

Left to right: Stoney Creek's Mayor Jack Watson, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and charter members of the Mother Institute, Mrs. G. A. Glidden, Mrs. John Budge, Mrs. J. McKinley Morden, Mrs. H. P. Van Wagner.



I Saw the Queen

By Ethel
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Standing on the verandah at Battlefield House, Stoney Creek, Thursday morning, July 2nd, seeing the four surviving charter members of the Women's Institutes of Canada, presented to Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, was a proud moment and a great thrill.

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived at the entrance to Battlefield House, where on June 13, 1913, the Queen's grandmother, Queen Mary, had unveiled a monument by remote control to commemorate 100 years of undisturbed peace between Canada and the United States. Here they were welcomed by Stoney Creek's Mayor Jack Watson and Mrs. Watson. Mr. Watson then presented officials of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society and the four Charter Members of the Women's Institute, Mrs. George Glidden of Stoney Creek, Mrs. John Budge of Winona, Mrs. J. McKinley Morden of Hamilton and Mrs. H. P. VanWagner of Stoney Creek.

The meeting was most informal, the Queen looking very cool and charming in a red check silk shirtwaist dress and a small white hat. Both the Queen and Prince Philip chatted with the ladies for several minutes, the Queen having a personal interest in the Women's Institute. The Queen and the Queen Mother Elizabeth are both members of the Sandringham Women's Institute and the Queen, a patron of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

The Queen talking to Mrs. VanWagner and Mrs. Morden spoke about the Women's Institute in England, saying it was very popular there. She asked about its activities here. Mrs. Morden, who with her sister Mrs. VanWagner was present at the first meeting held in Stoney Creek in 1894 when Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless addressed the Farmers' Institute to which the ladies had been invited, told the Queen they never thought at that

time the organization would grow so large, referring to its world wide membership of over 6,000,000 members.

Prince Philip was most interested in the Stoney Creek monument and pointed to it as soon as he got out of the car. When presented to the ladies the Prince said he was sorry they were late (about 10 minutes) and asked them if they had been sitting in the sun very long. Prince Philip chatting with Mrs. Glidden asked her about Stoney Creek and the Battlefield House.

The Royal couple then went into the house where Her Majesty signed the guest book, and then entered the dining room for tea where the official hostesses were Mrs. Angus Jackson, president of the Stoney Creek Women's Institute and a member of the Women's Wentworth Historical Society; Mrs. John C. Hickmore, president of the Saltfleet Institute and Mrs. Donald Henderson, convener of the social committee and first vice-president of the Society there.

Battlefield House grounds were lined with school children, scouts, cubs, guides, brownies and about 200 scouts and guides from Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y. carrying the flags of their troops and the American flag.

Mrs. VanWagner, widow of Lt. Col. H. P. VanWagner of the Hamilton Field Battery, and the oldest living Charter Member, in an interview with the Hamilton Spectator before the presentation said "I am really more excited for the Women's Institute than I am for myself. It is a wonderful thing for the Queen to come here. It will do much to strengthen the Women's Institute."

The ladies looked charming and chatted with the Queen and Prince Philip as easily as though they were chatting with any of their friends. Mrs. VanWagner is 90, Mrs. Morden 83, Mrs. Budge 85 and Mrs. Glidden 76.