



# Update from the Erland Lee Home

By Mary Kneebone

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home has successfully completed several decorating projects over the last year. The exterior of the Home has been painted and is looking wonderful. The interior underwent a transformation as new wallpaper was applied to the 1873 addition of the Home. The completion of the wallpaper project was made possible through a grant from the Hamilton Community Foundation. Their financial support is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all Women's Institute members who have donated money towards the decorating projects.

As well, our General Store has been refurbished, complete with insulation, new lighting and carpeting. The walls were covered with barn board, which helps maintain the space as an old country store.

Now that these projects are completed, we require help from you, the members and supporters of the Museum, in other ways. We need donations of artifacts, to not only enhance the quality of the present collection, but to add to our interpretation of the life and times of the Lee family through the generations. We are looking for the following items, from the time period from 1850 to 1910, that are in good condition for display purposes:

- a child's stitched sampler
- childrens, mens and ladies shoes
- a set of water goblets
- picture frames of all sizes for walls or tabletops
- a tin bath or ladies hip bath
- a fire screen
- a child's quilt or cradle covers
- ladies corsets and bustles
- 8' x 7' (approx.) lace and/or damask tablecloths

If you would like to donate any of these items, please call so arrangements can be made to get the items to the Museum. All donations are subject to approval by the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Committee.

Next year, it will have been twenty-five years since the Women's Institutes purchased the Lee Home. The Lee Committee extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave so generously to the Museum during this time. I have received many favourable comments from our visitors about the wonderful artifacts we display. All who have contributed should be proud of what you have accomplished.

If you or your Branch did not visit the Lee during the 1996 season, plan to do so in 1997. Our 1997 Event Brochure is now available from the Museum. Our first event will be our M-m-maple Syrup Day on Saturday, April 5, from 9 to 2 p.m. The cost is \$4 per adult and \$2 for children ten and younger.

To celebrate the centennial, the Erland Lee will be hosting Garden Parties on June 16 and 17, 1997. Meet our founders, Erland and Janet Lee and Adelaide Hoodless, as they welcome WI members from around the world! Period entertainment and food are also part of the planned festivities. There is a choice between attending a morning or afternoon Garden Party, so pre-registration is necessary.

For those attending the Convention in Hamilton, your Garden Party form is included with your Convention '97 registration package. The cost is \$25, including your transportation to and from the Convention Centre. For those providing their own transportation, the cost is \$15, and registration forms are available at the Lee (Museum) by calling (905)662-2691. The deadline for the \$15 pre-registration is January 31, 1997. After this date, the cost will be \$25. Don't delay, get your registration form today!

Watch for the next issue of the *Home & Country* for dates and times for our 5th Annual Local Artist Show & Sale in July, our Harvest Luncheons in September and our Victorian Christmas Fair in November.



Mary Kneebone is the Curator of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home in Stoney Creek, Ontario. She can be reached at 552 Ridge Rd., Stoney Creek ON L8J 2Y6, Phone: (905)662-2691.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Mrs. Roelens-Grant,

The late Evelyn Truax was the Secretary of Allenwood Women's Institute from 1956 to 1960, and later was the President for many, many years. When Evelyn joined Allenwood, she brought along her daughter Glenna, who was then in her teens. Evelyn and Glenna were faithful Institute members and rarely missed a meeting. ... Their contribution was enormous.

Glenna had Downe's Syndrome and her communication skills were limited. But Evelyn said, "Glenna always knew when it was Institute day, and she'd be sitting there with her book long before I was ready to go anywhere."



Glenna Truax

In spite of Glenna's handicap, she had her chores to do ... and she protected her territory, not a bit pleased if anyone took over her job... When Allenwood catered a banquet, Glenna folded all the serviettes and laid one at each place setting. If the banquet was large, she allowed assistance with the folding, but no one was ever allowed to touch her grated carrots. She made each plate as pretty as she could.

Another job Glenna enjoyed was playing Mrs. Santa Claus. At our Christmas meeting she was in charge of handing out the gifts, and her face reflected the happiness of the occasion.

When Evelyn died, other Allenwood members would call for Glenna and bring her to the meetings. She would be waiting with her book, just as she had done when her Mom was living. This continued until Glenna and her father moved to Hawkestone to be closer to other family members. And Allenwood, of course, still kept in touch.

Glenna died in her 54th year, an advanced age for one with Downe's Syndrome and a testimonial to the loving care she received from family and friends throughout her life.

Glenna will always be remembered.  
Sincerely,  
Anne Stuttaford  
Allenwood WI, Simcoe Centre