

# Meet the Lee's new hostess

She's back!

June Coombs, who was hostess when the Erland Lee (Museum) Home opened in 1973, returned to the job last summer. "It feels like coming home," says June.

Twelve years ago, June, her husband Wayne, and their son moved out of the home because a second child was on the way. Today, that "baby" helps Mom by greeting guests who arrive while another group are being shown around. He's a really big help," June adds.

Many changes have been made to the home since June left. "The biggest change is the number of artifacts in the house. The house is very impressive. It's easy to see that the committee is full of energy and gets a lot of work done," says June.

June grew up on a farm at Vine-mont, close to the Erland Lee homestead. She knew of Frank Lee (Erland's son) and his four daughters.

June is definitely suited to the job as hostess. She loves antiques and being around old things, as well, she enjoys meeting people. She has been surprised about the number of non-Women's Institute members who have visited the homestead. Often, they are from Great Britain, but there have been Americans and guests from "down under".

June says her days are quite busy



*Erland Lee (Museum) Home hostess June Coombs pours tea from one of the antique teapots, located in the kitchen of the home. (Photo by Carol Stewart-Kirkby)*

as hostess. She dusts and vacuums the house daily, arranges tours and deals with visitors who walk-in from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June particularly enjoys taking children around the house. She says coming to the Erland Lee (Museum) Home is often a child's

first glimpse at how people lived almost 100 years ago.

You can meet June this fall at Harvest Days at the homestead, Oct. 1 and 2, or by arranging a tour for your branch. The hostess would love to have you!

## WI reps meet Ontario leaders

Charlotte Johnson, provincial president, and Ruth Grose, agriculture convenor were delegated to meet with the provincial leaders. On April 10, 1986, they met with Honourable Larry Grossman, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and Ross Stevenson, PC agriculture critic. On May 1, 1986, they met with Bob Rae, leader of the New Democratic Party and David Ramsey, NDP agriculture critic, and later with Honourable Jack Riddell, Minister of Agriculture and Food, Dr. Clare Rennie, Assistant Deputy Minister of Field Services and Technology and Joyce Canning, Co-ordinator of Rural Women.

The questions were divided into three groups — financial, marketing and labour.

OFFIR (Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate Reduction Program) has been successful. 11,000 farmers have qualified for this program which reduces the interest on long term debts to 8%. FOCAP (Farm Operating Credit Assistance Program) is intended to provide an improved cash flow and access to operating credit on an annual basis for up to three years, for farm enterprises having financial difficulties. The interest payment is 9-3/4%. The Beginning Farmers Program reduces interest on Farm Credit Corporation loans to 8%.

As well as these interest reduction programs, the National Tripartite Program is now in place. This is a stabilization program which is voluntary. Federal and provincial govern-

ments and producers contribute to the program.

**Marketing.** There is increased emphasis on safety and quality of product. The government is using a targeted approach for marketing and new markets are opening up for various commodities. Example: Pure-bred Holsteins and corn are sold to Spain.

Four more trade offices have been opened up in United States.

There is a \$3 million advertising program to encourage consumers to buy Ontario products. As to the subject of Freer Trade, the Ministry is instigating a study on each agricultural commodity.