

STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS

March, 1959: Local committee in Wentworth South met to discuss means of perpetuating the founding of the Women's Institute, and considered the purchase of about 4 acres of land from the Lee Homestead with the idea of establishing a museum and possibly park facilities. However, this proved too great an expense for the District Women's Institute, and it was decided to erect a cairn.

1960: A further resolution was presented to Wentworth South District with the idea of purchasing the Lee Home, then at a cost of \$30,000, to establish a possible museum, craft and cultural centre.

May 28, 1961: The cairn was unveiled. The plaque was mounted on a large boulder placed in the front lawn of the home. It honours Erland and Janet Lee. ↘

November, 1964: A communication was received by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, from the Saltfleet Women's Institute of Wentworth South District, recommending the purchase and preservation of the Erland Lee Home, which would consist of 2.9 acres, two houses and a barn. The committee of Mrs. Leonard Trivers, FWIO President; Mrs. L. Lymburner, past-president FWIO; Mrs. Russell Wise, Board Director Subdivision 17; and Mrs. Allan Dickenson, past Board Director of Wentworth South (Sub 17), was set up to investigate the possibility of the above recommendation.

Nov., 1966: The Lee Homestead Committee was given permission to take an option on the Lee Property, at a cost of \$40,000.

October 1, 1967: The plaque was unveiled by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario on the front lawn of



FIRST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1897

The world's first Women's Institute was organized at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, in 1897. Erland Lee, a founder of the Farmers' Institute, assisted by his wife, arranged the meeting. About 100 women from the Saltfleet Township district attended and were persuaded by Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless to form an organization of their own to improve their skills in the arts of homemaking and child care. Here, in the Lee home, Mr. Lee subsequently helped to draft the constitution of the new society. Mrs. E. D. Smith of Winona became the first president of the "Mother Institute". The Women's Institutes movement has since become a world-wide organization.

Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.