

# New school to be named after Janet Lee

Wentworth County Board of Education trustees voted unanimously on Oct. 20 to name the new school to be built in Upper Stoney Creek after a well-known local figure - Janet Lee.

Groundbreaking ceremonies will be held in the second week of November.

By Jean Craig  
Ward 6 and 7

The Stoney Creek trustees are unanimously in agreement to name the new school in Upper Stoney Creek the Janet Lee Public School.

Janet Lee and her husband, Erland, were the local driving force in the organization of the world's first Women's Institute, formed in Squire's hall, Stoney

Creek, on Feb. 19, 1897.

The Women's Institute caught on and spread with astonishing rapidity throughout the world.

Janet Chisholm was born on Jan. 4, 1862 at Woodstock, where her father, a contractor, had moved his family while he was building Woodstock Collegiate Institute, which is still standing.

When the contract was completed, the family moved back to Hamilton.

Janet graduated from Hamilton Normal School and started teaching in the city. She was one of four teachers chosen to take a kindergarten teacher's course in Toronto. She returned to Hamilton to help set

up a kindergarten system.

In 1889, Janet Chisholm married Erland Lee and gave up her profession to become a farmer's wife.

When moving to Edgemount, now the Erland Lee Homestead on Ridge Road, Stoney Creek, Mrs. Lee brought with her a fine walnut dining room table from her grandfather Robertson's home in Ancaster. On this table Janet Lee made the final draft of the Constitution for the new organization, the Women's Institute.

Mrs. Lee became one of the first directors of the Women's Institute and she suggested the annual fee be set at 25 cents and that regular meetings should open by

repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The objectives of the Women's Institute were divided into six divisions as follows: domestic economy; architecture with special references to sanitation, light, heat and more; physiology, hygiene, medicine, calisthenics and more; floriculture and horticulture; music and art; literature, sociology, education and legislation.

"For home and country" is the motto which

has been used universally since adopted at the First Women's Institute Convention held in 1902.

Janet Lee died Aug. 24, 1940 at Edgemount where she and her husband raised three daughters and two sons.

Only one of Janet's four granddaughters lives in the immediate area. Named after her grandmother, Janet (Lee) Davis lives in Grimsby and is the wife of Richard, vice-principal of Saltfleet High School.

We spoke to her granddaughter, also called Janet, who lives in Grimsby. Appropriately enough, she is the wife of Richard Davis, vice-principal of Saltfleet High School.

"The family is very pleased," said Mrs. Davis. "It was a surprise — a total surprise. But we think it's great."

So does In and Around! One school in Upper Stoney Creek is named after Billy Green, the local hero of the Battle of Stoney Creek. It's wonderful to have another school named after another famous Crikker!

## School name honors Janet Lee

IT HAS taken 90 years, but Janet Lee is finally being accorded a fitting honor: her name's going on a school.

Who's Janet Lee, you ask?

Mrs. Lee, her husband, Erland, and Adelaide Hoodless were instrumental in the creation of the first Women's Institute in 1897.

From its modest beginning in Stoney Creek, the institute became a world-wide organization devoted to enlightening rural women on a variety of social welfare matters — from hygiene to domestic economy.

Mrs. Hoodless had a Hamilton school named after her decades ago.

Next September, Mrs. Lee will receive the same status when a new school is scheduled to be opened in the Valley Park area of Upper Stoney Creek, off Mud Street, west of Highway 20.

Wentworth County Board of Education trustees approved the naming of the Janet Lee Public School this week, in honor of Mrs. Lee and her husband, Erland, who were described as the local driving force behind the creation of the first Women's Institute.

According to a letter prepared by the Wentworth board's Stoney Creek trustees, Mrs. Lee penned the final draft of the institute's first constitution at her homestead on Ridge Road and she became one of the institute's first directors.

Sod turning for the future Janet Lee school, to be built on Paramount Drive, is scheduled for early November.

More area news: C4, C5

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Oct 20/86  
Stoney Creek News

## NEW SCHOOL

There is an article in this week's News by Jean Craig, who used to edit this paper a few decades ago and even owned it before Brabant Newspapers Ltd. took it over.

Jean, who is a school trustee, is writing about the new elementary school in Upper Stoney Creek which is to be named after Janet Lee, wife of the famous Erland Lee. Before she married, Janet was a teacher — so the choice is very apt.

## THE WENTWORTH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

announces the

### SOD TURNING CEREMONY

for the new

### JANET LEE PUBLIC SCHOOL

on

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1986

at

1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Paramount Drive, Stoney Creek  
between Mud Street and Upper Mt. Albion Road.

Rhea Springsted,  
Chairman

Allan A. Greenleaf  
Director of Education

