

# For Home and Country



At the 79th annual meeting of the Wentworth South District Women's Institutes held at Stoney Creek United Church, Mrs. Hilda Beechin, hostess at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, spoke on the theme "If we forget the past, we will lose the key to the future".

She reminisced about the early days when settlers first arrived in this area, telling about the Lee family who settled at the Lee homestead, their hardships, problems and small triumphs.

By the late 1880's the women were ready for a group to learn, exchange ideas, socialize, etc. So the Women's Institute was formed in 1897. At first there was much opposition to this organization, but as more and more women kept attending the idea thrived and soon there were branches all over Ontario, and indeed in all of Canada, elevating standards of homemaking, contributing to the farm organizations, and helping to develop a fuller life in family and community.

Although during the past decades, many ways of life have changed, we must keep in mind that the prime objectives of *Women's Institute* have not changed. We must continue to take on new projects as new needs arise to achieve a better way of life for all people everywhere.

We want to demonstrate the excitement of continuous good learning, keeping informed and speaking out about new issues of the day, and planning a better future for the coming generation.

Mrs. Beechin mentioned the Association of Country Women of the World, an international organization of over 7 million women with a common purpose, which is meeting in Vancouver in June.

We, with our 'Pennies for Friendship', are making it possible for some women from underdeveloped countries to attend. What a wonderful way of sharing and how wonderful that we can share! This is one example of intelligent caring that the Women's Institutes of Canada are doing.

Mrs. Beechin closed with the thought that "We possess the past by memory and the future by anticipation."

Ladies from the Saltfleet hostes branch looked after the registration and welcomed some 75 W.I. members. Mrs. Elva Weylie, president of the district, presided at this annual meeting, which began in the usual way with the Ode, the Collect and the National Anthem.

Mrs. Bernice Dawes led in a memorial service for all W.I. members who have served faithfully but are no longer with us.

Rev. Cedric Arnold, of Stoney Creek United Church, gave the invocation and Mrs. L. Wilson of Saltfleet welcomed all.

Mrs. Dorothy Jones, provincial board director, ratified the district directors and presented each with the new Women's Institute Handbook, which had been published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Mrs. Jones brought the following items from her report from the Provincial W.I.: This year's theme is 'Women-Unlimited Potential', 'The likeness of Laura Rose Stevens, who designed our F.W.I.O. badge and suggested the motto 'For Home and Country', is to be unveiled in the Institute Hall of Fame at Milton at the Agriculture Museum; W.I. is offering 28 scholarships to girls and 22 Macdonald awards; in 1984 there will be a competition for Ontario's Bicentennial; W.I. is asked to prepare a special quilted wall hanging to be placed behind Queen Elizabeth when she visits in 1984; in 1985 at the triennial meeting of F.W.I.C. in Ontario we expect to have over 80 delegates visit the Lee and the Adelaide Hunt Homestead; our new twinning province is to be New Brunswick.

Mrs. Jones urged us to get involved against pornography of all kinds.

As this is Dorothy's final year as board member, she mentioned how much she had learned, experienced and enjoyed during her 3 year term and urged us to continue as an enthusiastic district following the principles of Women's Institute.

As hearing the minutes of 1982 annual and satisfactory financial report, it was decided to present \$1000 from the Isabelle Baxter Memorial Fund to Chedoke Hospital and label it for 'continuing care for emotionally disturbed children'.

Mrs. Weylie, in her remarks, wants us to get involved and accept responsibility and voice our opinions. We need to search for new members, encourage them and use them to help raise our standards.

We relaxed a few minutes with a sing-song led by June Williams and Marie Kott, ending with the singing of the Hymn of All Nations.

Excellent reports from all standard committee convenors proved that once again all eight branches had a very

educational, interesting and productive year with much community involvement.

A delicious bountiful lunch was served by the Stoney Creek U.C.W. and we returned to the meeting room.

Miss Joyce Canning, rural organization coordinator, is the liaison person between Women's Institutes and the Department of Agriculture and Food from Guelph. She stated how much the department appreciates our help and support for 4H clubs and adult courses.

There will be 2 new programs for adults 'More Sense than Dollars' and 'Simple Home Repairs', as well as the 4H club 'Looking Great-Feeling Great'.

This is the 50th anniversary of the W.I. magazine and now we have a new editor.

Joyce stated that as we are living in an age of computers we should become knowledgeable of these. We should try to make the community aware of what our goals are and what we are trying to achieve.

We were entertained by 15 members of the Vocalaires of Hamilton, a group of ladies singing familiar and inspirational songs. They sing at many functions and have given any donations to the audiology department at Chedoke Hospital for helping hearing-impaired children.

A report from the Lee hostess, Mrs. Beechin, advised us that there were 3400 visitors at the Lee Home during the past year and she urged us to use the home for picnics, meetings etc.

Mrs. Elaine Butikofer spoke about the officers' conference at Waterloo when the theme was 'Approach each tomorrow with what you have learned today.'

Tweedsmuir history curator, Miss Grace Calder stated that our 8 district branches have 14 history books and that these histories are an invaluable source of material if one wishes to delve into the past.

Mrs. Cleda Yachetti, federated representative, mentioned the area convention on October 18 & 18 at the Beacon Motor

Inn at Jordan Harbour, with the theme 'Friendship in today's world.'

Mrs. Iva VanSickle, from Patricia branch, presented the slate of officers for the 1983-84 year and these officers were installed by Dorothy Jones. Mrs. VanSickle invited the District of Patricia area for the 1984 annual to be held the 5th Thursday in May.

Courtesies were given by Cleda Yachetti and the meeting closed with 'God Save the Queen'.

### Wentworth South District Officers for 1983-84:

Past president, Mrs. Roger Yachetti; president, Mrs. Ferris Weylie; 1st vice president, Mrs. Norman Ward, 2nd vice

pres., Mrs. Norman Elliott; 3rd vice pres., Mrs. Harold Tossell; sec., Mrs. Ralph Deuxberry; treas., Mrs. Eric Anderson; P.R.O., Mrs. Arthur Dawes; federated representative, Mrs. Andrew Lowden; alternate, Mrs. Allan Stewart; curator, Miss Grace Calder; auditors, Mrs. Douglas McKibbin & Mrs. Edward Butikofer.

Standing committee convenors: Agriculture & Canadian industries, Mrs. Edsal Laidman; citizenship & world affairs, Mrs. Frank Petanowitch; education & cultural activities, Mrs. Harold VanSickle; family & consumer affairs, Mrs. Harold Tossell; resolutions, Mrs. Rene Butikofer.