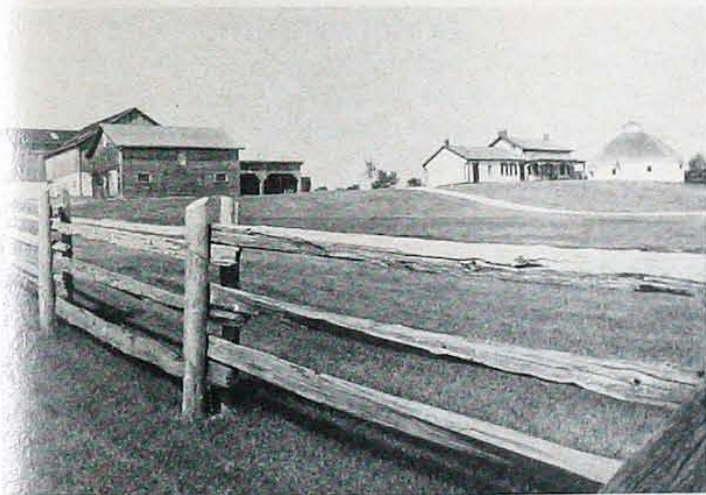




Farming as a family business has always demanded active participation by farm women. The Ontario Agricultural Museum has recognized this fact, and during the 1980 season a number of new buildings have opened with the female visitor in mind.

The Weaver's Cottage, a restored log cabin has continued its tradition as a main demonstration area at the Museum. Costumed interpreters draw visitors into the atmosphere of the pioneer days as they work with fleeces—washing, dyeing, carding, spinning and finally weaving the wool into shawls and blankets to be used in the Museum's other historic houses. The backyard of the house supports a primitive garden and provides space for the occasional sheep shearing. The aroma of Indian meal pancakes on the griddle or whole wheat bread coming from the bake pot adds credence to the pioneer lifestyle the house portrays.

The rude conditions of the first settlers fades as visitors approach the Douglass-Lucas house, an 1860 farmhouse which opened at the Museum the middle of June. This sophisticated house boasts both a formal parlour and dining parlour, in addition to the kitchen and summer kitchen. The fine furniture and many kitchen gadgets represent a prosperous period on Ontario farms.

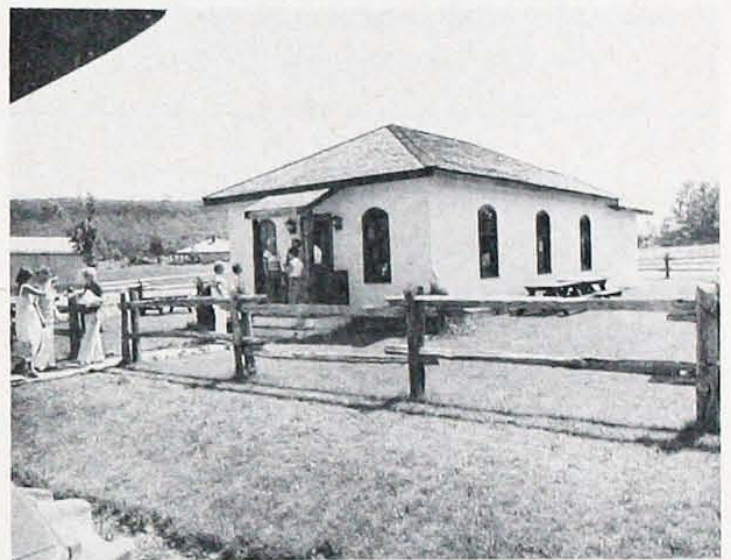


Lucas Farmstead, 1860's. Octagonal Barn, 1880's in background. Ontario Agricultural Museum.

The Mayne Corners Church is also a new addition to the Museum. Built in 1876, this Perth County church represents the many small rural churches which once served farm families throughout the province. Within two weeks of its opening at the Museum, the Church was the scene of a wedding, the first since its closing in 1969. Although open to visitors now, a Harvest Home service scheduled for mid-September will "officially" open and sanctify the Church.

Agricultural Museum

The Women's Institute Hall remains a favourite stop for visiting W.I. groups. The Museum has hosted fifty-four Institutes this season, many of whom have returned for the second time, and all have taken the opportunity to reflect upon the history of their organization which is so well displayed in the Hall. The Institute Hall also provides meeting and kitchen facilities for those who wish to mix business with pleasure while at the Museum. The Museum is pleased that their gift shop now offers souvenir spoons, plates and hasti-notes featuring the Women's Institute Hall.



Members on their way to visit the Women's Institute Hall.

Throughout its development, the Ontario Agricultural Museum has received tremendous support from Ontario's farming population in the form of artifact donation. While searching out items for the two houses now open and a third planned to open next spring, the Museum finds itself lacking certain items which Institute members may be able to help locate. In order to furnish the houses in a realistic fashion and have guides dressed in authentically constructed costume, the Museum is looking for clothes, pre-1900; for men and women of all ages. This includes hats, shoes, and accessories. Many of your Century Homes might well have a trunk of old clothes tucked away in the corner of the attic.

Early musical instruments are also in short supply at the Museum. An early violin, auto harp or harmonica for instance, would add character to our historic farmhouses.

Should any Institute member wish to inquire about specific artifacts required by the Museum, or wishes information concerning donation procedures, please contact:

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