

Opportunities

Aims

History

The first Women's Institute in the world was organized at Stoney Creek, Ontario on February 19, 1897 by co-founders Adelaide H. Hoodless and Erland Lee.

BECOME A MEMBER

- woman or girl over 16
- attend nearest branch
- pay membership fee
- receive your handbook and copy of Home & Country, our magazine
- automatically become a member provincially (F.W.I.O.) nationally (F.W.I.C.) and internationally (A.C.W.W.)

An educational organization for women who, by working together can expand their skills, broaden their interests and work to improve conditions in homes, communities, the nation and around the world.

- to help discover, stimulate and develop leadership and confidence
- to help identify and resolve needs and problems in the community
- to help promote use of available resource material
- to help develop better informed, happier and more useful citizens



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEMBERS

- WORK** to improve homes and communities
- LEARN** by participation in planned programs, workshops and conferences
- INITIATE** educational programs and special projects for the benefit of the community
- STUDY** current issues and problems related to family and society
- INFORM** governments and other decision makers of rural women's viewpoints
- INFLUENCE** action by presenting brief submissions concerning problems of our day
- SUPPORT** projects in our province, in Canada and overseas
- PROVIDE** scholarships and bursaries
- ENJOY** the friendship of fellow members, making new friends and the warmth of serving others

During its history, Ontario Women's Institutes have achieved many accomplishments.

Locally, WIs have supported libraries, parks, **4-H Clubs**, agricultural fairs, hospitals and nursing homes, foster children overseas, community halls, museums and recreation areas.

Also on the local level, **Tweedsmuir Histories** have been developed and maintained. These books document the history of the vicinity through its buildings, people, farms and industry.

Provincially, Women's Institutes offer **scholarships** for continuing education and support local members with a leadership training opportunity every year called Officers' Conference.

The **Erland Lee (Museum) Home**, in Stoney Creek, is owned and supported by Ontario Women's Institutes. It is the home of WI co-founder Mr. Lee and has been completely refurbished to its original style for WI members and the public to enjoy.

Nationally, Women's Institutes participate in competitions and scholarships and support **the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead** — the home of co-founder Mrs. Hoodless.

Internationally, Women's Institutes belong to the **Associated Country Women of the World**. As members, they support community improvement projects in the **Third World** like nutrition education and sanitary water facilities. They also act as consultants to the **United Nations**.