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Along with the traditional ribbon cutting, the opening ceremonies were closed with the passing of the key. Les Foote (centre), Reeve of Guelph Township, presented the key to the house to Maisie Lasby (right), Chair of the Space Task Force Committee, who then presented it to Donna Russett (left), President of the FWIO.

*“Women’s Institutes have always met their challenges and their changes. ... I want to congratulate ... those other Presidents and those Board Directors, ... who sat around the Board table a few years ago and made with courage and foresight the decision to go ahead with this change and this new beginning. Long may you continue to make a difference for women, for families, and for communities around our province.”*

Peggy Knapp, ACWW Area President for Canada

*“Once we [began] talking to the Women’s Institutes we thought we’d finally found the best tenant we could ever find.”*

Les Foote, Reeve, Guelph Township



Marjorie Durnford, former resident of the house and West End WI member, researched and wrote the brief history of the house relayed on the plaque installed on the front. The one-and-a-half storey house is believed to have been erected in 1885 on the site of its log predecessor. It was built during the ownership of the Gillies family who arrived in 1839, who were among the Scottish pioneers known as La Guayran immigrants who settled this section of Guelph Township in 1827.