

# For Home and Country

Erland Lee was a man of great foresight.

A founding member of the Farmer's Institute, an association for the learning of better farming methods, Mr. Lee, after hearing Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless explain her views on the education of girls, with his wife, persuaded Saltfleet Township women to attend a meeting in Squires Hall, Stoney Creek.

From that meeting came the initiation of the women's department of the Farmer's

Institute of South Wentworth, which became the Women's Institute of Saltfleet Township, which was later changed to the Stoney Creek Women's Institute, the first Women's Institute in the world.

Mrs. E.D. Smith, of Winona, became the first president.

But all that was in 1897.

Today, the efforts of those pioneering institute members are known throughout the world. But their history isn't forgotten.

At the Erland Lee Home, Ridge Road in Stoney Creek, the memories of those early Women's Institute days are captured for ever.

The walnut diningroom table, on which the WI's constitution was signed, which Mrs. Lee brought as a bride to Saltfleet, is still there, as it was 80 years ago.

So are hundreds of other things, that were part of the Lee Homes then, and things from WI groups around the country.

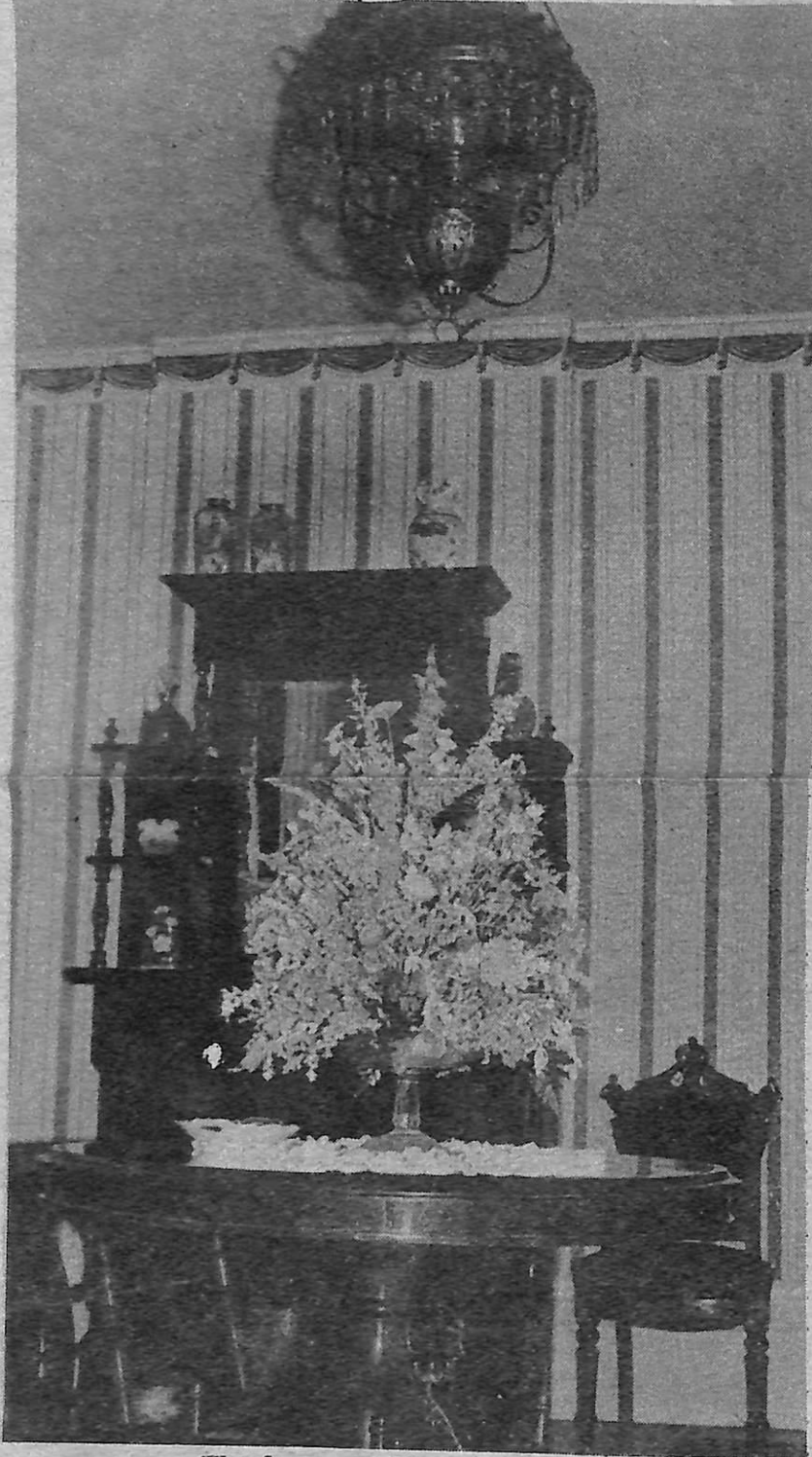
It's well Worth a visit.

## FIRST WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1897

The world's first Women's Institute was organized at Squires 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.

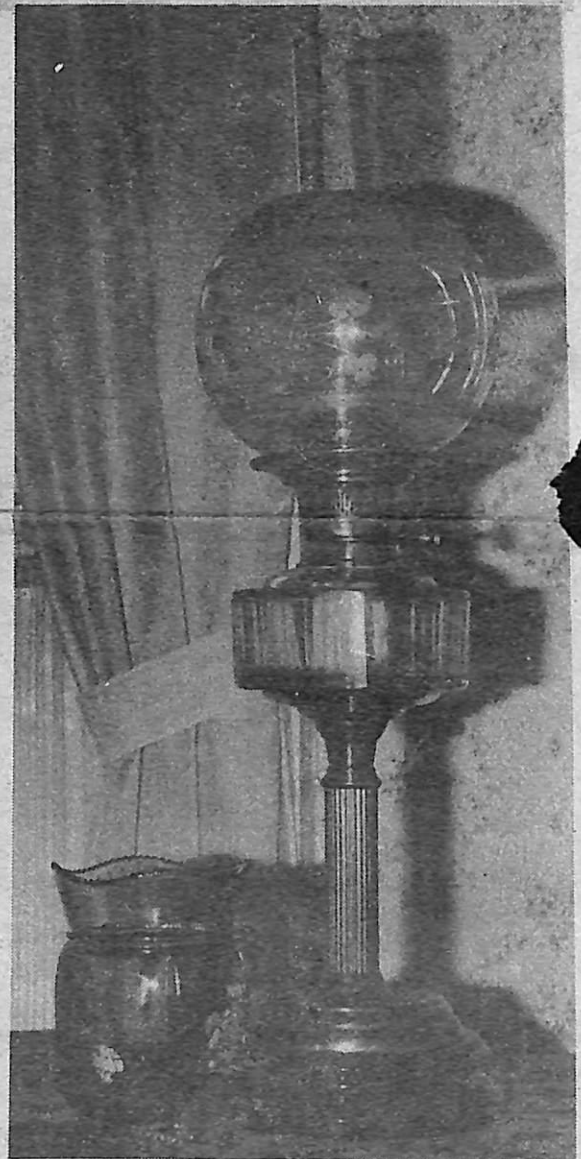
The Erland Lee Home plaque tells the story.



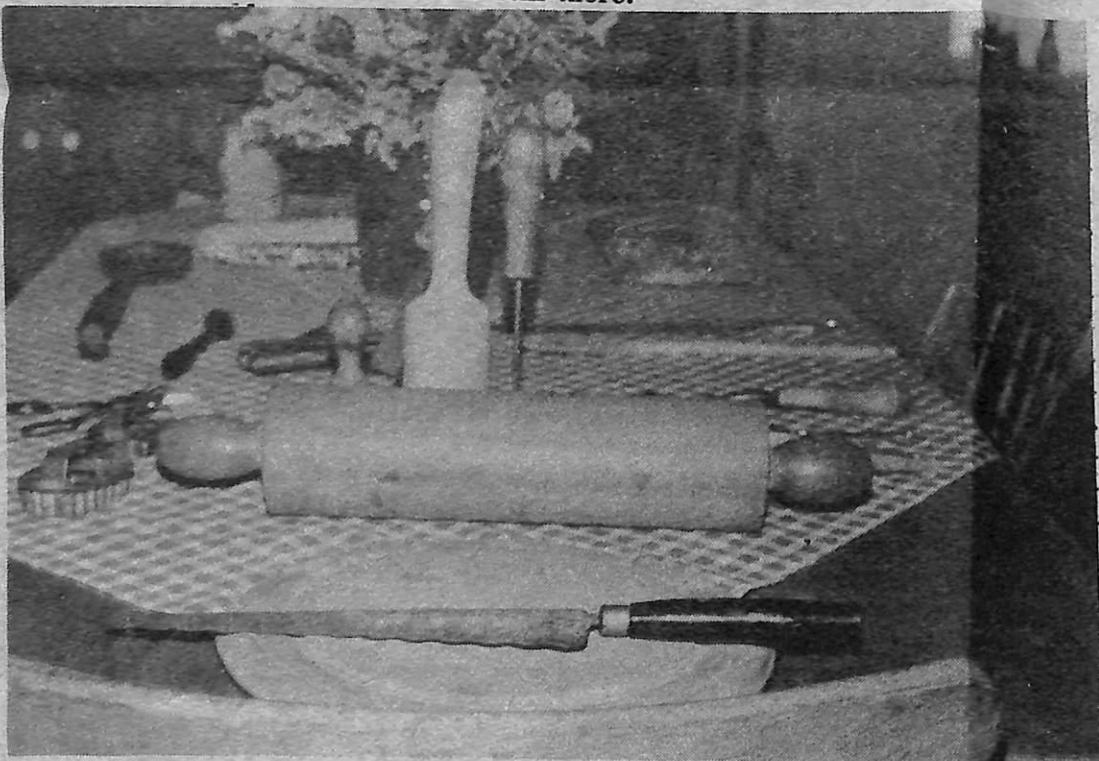
The famous table is still there.



Old ways are remembered.



A touch of tradition.



It's yesterday come alive.



The idea-to improve homemaking.