

Why not venture through The WI Triangle?

Few of us would want to venture through The Bermuda Triangle, but how does the prospect of an excursion through The WI Triangle grab you?

Chances are, you've already passed through parts of The WI Triangle without even realizing it. After all, there's been little publicity to promote tours through Ontario's own, unique geographic triangle.

But all that will be changing in the near future as the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, in conjunction with the Ontario Agricultural Museum (OAM) in Milton, circulate a brochure encouraging groups to visit the three historic WI sites which make up the points of The WI Triangle as part of a special one-day tour.

John Wiley, general manager of the OAM — which houses the Women's Institute Hall — says 50,000 copies of the brochure will be distributed through WIs and through the OAM, the Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek and the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead in St. George.

The Women's Institute Hall at the agricultural museum in Milton dates back to 1838 when it was used as a school, community hall and union church in Trafalgar Township. From the 1870s until the 1890s, the hall (formerly known as the Sheridan Community Building), took on the new role as a Temperance Hall. It



was later used for storage purposes and as a workshop and was moved to the OAM for reconstruction in 1976. When the OAM opened in 1979, the old community hall had taken on yet another new role as the Women's Institute Hall. The time frame decided upon for restoration of the building was 1919-1929.

The WI Hall features displays depicting the history of the organization and some of the group's achievements over the years.

While at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, you may also wander



The Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek (top) and the Women's Institutes Hall at the Ontario Agricultural Museum in Milton (inset) form two corners of The WI Triangle.

New concept for WI Hall

The Ontario Agricultural Museum is refurbishing the present WI Hall to resemble a "typical WI Hall" of 1928.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario are asking for the assistance of their members.

What do you have concerning the history and/or pictures of WI Halls which were in existence in 1920-1928?

We need assistance with signs, trees, flowers, floors, walls, curtains, lighting, heating, pictures, flags, calendars, clocks, chairs, tables, and other articles which were common to that era.

Do you have meeting agendas, minutes of meetings, reports of other activities coming events, other posted notices which would have appeared

in these WI Halls of 1928?

The first display in the restored Hall will be a typical 1928 WI sewing course in progress.

Do you have 1928 sewing patterns, sewing equipment, sewing course pamphlets, clothing articles made at that time?

If you or your branch can supply some of this needed information, please contact:

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416-878-8151.

Lynn also wishes to conduct interviews with WI members regarding the WI Halls.

through 32 hectares of scenic landscape, with a clear view of the magnificent Niagara Escarpment. In addition to the WI Hall, you may visit historical farmsteads and chat with the farmer, blacksmith or weaver as they perform their trade. Discover early recipes at the open hearth and let your imagination journey back in time as you explore the restored buildings on the site. Special events and demonstrations highlight the museum season with antique cars, sheepshearing, entertainment and crafts.

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home, situated at 552 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek, is the home of the co-founder of the world's first WI. The home is now owned and maintained by the FWIO.

Erland Lee was a prominent, public-