

## WI hires curator for home

In an effort to improve the image of Erland Lee (Museum) Home, a full-time curator/hostess has been hired.

Jennifer Dunkerson starts her job today at the Stoney Creek facility operated by the Federated Women's Institute (WI) of Ontario.

Located at 552 Ridge Rd., the museum is the former home of WI co-founder Erland Lee. It operates weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Saturdays.

The season runs from Feb. 1 to Dec. 24.

Sue Hilborn, WI public relations officer, says Dunkerson has an extensive historical education and a keen interest in promoting the "Lee" to its full potential. Her job will involve developing the home as both a museum and a research facility.

Hilborn says the home is not just part of WI history, but also a fine example of Victorian architecture, complete with unique period artifacts.

Erland and Janet Lee lived in the home in 1897 when the first WI branch was formed in Stoney Creek.

Erland's co-founder was Adelaide Hoodless, whose motivation to establish the WI came from the death of her daughter from drinking unpasteurized milk.

The unfortunate incident made her realize there was a need for education among rural women.

Pamela Bronn, a member of the museum committee, says the WI has changed its focus over the years from strictly educational to a combination of personal development and community action.

The group has even had some of its resolutions passed into law. Among them was a recommendation that all school buses activate flashing lights when stopping, Bronn said.

The WI currently has about 20,000 members in Ontario with an average age of somewhere between 55 and 60.

A number of special events have been planned for the museum this spring and summer. They include: A 'Christie Antique Biscuit Tin Collection' display from April 15 to 30, a 'Hands-on Heritage Craft Day' April 27, 'Weddings of a Bygone Era' June 4 and 5 and 'Fans and Parasols' on Aug. 24.