



ERLAND LEE MUSEUM
A National Historic Site of Canada

Museum Happenings

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home was the place to be during the summer months!

The rain on June 27th didn't keep people from stopping by for the annual Strawberry Social. FWIO welcomed author Linda Ambrose who signed copies of her new book, "A Great Rural Sisterhood: Madge Robertson Watt and the ACWW".

On June 30th, the Museum welcomed back Joyce Holmes (pictured top right) who shared tales from the Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes in the UK. Three Members of her Branch attended the Queen's garden party at Buckingham Palace in honour of the UK WI's 100th Anniversary.

The Museum took "A Step Back in Time" on July 18th with a special summer heritage event, sponsored by the City of Hamilton. It was an opportunity for people of all ages to experience life in the late 1800's and early 1900's.

The Museum has welcomed many visitors, including Members from the UK. Prince Edward District WI Members visited in the spring and even helped with some yard work!

A new workshop series has been planned for the fall months, as well as a Psychic Fair and Fall Market Place scheduled in September, a Halloween Kids Event on October 24th and the Carol Sing on December 13th. There is always something to see and do at the Lee, so come out to an event or stop by for a tour – we would love to see you!



International Quilt Donated to FWIO

Ahead of the 2001 ACWW Triennial Conference in Hamilton, Ontario, Members of Thunder Bay District (Northwestern Area) agreed to coordinate an International Quilt Competition. The entry deadline was set as March 1, 2000 and 358 blocks were received from places like England, Ireland, New Zealand, Finland, Australia, South Africa, India, the United States and most provinces across Canada.

The District was fortunate to have the use of a community centre with lots of table space and good lighting. Experienced judges from the local Quilters' Guild came with tape measures and worked diligently to pick the winners.

Then the fun began! It was time to assemble them into quilts. The first quilt consisted of the winning blocks. From there they were sorted into groups of patterns and then laid out as a quilt. It was a challenge, as each block was a different pattern with many colour variations. The group worked one day a week for 6 weeks to assemble the blocks into quilt tops, including some work done at home. Thanks to the help of other Districts, the quilting was completed by April 2001. In total, there were 12 quilts, with the remaining blocks being made into attractive pillows.

Three of the quilts were raffled off at the Conference, with the remaining 9 sold by auction. WI Member, Irene Maurer, from Listowel, Ontario, was delighted to purchase one of the quilts. Soon after, Irene contacted the ladies who created the blocks and those who did the quilting. Her quilt was completed by WI Members in Hunta, Ontario and blocks came from different parts of the world.

Recently, Irene graciously donated her treasured quilt to FWIO, along with a book containing photos and correspondence with those who donated the quilt blocks. The quilt is available to see at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. Thank you, Irene, for your generosity and allowing WI Members to enjoy this special piece of history.

Pictured: Alyssa Gomori, Museum Curator, sits in the master bedroom of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home with the newly donated International Quilt and book.