

Centennial and Our Women's Institutes in Ontario

Centennial year has been hailed with enthusiasm, dedicated hard work and the raising of more than \$35,000 for centennial projects by the members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Not only have they contributed in more ways than can be listed to "Make Canada Lovelier" but in many instances they have made studies to improve their understanding and knowledge that the advent of the next century may find them better informed to meet new challenges.

Flowering crab trees, red maples, shrubs and flowers (often in Women's Institute colours) were planted. Community centres were built, restored, furnished and landscaped. Parks were improved, cemeteries restored, beaches and playgrounds cleared and improved. Libraries were opened, books donated to them, and in several instances, encyclopedia and geographics presented to schools. Little red school houses, abandoned in the progress of education, were bought and preserved for meeting places. Countless school bells have been set up on cairns of all descriptions. Signs showing homes of Women's Institute members as well as entrance signs to settlements were erected. Centennial art shows, old-fashioned garden parties, balls, maple syrup festivals, "Portraits of the Past" and other fashion shows of old hats and clothes, etc. created great interest. Centennial queens were sponsored, flags bought and floats entered in community parades which always featured some of the vast number of centennial gowns fashioned for the year. Cook books were edited containing old and new recipes, antique displays of quilts, rugs, etc., revived crafts of years gone by. Histories were written, cabinets made in which to display them and Canada's history reviewed in the Centennial Train and Caravan.

Onondaga — Project — erected a cairn at the local consolidated school. The inscription on the cairn lists the names of five old schools no longer open and in the cairn is the bell from one of the schools.

Winchester — Project to donate \$1,000 to a Community Park.

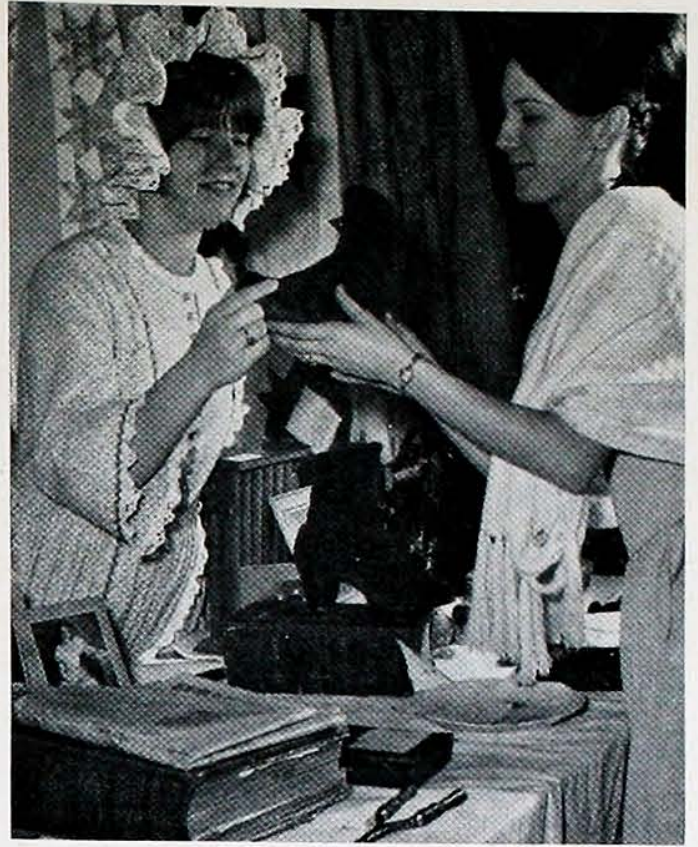
Norval supplied material with which to build a cairn for the old school bell. This cairn was unveiled at the Norval Centennial celebrations.

Adolphustown members made Centennial costumes and decided to wear them at every Women's Institute meeting during the year.

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Simplicity of character is no hindrance to subtlety of intellect.—Viscount Morley

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Members of Pleasant Ridge Pioneers 4-H Homemaking Club celebrated Centennial by setting up an antique display and wearing Centennial costumes at the Pleasant Ridge School, R.R. 2, Brantford. Examining a velvet, high button shoe—left, Miss Betty Lamb, Miss Marilyn Smith.

Portland closed celebrations of the Centennial year with an old-fashioned luncheon. Members enjoyed baked beans, home-made bread and doughnuts.

Georgetown — In 1931 the Georgetown Women's Institute erected gates at the entrance of the local cemetery. Mr. George Putnam, then Superintendent of Ontario Women's Institutes was a speaker at the dedication. In Centennial year the branch refinished the plaque which had been placed on the gates. The branch also donated three chairs to the Memorial Hospital.

Riverside Branch — Centennial celebrations took the form of an old-fashioned picnic. Four Women's Institute branches cooperated with the township council in installing a drinking fountain in the park.

Nipissing District — Verner, Warren, Mattawa and North Bay branches celebrated Centennial by enjoying a two-day, thousand-mile bus trip, visiting the counties of Grey, Bruce and Simcoe.

Coleridge Union members made a quilt with fiddles in the design and donated handwork which was sold at the Old Time Fiddlers' contest in Shelbourne. These efforts resulted in a sizeable bank account which will be used in a project for the benefit of the community.

Highland Park participated in a parade sponsored by the Rotary Club by entering a float. The proceeds of this Centennial celebration will be used by the Rotary Club for their work for crippled children.