

Renfrew County Poem Travels Overseas

By Doris Humphries

Most Women's Institutes in Ontario have the opportunity to compete against other Institutes at their local fair. A committee sets a theme and articles in competition must adhere to that theme. The theme for the 1994 Renfrew County Fair was "A Warm Welcome to Renfrew County;" an appropriate theme considering Renfrew hosted the Plowing Match last September.

One item for competition was a mounted 16-line poem about Renfrew County. The poems submitted were all very worthy and expressed great affection for Renfrew. The winning poem was composed by Doris Humphries, a Life Member of the Castleford Women's Institute.

The poem travelled far. In November, a group of curlers from Renfrewshire, Scotland, visited Renfrew, Ontario, for a day of touring, visiting, curling, dining and fun. Part of the evening's entertainment was poetry reading.

A Robbie Burns poem was read in true Scottish brogue by a curler from Scotland. Doris Humphries read her poem "Renfrew County," and then presented it to her curling opponent from Renfrewshire. The poem had been artistically mounted, along with a County map and coloured photographs of Renfrew through the seasons. The poem is now on display in Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Doris Humphries is a member of the Castleford WI in the Renfrew South District.



*Renfrew County, what a beauty!
Has the bearing of a queen.
Tall and shapely, healthy, wholesome,
Lively, lovely, wise, serene.*

*Ottawa River hugs her shoulders,
Long a friend of strength and worth,
Brought her settlers, shipped her timber,
Gave her power, and fish, and mirth.*

*Renfrew County loves her seasons,
Winter glistens, autumn glows,
Spring smiles like a proud new mother,
Summer one long party throws.*

*Renfrew County loves her people,
Nationalities a score,
Occupations valued, varied,
Everyday she's loved still more.*

Quilting for Beginners



The Education Committee in Subdivision 25 - Lambton South, Centre and North District WI's - recently offered a course in 'Quilting for Beginners.' Interest in the course was great, with two sessions of 17 and 18 participants. And there was enough interest for a third session of 15. The finished products were displayed at an 'Achievement Day' held at the Petrolia OMAFRA office. One of the participants, Lucienne Bunda (left), is pictured displaying her handiwork with the Instructor, Gladys Elliott (right).

1995 Events at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home

June WI Days

Dates: Sat., June 3 - Sun., June 4, 1995

Time: Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun., 1-5 p.m.

This year our theme is "A Market Place of Ideas." The Drive House will be full of wonderful ideas and projects from our members over the past year. Demonstrations and free information - on such topics as the environment and recycling - will not only inform you, but inspire you to take a more active role in your community. Plan to stop by and learn more about Women's Institute.

Local Artist Show & Sale

Dates: Sat., July 1 - Mon., July 31, 1995

Time: Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun., 1-5 p.m.

If you enjoy great artwork, then the Erland Lee is the place to be! Local artists from the Region will display and sell their work throughout July. A selection of watercolours, oils and photography will be available, varying in price to suit every budget.

Pioneers at Work & Play

Dates: Sat., Aug. 12 - Sun., Aug. 13, 1995

Time: Sat., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sun., 1-5 p.m.

Cost: \$4/person

Step back into the early 1800s and discover what pioneering in Saltfleet Township was really like. There will be demonstrations in woodworking, weaving and spinning, dress-making and traditional cooking. Come and enjoy a pioneer helping of peach cobbler!

Harvest Luncheon

Dates: Wed., Sept. 27 - Thurs., Sept. 28, 1995

Time: 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. sittings

Cost: \$8/person

Once again, we will be hosting a harvest lunch. There are two sittings. The cost is \$8 per person and the tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available at the Museum, so call now; this is a sell out event that happens only once a year!

Victoriana Christmas Fair

Date: Sat., Nov. 4, 1995

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Christmas comes early this year at the Lee Home. Making traditional Victorian tree ornaments, and Christmas cooking, baking and creative decorating ideas are on the agenda. If a traditional Christmas is what you are looking for, then visit the Lee.

For more information about these events or the Lee Home, contact Mary Kneebone, Curator, The Erland Lee (Museum) Home, 552 Ridge Rd., Stoney Creek ON L8J 2Y6, Phone: (905)662-2691. Normal business hours are Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person, except on special event days.