

paused to discuss old things they had. Two women gathered material in the Southampton area and in a thirty-six hour display in the fair building they had 856 visitors. The Indian collection was marvellous.

We are as yet in a tentative stage but very optimistic.

—Mrs. Archie Given.

LENNOX AND ADDINGTON

Some years ago there was an Historical Society in Lennox and Addington but it became defunct. Then when a new "Memorial Building" was erected in Napanee one room was designated for use as a County Museum. Judge G. F. Smith of Napanee being personally interested took the responsibility of investigating how this could be accomplished. The Lennox District Women's Institute was contacted and a committee of three appointed to attend any meetings held in this connection.

In April a meeting was called, at which it was learned that Judge Smith had secured several show cases from the Royal Ontario

Museum in Toronto — show cases which were being replaced. These were refinished at a furniture shop and made ready for use. Also \$1,000.00 has been received from the J. P. Bickell Foundation to help in setting up a County Museum.

The next step was to reorganize the Historical Society. The Women's Institute took an active part in this and in the work which followed. Already there is quite a collection of antique pieces and documents available for use.

At the first meeting, being one of the committee chosen to represent the Women's Institutes, I asked if the other organizations represented were familiar with the activities of the W. I. in regard to Historical Research, and found they were not. So I took two Tweedsmuir Histories to the second meeting, explaining what the branches were doing in compiling these. They were surprised to know how much was being done rurally in this connection.

—Mrs. D. W. Weese.

Museum Do's and Don't's

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STARTING a museum is just the same as starting any other business. Line up your financing and your personnel, and make certain of the market for history in your trading area before you go after your first merchandise. Talk over the project with others who have established local museums, and with specialists in the field at governmental museums and universities.

Be sure you have enough interested people who are willing and able to work. Far too often the most interested persons are elderly and lack the necessary energy. Starting a museum requires brawn as well as brains.

Tie in local educational authorities and teachers. Local museums should be an integral part of the teaching of history. Unless and until the children of the district become interested in the museum, it will not live.

Adequate premises are a prerequisite, and the lack of them has killed many a local museum project. Too often a start is made when only storage space is available. Hiding historical lights under a bushel does not make for expanding public interest. Check for available space in a library, school, church or other public building. Interview elderly citizens whose homes are tied in to the history of the community who might be persuaded to leave their homes for a community museum. Look for a fireproof residence if possible and one with large rooms. Don't be afraid to ask. It is an honour you are conferring. If you find

such a building and a willing donor, persuade your local council that the structure should be deeded to the municipality. Maintenance and conversion costs then become, to a degree, a tax responsibility and property taxes can be avoided. Sell the councillors on the educational and tourist value of the enterprise. If possible, arrange to have the building owned and maintained by the local school board with classes in local history being given therein.

Secure at the start the support of your local newspapers and radio stations, chamber of commerce and service clubs. The press and radio can help you recruit exhibits and arouse public interest. Chambers of commerce and service clubs are sources of preliminary financing. Arrange speakers for club meetings on the value of preserving local history. You will be surprised how few businessmen know the history of their own community. Junior business or service clubs are sources of possible physical help, as well, in setting up the exhibits, cleaning the building, etc.

Prepare a series of stories for the press and radio on local history. Create the proper atmosphere for the project.

When you are sure of your premises and public support, remember that articles of historical value must be properly and safely displayed, as far as possible under glass. New show cases cost a lot of money. Canvass local merchants for gifts of outmoded cases. Attend auction sales of stores going out of business. Advertise for what you want. Consider making cases out of storm windows, etc.