

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

On June 15, 1972 the Erland Lee Home became the property of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Besides the house with attached garage, a tenant house and the drive house on the scenic property, other furnishings included in the purchase price were:

- * in the dining room — the dining-room table on which Janet Lee hand penned the constitution six red leather upholstered dining-room chairs which have since been re-upholstered in red velvet, a large sideboard, and a desk built into the bay window;
- * in the pioneer kitchen — the large floor-to-ceiling pine cupboard built in 1801 using virgin pine from the property;
- * upstairs — two single beds, one three-quarter bed, two chests of drawers, a desk and a large wardrobe which was brought by Janet Chisholm from her family home when she became the bride of Erland Lee.

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-- 1973 --

Immediately following the purchase, improvements were begun in preparation for the many visitors anticipated. The back portion of the house, which is the older part, was not used by the Lees in later years. This seemed the appropriate place to renovate for an apartment for a host and hostess.

- * The apartment consists of — Main floor — a kitchen with cupboards, dining room, living room, laundry room; Upstairs — three bedrooms and a bathroom; Adjoining garage.
- * There was absolutely no outside structural change, so that if at any time Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario should feel the need for expansion, the house itself is still intact.
- * The original back-stairway door, leading upstairs, still remains in the pioneer kitchen. However, it was found necessary to change the turn of the stairs that entry might be made by the hostess from their living quarters.
- * In the Drive House — a new stairway was built to the loft and a railing put around the open centre space.

--- 1975 --- WATER AND WASHROOMS

- * The well was drilled in April, a pump was installed
- * The piping was dug underground
- * The public washrooms were built during the summer
- * The upstairs of the Home was restored to original appearance
- * The small bathroom in the hall upstairs was removed
- * The Home was papered throughout with period wallpaper

---1976--- PAINT JOB AND INSTALLATIONS

- * The Home — white with green trim; the Tenant House — green trim
- * The Drive House and Picnic Tables — old-fashioned red
- * The Washrooms — outside trim, white inside, women's --cream, men's -- blue, kitchenette -- yellow
- * The Signs — repainted black and white
- * New aluminum eavestroughs and downspouts put on the Home
- * New unit steps and an iron railing at the west entrance

--- 1977 --- DRIVE HOUSE RENOVATION

- * The roof was insulated and covered with plywood inside
- * The walls were sided inside with spruce
- * Installations -- electric heat, display boards and cases, a fire door and a ramp
- * A demonstration area has been provided
- * A picture gallery is an interest spot

--- 1979 --- FRONT VERANDAH RESTORATION

- * The front verandah, the front doors and the storm doors were restored to their original style
- * The floor was cemented
- * The step was made from field stone from the property

--- 1980 ---

- * The Foundation Fund goal was reached
- * The upstairs floor in the Drive House was reinforced
- * A dusk-to-dawn light was placed on the Drive House
- * The alarm monitoring system and a shatter guard system were installed
- * A new cedar-shakes roof with copper flashings was put on the Home

Accomplishments

Actions

Aims

Federated
Women's
Institutes
of Ontario



An organization
meeting the needs of
today's women