



Anne Craig-Staff

SONG OF CELEBRATION — As part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Camden East and Reidville WIs, the Gospelaire provided entertainment, including a new song. The Gospelaire from left are: Kathryn Jaymes, Betty Saul and Corolyn Lawlor.

SATURDAY BEAVER MARCH 1, 1997

Women's Institute turns 100

On Feb. 19, 1997, Women's Institute members around the world celebrated the formation of the first WI branch in Stoney Creek, Ont. In Ontario, all branches met on that date, using a common program. Peggy McLeod, chair of the branch program committee, states the purpose of this meeting is "to join together in unity and spirit to honour this very special day."

The program included the traditional singing of the WI Ode, the reciting of the Mary Stewart Collect, the reading of the minutes of the first meeting in Stoney Creek and a candle lighting ceremony. It also included a skit "Do You Know That...". The role call is "What I have accomplished with a WI life skill." In the early years, all branches presented a motto — two minutes of inspiration. For the province-wide meeting, the motto is: *Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future.*

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The major celebration of the centennial will

take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre from June 17-22. Delegates have already registered from Canada, New Zealand, China, India, England, the United States, Cameroon, and the Isle of Wight.

The theme of the national convention, hosted by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario is, "Indebted to the Past; Committed to the Future." Theme speaker on the opening day is Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of *For Home and Country*, the recently published history of the Institute movement.

Centennial Day, June 21, features an internationally renowned speaker on "Committed to the Future," followed by a historical pageant written by Peggy Knapp, a former FWIO president.

An international dinner, with delegates in national costumes, and a multicultural program will complete the program.

Registration forms for the centennial celebration are available from the FWIO provincial office in Guelph, telephone (519) 836-3078.