

NEW HOMELAND — CANADA

"I love Canada, it's a great place to live — it's been good to us." These are some of the thoughts expressed by Mrs. Klaus Kroesen of Listowel.

Mrs. Kroesen came to Canada in 1953 from Holland and located in the Seaforth area. She was invited to attend a Women's Institute meeting, a most interesting afternoon was spent nodding and smiling, because she couldn't understand a word of English.

It wasn't long before Mrs. Kroesen realized she must do something about the language barrier. She had picked up a few words of English but was never certain if she was using them at the appropriate time. A gay and happy person, however, there were times in those early years in Canada when she never knew if people were laughing at her or with her.

She resolved to go to night school and started in with Grade I and in a few weeks was up to Grade IV. This progress pleased her immensely and she soon was able to laugh with both her friends and teacher and was quick to ask "how do you say it in English?" At the end of the course she was given a certificate but perhaps more important than the achievement was that special feeling of being a part of the community.

An active and outgoing individual, she now was in a position to go shopping and talk with everyone she met, belong to organizations, and become involved.

Women's Institute and 4-H has meant a great deal over the years. She always enjoyed sewing so it was a natural to assist with both junior and senior courses such as Sewing with Knits, Hats, and many more. Her beautiful display of lingerie at Guelph Area Convention was the envy of many. She likes baking too and gave high praise to Baked in a Pie. She has led eighteen 4-H clubs.

Mrs. Kroesen is a night nurse at a Listowel nursing home and firmly believes four or five hours sleep is sufficient for her. She and her husband have seven children although they only have one at home now.

She has a marvellous philosophy, if you start something don't quit or you'll always be a quitter. The secret to happiness is to keep busy doing the things you like to do and can make the greatest contribution toward.

Her final words were "Women's Institute means a great deal to me."

Maple Valley W.I. — Mrs. David Briggs and Mrs. Lee Stewart, charter members were presented with corsages at the 60th Anniversary meeting when members and former members came to reminisce. The charter members have contributed so much over the years and in the words of the PRO Mrs. Leslie — "We are proud of these members and hope we can carry on in their footsteps." A special anniversary song composed by Mrs. Lee Stewart was enjoyed along with piano solos by daughters of members. The President, Mrs. Clarence Priddle, welcomed all and asked everyone present to say a few words; these words were appreciated and enjoyed and many events were remembered that brought a special meaning to the day. The Board Director, Mrs. Norman Tuck, was the guest speaker and greetings were extended by District officers in Simcoe County.



Chaffey's Lock W.I. hold meeting at Skycroft Opricon Lake, when Mrs. Jenny Laishley was presented with a life membership badge. Along with the Branch members were the Leeds North District Officers. (L-R) Mrs. Mabel McElroy, Mrs. Marion Stone, Mrs. Jenny Laishley, Mrs. Mabel Davison, Mrs. Clara Hallett, Mrs. Alice Alford.



Codrington W.I. celebrate 65th pictured above are current executive.



A supper was served by Wellman's W.I. to honour the 4H club girls and their Mothers. Seated Miss Mary Akins, Provincial Honours. Back row (L) Mrs. Jim Rainie, assistant leader, Mrs. Byron Seeley, President of Wellman's W.I., and 4H leader Mrs. Jody Sager.