

# Lillian Bell

WI member for 80 Years



The Eady-Grenard Women's Institute is proud to have Lillian Bell (pictured above) as a member of their Branch. She has been a member for eighty years. Lillian currently lives at the Grove Park Home in Barrie but keeps in touch with Branch activities.

Last year, Grove Park Home organized a competition for its residents; they were asked to write an essay on "What Canada Means to Me." Lillian, who was always a great reciter and writer of poetry, won first prize.

Submitted by Daisy Wilson, Secretary, Eady-Grenard WI, Simcoe North.

## What Canada Means to Me

By Lillian Bell

We need only look out our windows to see the great beauty that is Canada. From my window, now, can be seen green grass, tall trees and flowers in full bloom. Canada is rich and vibrant at this time of year. The summer sun gives way to the coolness of fall, and here in our part of the country the view from the window is indeed spectacular. Rich colours - red, yellow and orange - are everywhere.

Then, the trees become bare. November arrives, but my window scene is not dull and dreary for long. For the snows of winter cover all in a warm blanket and the ground is at rest. Spring does come and the earth revives; the flowers bloom and the sun becomes warm again. This change of seasons in Canada is a wonder to behold, and is so important to me.

Our ancestors recognized what a haven Canada could be and brought their families here for a better life. It was not easy, but no one said it would be. They survived and helped make this country great.

My own ancestors came from Scotland in 1832. They settled on the 5th Concession of what is now Oro-Medonte Township. The old log house is still there. It has withstood the test of time. It was a survivor.

On my cupboard is a picture taken at my daughter's fifth birthday party. It shows four generations on both sides of the family. So, we are survivors, just like the old house.

To me, Canada means strength for survival, strength to go ahead and strength to stand up for our ideals and beliefs. In Canada we have personal rights as Canadians, rights denied to many people of the world. We have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. We have the right to say no, the right to change our minds and the right to make mistakes. Other people have long recognized this and are anxious to come to our shores to share this freedom.

Canada has always provided a more kind and gently way of life. It is a more tolerant country. We have welcomed people from all parts of the world as we were welcomed ourselves years ago. We must continue to be thoughtful and considerate of other people's ways and religions. This is important for Canada and it is important to me.

So stop for a moment on Canada's birthday and just look out of your window. You will see beautiful things that are just a small part of this beautiful country. Count your blessings because we are indeed a fortunate people to be able to call Canada home.

Lillian Bell is a member of the Eady-Grenard Women's Institute, Simcoe North.

It's almost as good as being there!

The FWIO presents three videos and a Centennial Celebration Souvenir Booklet that they are offering for sale.

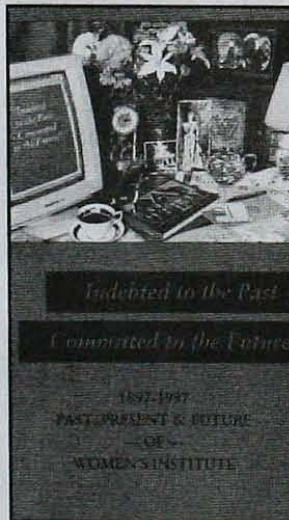
Note: All prices include taxes, shipping and handling.

TO ORDER: call the FWIO Provincial Office at 519-836-3078

"Indebted to the Past - Committed to the Future" - Celebrated on Video

This visual record combines the Centennial Celebrations in Hamilton with historical background about the WI and its roots.

Length: 2 1/4 hrs  
Cost: \$50



Scheme, Dream and Redeem

This Convention '97 Theme Presentation by Norm Rebin, co-founder of the Pinehurst Innovision Institute, encouraged the WI to continue to provide roots, role models, relevance and hope for the future.  
Length: 60 min.  
Cost: \$35

Scheme, Dream & Redeem



WI Centennial Celebration Theme Presentation

by Norman K. Rebin  
Hamilton - Ontario  
June 18, 1997