

Women's Institute places a special conference-call link



British Women's Institutes celebrate with Call to Canada
Sandra Kell, committee chairperson of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, the birthplace of the Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario, had a unique experience, June 27.

This year, 1990, marks the 75th anniversary of the Women's Institute in Great Britain, its beginning credited to the work of a Canadian, Mrs. Alfred Watt of Collingwood.

To mark this special occasion, the British Cornwall Federation of Women's Institutes placed a telephone call to Stoney Creek. The call originated from the British Telecom Satellite Earth Station at Goonhilly Downs on the

southern tip of Cornwall.

One hundred and forty WI members, representing 278 branches in Cornwall, joined with 230 members from Stoney Creek WI in this trans-Atlantic link.

The British national chairperson, Jean Varman and the Welsh national chairperson, Mary Thomas, spoke to Canada.

Sandra Kell, Jane Croft, provincial board director and June Williams, president of Stoney Creek WI were spokespersons for Canada.

The conference-call link was remarkably clear, Sandra said, as questions and answers, laughter and coaching, were heard across the miles.

"Oh, yes, there really are a few palm trees growing on the southern tip of Cornwall," the British women said.

Sandra was accompanied to Stoney Creek for this memorable occasion by her daughter, Katharine. After her return Mrs. Kell commented, "It was fun and it gave one a good feeling chatting with fellow Institute members." "Our programs and meetings sound much the same," she added.