

# A Centennial Time Capsule

By Peggy Knapp

As the Convention '97 Committee was making its final arrangements for the centennial celebration of the founding of the Women's Institute being held in Hamilton in June, 1997, an exciting idea was brought forward by Jerinne Porteous, Convention '97 Registrar. "There should be a time capsule to contain all of the information and memorabilia that has come to this committee while we've been working on this special event!"

Jerinne's enthusiasm is very contagious and a small committee was formed putting Christine Reaburn and Betty Ann Mollard to work with Jerinne to recommend a container which would then be filled with interesting artifacts from the first 100 years of the organization.

When everything was assembled the Committee presented the Time Capsule to FWIO President Marg Harris at the Luncheon hosted by the Women's Institutes of Ontario at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair last November. With it was a plaque stating the following:

**TIME CAPSULE**  
Presented to the  
*Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario*  
Commemorating the 100th Anniversary  
of the Founding of  
*The Women's Institute, February 19, 1897*  
by  
*The Centennial Celebration Convention*  
November 7, 1997  
To be opened in the year 2047



Pictured above from left to right are Peggy Knapp - Chair, Convention '97 Committee, Betty Ann Mollard - Co-Treasurer, Convention '97, Marg Harris - FWIO President (at that time), Jerinne Porteous - Registrar, Convention '97 and Christine Reaburn - Co-Chair, Convention '97.

Following the ceremony, the President presented the plaque to Pauline Lindsay, Chair of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Committee, to be placed on a cairn to be erected at the Home. On completion, the Time Capsule will be placed on the cairn to be sealed for the next 50 years!

WI members and guests in attendance at the Luncheon then had a preview of what would be placed inside the Time Capsule: everything of interest from 1897 Canadian coins to the Convention '97 Pin, from the first 1933 edition of *Home & Country* to a copy of the Program held across the province on February 19, 1997, to a copy of *For Home and Country* by Linda Ambrose. A veritable treasure trove.

What an appropriate conclusion to a very special year in the life of the Women's Institute.

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Several speakers express ideas about the value of WI, recruiting new members, ways of promoting WI and finding a niche.

**Length:** 60 minutes  
**Cost:** \$35

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
CENTENNIAL

*Celebration*

*"Indebted to the Past - Committed to the Future"*

**WI Centennial Celebration & FWIC Convention - Commemorative Booklet**

A day-by-day photo documentary of Convention '97 highlights. Over 300 black and white pictures, with 4 pages in full colour. The book also contains daily events and excerpts from convention speakers.

**Length:** 48 pages  
**Cost:** \$10