



Stop!

Think!

We've travelled in all directions.

The Women's Institutes have broadened lifestyles and given women choices and challenges.

The Women's Institutes have flown a standard for Home and Country under the colours of blue and gold with forthright dedication. Members have continued with determination to uphold that high quality of family life that was so important to Adelaide Hoodless eighty years ago.

Current trends in our lifestyles have changed since the days of Erland Lee - never did that founding group, sitting around the dining room table, think that the first object would still be as important eight decades later.

"The first object of this Institute shall be to promote that knowledge of Household Science which shall lead to improvement in household architecture with special attention to home sanitation to a better understanding of the economic and hygienic value of foods and fuels and to a more scientific care of children with a view to raising the general standard of the health of our people."

The commitment of those pioneers challenged women to see their world as it was and, with courage and honesty, change attitudes toward social needs, recognizing each other's potential.

The most effective resources both then and now include people, know-how, priorities and objectives. The ability to know when and how to use one or all of these resources and how to effectively influence meaningful change is still a common goal.

Those pioneers succeeded in passing down a most precious heritage that could only be shared by a volunteer organization; a common goal for every member - how to succeed or to put it the other way around - the drive to avoid failure. This is why in days of a changing society the Women's Institutes have stood strong and proud in the ranks of volunteerism.

The WI have provided motivation and incentives as basic determiners to eight million women around the world. However, at least as important and perhaps more importantly, to form the success of Women's Institutes, were the participants.

Each member in Ontario is a participant.

How effectively you participate depends entirely on you. You indeed have an obligation to continue to be supportive of attitudes toward standards. The future of the organization depends on worthwhile ideas, dreaming dreams, and then progressing from a stage of a dream into a stage of a reality. The very structure and programmes on local, provincial or national levels must be viewed as a means to achieving solutions to human needs.

How verbal we are, how involved we become, depends on each member. However, "people involved" projects and programmes are still necessary. They have been our strength and should continue through the coming years.

Margaret Zoeller

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