



On August 2, 1958, during Collingwood's Centennial Week the plaque shown above was unveiled to Mrs. Alfred Watt, founder of the Associated Country Women of the World and a native of Collingwood. Shown in the picture, left to right are: Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Past President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Mrs. J. R. Futcher, representing the Historic Sites Board; Mrs. Arnold Elliott, a niece of Mrs. Watt; the Hon. Rev. A. W. Downer, M.P.P. Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; Mayor A. C. Carmichael of Collingwood; Mrs. T. C. Kells, President of Georgian Women's Institute; and Rev. W. L. Young of Collingwood First Presbyterian Church.

In Memory of Mrs. Alfred Watt

FOR SOME TIME the Georgian Women's Institute in West Simcoe has been arranging to honour a noted daughter of the district, Mrs. Alfred Watt, M.B.E. native of Collingwood, the Canadian woman who first introduced Women's Institute in England and who founded the Associated Country Women of the World.

The Georgian Institute approached the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board asking to have a plaque erected to Mrs. Watt's memory, and on August 2, during Collingwood's Centennial Week, the plaque, erected close to the site of Mrs. Watt's birthplace on Maple Street, was unveiled in a fitting ceremony. The Hon. Rev. A. W. Downer, M.P.P. and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, brought greetings from the Province and paid tribute to the work of the Women's Institutes and the Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. J. R. Futcher, a former F.W.I.O. President, represented the Historic Sites Board of which she is a member. Mrs. Gordon MacPhatter, Past President of F.W.I.O., spoke for the provincial organization. Mr. Allan C. Carmichael, Mayor of Collingwood, welcomed the visitors to the town's centennial and Mrs. T. C. Kells, President of Georgian Institute, acted as chairman. Mrs. Kells paid special tribute to Mrs. T. H. Dyer who had convened the memorial project.

Mrs. Watt, nee Madge Robertson, the daughter of a Collingwood lawyer, was born in 1867. She was a graduate of the University of Toronto and a woman of outstanding ability as a teacher and organizer. She spent most of her married life in British Columbia and after her husband's death in 1913, she and her two sons went to live in England. During the first world war Mrs. Watt organized Women's Institutes in England with the primary purpose of food conservation; later she and Miss Emily Guest who was appointed Organizer of Scottish Institutes, had a part in broadening the programme of the British Institutes in keeping with the Ontario motto "For Home and Country."

It was in 1930 that Mrs. Watt, at a meeting in Vienna, was responsible for the organization of the Associated Country Women of the World. She was the first president of the organization and was re-elected to fill this office up to the year 1947. At the time of her death in 1948, Mrs. Watt was Honorary President of A.C.W.W.

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It is the tragedy of the self-absorbed that when the great moments of their lives go by in royal raiment with a sound of silver flutes, they are so muffled in self and the present that they neither hear nor see.—*Mary Webb.*

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