

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
HOLIDAY  
ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL  
COLLEGE, GUELPH  
JULY 9-13, 1951

"MOTHER TAKES A HOLIDAY"

Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was the setting during the week of July 9-13 for the annual Ontario Women's Institute Holiday. Over 100 members registered for the full week's programme and this number of "steadies" was augmented by daily arrivals of chartered busloads coming from all over Ontario. Over 1500 women participated in some part of the holiday activities.

Each day had its special designation. Monday, opening day, was "Know Your Colleges' Day" featuring conducted tours of Macdonald Institute, the Agricultural College, the Veterinary College and other points of interest.

On Tuesday, which was "Meat and Poultry Day", as well as inspection tours in the morning, informative and interesting lecture-demonstrations were given in the afternoon by members of the College Staff—Professor E. C. Stillwell and Professor E. S. Snyder.

"Horticulture Day", Wednesday, offered Campus Tours, and lecture-demonstrations on "Floral Arrangement" by Miss Louise W. Heringa, and "Beautiful Farm Homes" by Mr. John A. Weall. So great was the attraction of this colourful and instructive programme that over 850 women were registered on this one day.

Thursday, "Macdonald Institute Day", though marked with inclement weather was spent happily and with undampened enthusiasm. Women's Institute members participated in activities planned by the staff of Macdonald Institute. Lecture-demonstrations on "Know Your Textiles", "Cooking with Small Appliances" and "Home Decoration" were stimulating and practical.

Friday, closing day of the holiday, was "Cultural Activities Day", and as a special feature Miss Effie Smith, a Canadian painter of note, not only lectured on Canadian Art but illustrated her talk with a demonstration of "Painting a Flower Print". At this session also Professor Walter Carpenter gave a delightful address on "Treasures in Books" and Mr. Melville King sang several solos.

Each day of the holiday opened with devotional exercises in Memorial Hall led by Padre Young, College Chaplain. After lunch a most enjoyable half hour organ and piano recital given by Mr. and Mrs. R. Kidd and a singing led by the versatile and much beloved Padre Young. Greetings and a sincere welcome were extended to the crowds on behalf of the College, the Women's Institute Branch, and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Each day closed its formal programme with the showing by Miss Anna P. Lewis of the lovely coloured pictures taken during her recent tours abroad and at home under the intriguing titles "Let's Visit Great Britain", "Scanning Scandinavia", "Through Holland, Belgium and France", "Glimpses of Historical Ontario" and "Here and There with the Women's Institutes Across Canada". The popularity of these showings was attested by the fact that most of the busloads stayed over the supper hour for these showings and several groups who were not able to get away from home during the day drove in for this evening treat.

Other features that added to the general enjoyment of the week were numerous. Miss Beverley Bryan of the Women's Institute Branch Staff supervised swimming in the swimming pool. Informal discussions of Women's Institute problems were led by Mrs. Clarence Hayes in her usual happy and understanding manner. Miss Edith Collins gave an intriguing glimpse into "Cultural Activities",

Spring, summer, autumn, winter, the work of the Women's Institutes untiringly goes on. Scarcely a hamlet or crossroad from east to west, from north to south, but has come under the benign influence of its spreading aura. Whether it be a tiny group in the remote hinterland, or a strong body on the city's edge, one spirit animates the membership, one goal is perpetually sought, that spirit and that goal welded and encompassed for one and all in the familiar well-loved motto "For Home and Country".

**Bruce East, Mildmay:** The library opened in the Community Hall by the Mildmay Women's Institute is proving to be very popular with the reading public. The number of books available is not large and the County Circulating Library accounts for most of the volumes on hand. A small collection of books has been donated by those interested in the library, and it is hoped that this collection will increase as time goes on. New books are being received from time to time. The Institute welcomes such donations, and thanks the donors for their generosity.

**Carleton East, Osgoode:** The Osgoode branch of the Women's Institute launched a new project this past summer when they sponsored a Regatta at the lighthouse, Osgoode. Proceeds from the Regatta will start a fund for the erection of a community hall for the Osgoode District. An excellent attendance of both spectators and competitors combined with unexpected leniency of the weatherman to ensure the success of both water sports and boat races. Prizes for these events were donated by merchants and business men from the surrounding district. A dance and social evening brought to a close a happy and profitable day.

**Halton District Anniversary:** On June 26th about three hundred and fifty Women's Institute members belonging to the branches of Halton County gathered at Milton to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the organization in the county. Long tables decorated with bouquets of flowers and blue and gold streamers, were set with salad plates as the ladies sat down after registering at the door of the Arena. During the lunch hour, Mrs. Albert Biggar of Omagh, 90, cut the tiered white birthday cake. Mrs. Milton Brown of Hornby Branch welcomed all who had come "to celebrate 50 years of work in Halton County". Second vice-president, Mrs. E. A. Manning, Hornby, introduced a candle-lighting ceremony, with Mrs. Rhinehart of Nasagaweya, the past president, lighting a candle for those who had gone on before; Mrs. Milton Brown lighting hers for the present members, and Mrs. J. L. Ellerby of Limehouse, first vice-president, for the future. These three flames burned brightly during the afternoon affirming that "people who don't laugh are not good citizens". Col. the Honourable T. L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, proceeded to make good citizens of the ladies as he spoke of the changes in the last fifty years. Miss Ethel Chapman, as guest speaker of the afternoon brought real inspiration to the women and a challenge to go on with even better work in the future.

**Lanark North, Almonte:** Eighteen members of the Almonte Women's Institute toured the plant of Findlay's Limited in Carleton Place. Special exhibits of foundry work, enamelling work and sheet steel work were laid out to illustrate various processes carried on in the manufacture of stoves and furnaces. The members were keenly interested in the processes and finished products. After

and Misses Orma Wainwright and Beverley Bryan led interest groups in Textile Printing and Moccasin Making.

Numerous "after hour" parties added zest and hilarity to this happy holiday occasion.

the tour, tea was served in the company's Guest House.

**Lennox, Stella, Amherst Island:** Upwards of one hundred Women's Institute members from Lennox and Addington, Frontenac and Leeds counties visited Amherst Island to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the local Institute. One of the highlights of the day-long session was the cutting of the birthday cake by Mrs. William McMaster, 88, the only living charter member and the first secretary of the organization. In the afternoon Mrs. Arthur J. Hudson of Lyn gave an account of her trip to Copenhagen as a delegate to the triennial convention of the A.C.W.W. Other speakers were: Mrs. R. J. Penney, Chairman of the Kingston Convention Area, Mrs. B. Davy of Wilton, Mrs. E. J. Boyce of Harrowsmith and Mrs. Donald Hannah of Enterprise. Much credit was given the Amherst Island Institute for their faithful and careful preservation of the original records of their branch, which include the text of the inaugural address of the first president.

**Lennox, Odessa:** Odessa Women's Institute members were hostesses at a social event held in early June in the library rooms to "June brides of the past". A lace covered table was decorated in pink and white with a rose as a favour for each bride. A brides' cake, decorated in matching colours, bearing the inscription "Wedding Anniversaries" adorned the table, the cake having been made by Mrs. Clark Boyce. A corsage was given to the bride married the longest, Mrs. Montgomery.

**Norfolk South, Port Dover:** contributed \$50. to a local appeal for help in raising funds for the purchase of a diving suit, a much needed piece of equipment for the town life-saving department.

**Northumberland East, York Road:** Members of the York Road Women's Institute entertained their Dutch neighbours of the surrounding community. Mrs. Witt, wife of the Minister of the Christian Reform Church, Trenton, spoke on the problem of the Netherlanders in their own land which prompted them to seek new homes across the seas. Mrs. Witt bespoke for the newcomers friendship and understanding and complete honesty in all dealings, and stated that those among them who had been in Canada long enough, had already demonstrated their willingness and ability to make good Canadian citizens.

**Ontario South, Brougham:** The Brougham Institute had as an enjoyable feature of the May meeting a debate "Resolved that active middle-age surpasses youth in the joys of life". After quite a controversy, both amusing and thought-provoking, the issue was decided by a vote. The consensus of opinion was that active middle age did surpass youth in the joys of life.

**Oxford South, Mount Elgin:** A salvage drive was successfully undertaken by the Mount Elgin Women's Institute. Four trucks, with three Institute members to each, worked steadily the greater part of a day in the village, travelling up and down the concessions, gathering papers, cartons, rags, and fertilizer and cement sacks. On the following day the work continued from 8.30 to 12 o'clock getting the salvage into saleable condition for shipment. With help from a number of boys from the continuation school, the truckload was eventually completed. The collection totalled six and one-half tons and Mrs. Aubrey Swain, president, received a cheque for almost one hundred dollars from the venture.

**Prince Edward, Hillier:** About thirty-five members and friends of the Hillier Women's Institute drove in a chartered bus to visit the County Home in Picton, and to put on a programme for the residents there. At the meeting, the women of the home were each presented with a corsage and the men with a boutonniere.

**Renfrew South:** Chartered by the South Renfrew District Women's Institutes five Renfrew County buses left Renfrew at 6.45 a.m. for Brockville, carrying 185 passengers, to enjoy the Thousand Island boat trip leaving Brockville at 10 a.m. and returning at 3 p.m. The members enthusiastically proclaimed it a most interesting and enjoyable trip.

**Simcoe Centre, Barrie:** Mayor Marjorie Hamilton of Barrie addressed the Barrie Women's Institute on "Publicity". "An Institute background must be an excellent preparation for public life, for", said Mrs. Hamilton, who holds the proud honour of being Barrie's first woman mayor and is one of the first women in the province to achieve the mayoralty in any municipality, "I was practically raised in The Women's Institute".

**Victoria West, Grasshill:** The Grasshill Women's Institute enjoyed a lovely trip by chartered bus to Ottawa on June 1, returning the following day. The ladies were greeted on their arrival at the Parliament Buildings by Mr. Clayton Hodgson, M.P. for Victoria and Haliburton, and were his supper guests. They were present at one session of Parliament and toured the buildings and Peace Tower. A sightseeing bus was chartered which toured the City of Ottawa visiting many points of interest, and crossing over to the Quebec city of Hull for a visit to the mills there. The return trip was along the St. Lawrence, the beautiful scenery and glimpses of Brockville and Kingston being greatly enjoyed by all.

**Waterloo South, New Dundee:** New Dundee at a special meeting held in the local school had as its guest speaker Mrs. R. Hendry of Galt who gave a most interesting account of her trip to Copenhagen as a delegate to the A.C.W.W. Conference. Mrs. Hendry had the unique privilege of being the first Canadian woman to register for a week's course at Denman College, The Women's Institute College in England.

**York Centre, King:** Collections from a district canvas amounting to over \$130. sponsored by King Women's Institute for York County Hospital will assist in purchasing a sterilizer for hypodermic needles, a much needed piece of equipment for the hospital.

**Thunder Bay, Red Rock:** Sponsored an Empire Day programme at the school grounds under the leadership of Mrs. I. Sigurdson, convener for Citizenship and Education. The programme had as its theme "Canadian Citizenship". Assisted by the Red Rock branch of the Legion, the Red Rock Scout Patrol, the Red Rock Girl Guides and the Red Rock Fireman's Club, a most interesting evening of entertainment was provided, including addresses on "What Canada means to me", "Canada as an Industrial Nation", and "The Right to Vote". There was a presentation of the Colours by a Legion member, and all joined in the repetition of the Oath of Allegiance to Our Country in both English and French. At the conclusion of the programme, the firemen took charge of a monster fireworks display. The Institute sold coffee and doughnuts during the evening with the proceeds going to the Red Rock school to add to the film slide library.

**York East, Agincourt:** Twenty-two members of Agincourt Women's Institute led the combined picnic of York County Pioneer and Historical Society and York County Women's Institutes on June 16. They were the largest single group among present. The picnic was held on Temple, containing many points of interest in Ontario. The picnic was presided over by Mrs. William; Miss Edith Collins, and Mrs. Edna

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