

# Women's Institutes Program and Projects

## West Oxford Women's Institutes' Maple Syrup Festival

SUNNY SKIES and cool breezes greeted over 500 guests from as far away as New York and Michigan who downed hundreds of maple-syrup-smothered pancakes at Sweaburg United Church, March 25.

The Syrup Festival, first activity of this type organized by the West Oxford Women's Institute, raised nearly \$350, slated for use in the community's Centennial project, restoration and relocation of a century-old Community Hall at Foldens Corners.

Only an improvement in weather conditions the previous day allowed the festival to take place. Chilly temperatures would have inhibited the sap run and cancelled the project. Two members worked till midnight, March 24, bottling syrup and making 40 pounds of maple sugar in attractive 'barrel' and 'Maple Leaf' designs.

Guests boarded hay-filled, tractor-drawn wagons for a 2 mile ride over bumpy country roads to the sugar bush of George Jakeman, where modern methods of syrup production were demonstrated, and samples of the Canadian delicacy, hot from the evaporator, sipped from paper cups.

This country's pioneer past was not forgotten as neighbourhood youngsters showed onlookers how Grandpa made syrup in huge iron kettles over a roaring fire.

A new Conservation project featuring an unusual variety of the trillium, Ontario's official flower, was noted on the return journey.

Guests with appetites whetted by the stiff breeze, were served heaping plates of pancakes and syrup, by members wearing Centennial costumes. Guests also received pamphlets containing maple syrup recipes and centennial pins. Delicious baked goods sold by the members proved popular.

Convener of the project was Mrs. Keith Hammerton.

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Abraham Lincoln was once taken to task by an associate for his attitude toward his enemies: "Why do you try to make friends of them? You should try to destroy them."

Lincoln replied gently, "Am I not destroying my enemies when I make them my friends?"

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William Penn declared: "I expect to pass through this life but once. If therefore there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer, or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."



A member of the South Oxford Women's Institute serving pancakes and maple syrup to two young guests.

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH

**Laura Rose**—A discussion on antique glass a feature of the Laura Rose Branch Historical Research meeting. Mrs. Fred Eagle and Mrs. Stanton Linton told the early history of glass making, the methods and components of glass making and early Canadian glass. Pictures, sketches and sample pieces of glass were shown.

**The South Bruce District Women's Institutes** will assist in the updating of the History of Bruce County. Material taken from the Tweedsmuir Village Histories will be made available to the writer.

**Mattawa**—Combining a sixtieth anniversary celebration and a Centennial project members of Mattawa Women's Institute attended the opening of the Lamont Century Homestead. This tiny log hewn dwelling was built in 1864 by Amabel Duford a trapper, on the banks of a river now known as the Amabel Duford River.

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Sleepless questions  
In the small hours:  
Have I done right?  
Why did I act  
Just as I did?  
Over and over again  
The same steps,  
The same words:  
Never the answer.

—Dag Hammarskjöld.