

# Centennial Projects

**T**HE ONTARIO Centennial Planning Branch of the Department of Tourism and Information has issued a very comprehensive list of ideas for centennial projects. Following are a few of their suggestions that might be of special interest to Women's Institutes:

**Confederation Costumes:** Hold an 1867 Costume Ball. Hold a Centennial Fashion Show displaying the styles of the 1860's up to the present day. A fashion show of costumes is not a new idea, but a suggestion not so well known is to have a show, "100 Years of Hair Styles."

**Confederation Rooms:** These rooms might be set up at fall fairs. If they are to be preserved permanently, as in a museum, it might be a project large enough for the cooperative effort of several organizations. Some counties are furnishing a log cabin in confederation era style.

**Restoration of Historical Buildings:** Buildings suggested were a log cabin, or other pioneer home of historic interest, a one-room school, an old church, a country store, a blacksmith shop.

**Organize Quilting Bees** and make Centennial Quilts designed on the following motifs: the floral emblems of the ten Canadian provinces, the centennial symbol (a stylized maple leaf), the trillium, the Canadian flag. (Organizations would have to decide what to do with the quilts after using them for display—possibly try to sell them.)

**Landscaping and "Making Ontario Lovelier":** Everyone is familiar with the planting of flowering crab trees as a centennial project. Other suggestions are to create a centennial

garden of old-fashioned flowers, or a garden of old-fashioned herbs; make a memorial park in front of the community hall—a good place for a cairn, a historical bell or some other article of local historical interest; donate a bench and/or a shelter for waiting bus passengers; tear down ramshackle, unused buildings that mar the landscape; clean up the town dump and screen it with a fringe of quick-growing trees such as Chinese elm or poplar; restore old cemeteries; develop a picnic area or donate picnic tables and benches to the local park.

The publication gives suggestions for compiling Community Histories, but most of these have already been adopted by Institutes working on their Tweedsmuir History books. Two recommendations which may be new to many Institute members are: "Interest your local radio or television station in producing a series of programs depicting local history and events of bygone eras"; and "Ask senior citizens to write 'A Childhood Memory of My Community.' These essays would provide excellent material for a community history, a column in the local newspaper or a program on a local radio station. Or they could be bound and displayed in the library."

**Centennial Displays:** Suggestions for articles for centennial displays include: antique silver, china, furniture, clothing, old photographs, newspapers, farm implements, cutters, buggies, children's antique toys, antique cars, handicrafts of all types, century-old clocks and old-time musical instruments, phonographs and radios.

**Centennial Events and Festivals:** Perhaps most communities will have an Old Home Week or Week-end. As an Old Home Week attraction the Centennial Planning Branch suggests: Have a gathering in the old school with teacher and pupils dressed in old-time costumes and holding mock classes. Organize concerts, choirs and plays which could be produced in neighboring communities during centennial year. Hold a Pioneer Variety Night or a Senior Citizens' Day which could include square dancing, step dancing, playing the fiddle, singing and other oldtime forms of entertainment; also a Youth Day featuring athletic events, public speaking, music, plays and dancing. If there is anyone in the community who remembers what a travelling Medicine Show was like, this might be reproduced, "with a barker suitably attired to pitch the cure-alls." It is strongly recommended that

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## RED BRICK COLONIAL

By Adele Jordan Tarr

This house is new, yet shows the gracious line  
That builders loved a hundred years ago.  
Simplicity its keynote and design,  
Utility its constant purpose, so  
Its every brick and timber tells of home —  
Of shelter warm and safe. No pretense here  
Of palace grandeur, nor inutile dome;  
This is a home for love and faith and cheer.

My mother grew to womanhood in one  
In old Virginia, built the self-same way;  
Her mother, too, before her. Now my son  
And his, may live here after me, some day.  
The love of kin is built into each wall  
Their choice is mine — red brick Colonial.

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