

- install a set of commercial "toilet dams" on your old toilet and use between 25% and 40% less water (never use bricks; they can break down over time and cause damage)
- put two 2-litre plastic jugs filled with water in your toilet tank
- check for leaks in your toilet tank by putting a small amount of food colouring into the tank; if, without flushing, the colour appears in the toilet bowl, you have a leak to repair immediately
- don't use your toilet as a wastebasket for tissue, cigarette butts and hazardous waste that can cause problems at sewage treatment plants
- install water flow-reducer attachments to all your faucets and showerheads
- repair leaky taps

Water-wise tips for the great outdoors:

- cut your grass higher than 6 centimetres to reduce evaporation and provide shade for the roots; remember, short grass belongs on the golf course

- water your lawn 2 to 3 cm. per week (to determine how long it takes to receive this amount, put a can under your sprinkler and time how long it takes to fill the can to that level); remember, green grass doesn't need water
- give your lawn a thorough soaking once a week to help produce stronger grass with a deep root system
- prevent evaporation by watering in the early morning
- use a sprinkler with a coarse spray instead of a fine mist
- choose trees, plants and grasses that need less water
- mulch around trees and bushes to keep moisture around the roots
- design your yard with less grass
- use a bucket and sponge to wash your car, then rinse it with the hose
- use a broom to clean your driveway and sidewalks, never use a hose
- cover your swimming pool to prevent evaporation

## The Life of An Artifact: At the Erland Lee Home

Located in the parlour of the Lee Home are two blue vases from the home of Senator McQueston of Hamilton, long-time friends of the Lee Family. These vases were given to the Lee's as a personal gift. They were in the possession of Miss Marjorie Lee, daughter of Erland and Janet Lee.



## Organization Profile:

# Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues

### History

In 1973, the Ontario Cabinet created the Ontario Status of Women Council to advise the government on matters regarding women. To more aptly reflect a new role and mandate, the name was changed in 1984 to the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues.

On May 3, 1991, Council was given a 7-month mandate which called for a compilation of views on how to improve communications between women and the government. On December 13, 1991, Council presented its *Report to the Government On Improving Communications Between Women and the Ontario Government*.

### New Mandate

The Council's new mandate includes:

- advising the government through the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues about economic, social and legal equality issues;
- responding to requests from the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues;
- meeting annually in each of the six regions (northwest, northeast, southwest, central, east and Metro Toronto) to gather views on issues of concern and exchange information about government activities; and,
- meeting annually in Toronto so Council has the opportunity to meet with the Premier and other Cabinet members.

### Structure

Fifteen members, including a Chair, are appointed on a part-time basis to terms of not more than three years. Except for the Chair, members are appointed from nominations by individuals from groups within each region. Three members come from the northwest and northeast, and two from the southwest, central, eastern and Metro Toronto regions.

### Activities:

#### *Working with Women's Groups*

Council meets regularly with women's groups in regional consultation, responds to requests for information, and identifies issues as they arise for the Chair.

### Newsletter

Council publishes a newsletter, Council Update, at least once a year. All publications are available to the public, free of charge. A complete publications list is available from the office.

#### *Speaking Out*

The Chair and members will undertake limited speaking engagements, free of charge. For more information call their Communications Officer at (416)326-1842. Collect calls accepted in Ontario.

For more information about the Council call the above number, or write to The Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, 880 Bay St., 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1N3.