD OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF ONT.

"From a Flicker to a Flame" was the theme of the 85th Anniversary Celebration of the Women's Institutes of Ontario when over 1700 members met at the Constellation Hotel, Toronto on August 12th, with the Provincial President, Mrs. Janet Hiepleh presiding.

The "Flicker" began in 1897 when Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless saw the need for women to learn how to better care for their families. With the help of Erland Lee, the first Women's Institute was founded at Stoney Creek, Ontario. The Flicker became a Flame during the years as dedicated members with their volunteer efforts improved the life of rural women and their families. The movement spread and today there are 27,000 members in Ontario; 48,000 in Canada; and over 9 million in the World.

The guest speaker, Mrs. Ziny Westebring Muller of the Netherlands and the World President said, "Ontario can be proud of its women and their accomplishments. When Mrs. Alfred Watt took the W.I. to England it was described as 'the greatest idea that had come out of the colonies to England. Canada's gift to the

Motherland soon became Canada's gift to all Nations and known as the Associated Countrywomen of the World." Mrs. Muller spoke of the projects in the underdeveloped countries, training leaders and helping people. She asked the women to be concerned with the project for the 80's, "Fresh Water and Sanitation for all." She sees the hunger problem when she travels to many countries for ACWW. "The members must be a mighty force as your influence can know no bounds, we must pull together for World Peace," she said.

Hon. Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Agriculture and Food, congratulated the members for their continued leadership in their communities, for preserving history; promotion of home-making skills and meeting the challenges of the many changes in rural life.

Greetings were received from Members of Parliament, Premier Wm. Davis, Prime Minister Trudeau, Queen Elizabeth, Manitoba and Northern Ireland W.I.s, and others.

Senator Martha Beilish of Alberta, Vice-President for Canada to ACWW, brought greetings from the Senate, Hon. Joe Clark and the Member Societies of ACWW.

"The Women of the World have and still look to Ontario for inspiration and leadership. We must be prepared to meet the challenges of Society, changing and adapting when necessary and keep the Flame burning," said Mrs. Bernice Noblitt of Ottawa, the newly-elected President of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada.

Among the special guests were Miss Molly McGhee, the Honorary President of FWIO; Past Presidents; Miss Helen McKercher, Former Director of Home Economics Branch; two Life Members of FWIO; Representative from the Stoney Creek Branch; and guests from other Provinces, England and the Netherlands.

In closing, Mrs. Hiepleh said, "You should be proud to be a Member of an organization that has stood the test of time, of 85 years of working for Home and Country and now look forward eagerly to the challenges of the future and what it holds for each of us."