

## *Tweedsmuir History Soundoff*

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F.W.I.O.

A NEW CENTURY! New ventures, new emphasis on life, new changes in environment! These are some of the things that confront our communities now at the beginning of 1968. Are we ready for them, and are we alert to record them for future generations?

Every community should realize its responsibility to our Canada in recording its past. This has been a project of our Women's Institutes since 1945, with greater and greater emphasis being put upon it, and still we have many apathetic branches who have shunned their responsibilities as Women's Institutes in this respect, and their obligations to the pioneers of their communities. It is unfortunate when we sit back and do little to make the impulse of our local community felt.

As we put together the jigsaw of Ontario history, we find little pieces missing. Many of these are vital and each should take its authentic place with the rest of our historic Province.

It is difficult to obtain histories of all of the farms, of many of the past organizations, of old churches and schools. There are many personalities in all parts of our Province that should have stories written about them. Let this be done, and it is amazing what light will shine on other data. No matter how vague the past history might be, it is relevant to the progress and statistics of our country.

Let us be proud of the folk who have gone before, who have laid the foundations of our local community that it might develop to where it is at the end of this first century, and then be ready to tabulate its progress through into the New Era.

To the best of our knowledge, we had 1232 Tweedsmuir Histories being compiled in the Branches of Ontario in 1967. Some of these are of many volumes and quite up to date; others are working diligently researching and recording, while some are scrapbooks, but with valuable information. We still find some of our Curators with the traditional "box of clippings" waiting to find time to put them into some form for easier reference. No matter in what form we find this history, it holds a wealth of historical treasures. Let us turn a new leaf in 1968 to compile, tabulate and reveal this wealth.

Many say, "If I could just find the time." Each of us has the same amount of time. It is how we apply it! We can always find time for anything we wish to do! Let those of us who are Curators allot a certain amount of time to working on our Tweedsmuir Books each year and see how much progress we can show. It is a challenge to the Curator to see if she



Mrs. Ross Keeling (left) presenting a cheque to Mrs. Ross Buzza, manager of the Sheltered Workshop for Retarded Adults. This was a project of the Holland Centre Women's Institute.

can solicit and obtain help from the people of her community. She should not be expected to compile the Tweedsmuir History by herself. The expense is borne by the local Women's Institute Branch, and each member of the Branch is an exofficio member of the Curator's committee in that they should be ever ready and willing to contribute pictures and articles about people, places and things of the community—unsolicited!

Help is always available at all levels of our Women's Institute organization in setting up these records. The Curator need only to ask for it.

The New Century is a challenge to each of us. We must rise from the individual to the corporate in our thinking. Times are changing, methods are changing, and our people and their way of life are changing. Are we ready and able to change our visions to cope with all of this? I am sure Curators can and will. Let us show Canada and other historians our abilities!

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### SERVICE

There are strange ways of serving God;  
You sweep a room or turn a sod,  
And suddenly, to your surprise,  
You hear the whirr of seraphim,  
And find you're under God's own eyes  
And building palaces for Him.

—Herman Hagedorn

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