



STONEY CREEK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Mrs. Gordon Conant, Oshawa, daughter of Mrs. E. D. Smith, first president of the Stoney Creek Branch, was a head table guest at a luncheon and celebration on February 10, honouring the founding of the first Women's Institute.

Women's Institute members from surrounding Branches were guests. The President of FWIO Mrs. Herb Maluske was the speaker of the afternoon. Mrs. Joseph Bielish, FWIC President, brought greetings along with Area President Mrs. R. D. Langs, South Wentworth District President Mrs. D. McKibbon and Erland Lee Chairman, Mrs. Austin Zoeller.

President of the first Women's Institute Mrs. Lorna Rogers was chairman for the celebration. Lovely flower arrangements and congratulatory cards and letters, as well as a telegram from a link Branch, Brightstone, England, added to the event. Mayor Dean of Stoney Creek brought greetings and emphasized the importance of the W.I. and the part Stoney Creek W.I. has played in community events.

Mrs. Gordon Conant, as a very small child attended the first meeting with her mother and told about Institute involvement in her home over the years. She was always a collector of newspaper articles and has assembled many beautiful scrap books, two of which she has offered to the McLaughlin Library, University of Guelph. These were on display and will be donated within the next few weeks.

Mrs. Maluske congratulated Stoney Creek on behalf of FWIO and spoke to the audience about the 80 years of service given by Stoney Creek to Home and Country. Emphasizing the present is the outgrowth of the past, while the future is the outgrowth of the present. It is important that not only Stoney Creek but all branches assess their present status, and not grow complacent or too content. She posed a question, are we functioning as effectively as in the past? We need "STP"—steps to progress.

She continued by saying the W.I. are equal to any task. We must increase strength for future protection. W.I.s should continue to set standards—plant standards where standards never flew—harness the interest of young girls and prove we care and are interested. Let every member donate time and talent and a "token of our treasury." Patience, perseverance, constant prodding and plodding are inevitable characteristics needed in the years ahead.

Mrs. Bielish said, "You have laid the foundation well, today will be history tomorrow." Dreams are as valid today as "yesterday's yet to be." 1977 might very well be declared the year for retelling, rededication today. There is a need for new members, if we do not increase our numbers we're not living up to Mrs. Hoodless's vision. Stoney Creek W.I. has given a rich legacy to all of Canada. Mrs. Bielish extended greetings from FWIC and Queensland W.I., C.W.A. Australia and presented Stoney Creek President with a Northern W.I. magazine.

The Editor of Home and Country, Mrs. A. Zoeller spoke briefly about the "first object" and its relevance today. She reminded all of the significant place the Erland Lee Home holds in the early beginnings of Women's Institutes.



Mrs. Gordon Conant displays scrap books, containing memorabilia of WI. L—R Mrs. D. McKibbon, Wentworth South District President; Mrs. Austin Zoeller, Editor Home and Country; Mrs. Joseph Bielish, FWIC President; Mrs. Lorna Rogers, Stoney Creek President; Mrs. Gordon Conant; Mrs. Herb Maluske, FWIO President; Mrs. Roland Langs, Hamilton Area President.