



A meeting of historical interest took place in Stoney Creek on February 19th, 1947, when the Stoney Creek Women's Institute celebrated its Golden Anniversary.

On this occasion our Institute received nearly three thousand letters and cables of congratulations, also many beautiful scrolls, posters, programmes and so forth. These were received from all provinces in Canada and many countries overseas.

We want to say thank you for your good wishes, and as it would be impossible for us to answer all these letters personally, we are responding to your letter of congratulations by sending you this account of our Jubilee Banquet.

The guests included our Charter Members, District Officers of North and South Wentworth, Presidents of Winona, Saltfleet and Vinemount Institutes, Miss Anna Lewis, Superintendent of Women's Institute Branch, Toronto; Mrs. Hugh Summers, President of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario; Hon. Gordon D. and Mrs. Conant, Toronto; Brig. and Mrs. Armand Smith, Winona. A link with the founders was provided in the presence of Miss Muriel Bostwick, of Hamilton, granddaughter of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless, and Miss Marjory Lee, daughter of Mr. Erland Lee. The Reception Committee consisted of Mrs. A. E. Walker and Mrs. Jackson. Mrs. Thos. Dale was in charge of the guest book.

Our Charter Members, Past Presidents, Miss Bostwick, Miss Lee and District Officers were presented with Nosegays by Mrs. J. H. Carscallen on behalf of the Institute.

The banquet room was beautifully decorated by a committee composed of Mrs. K. Emberley, Mrs. L. Jones, Mrs. J. Piott and Mrs. T. Roderick. The Institute colors of blue and gold were featured. The tables were decorated with yellow daffodils and candles.

The letters of congratulations, tied with gold and blue ribbon, were hung around the room. Many scrolls and posters were also displayed.

A three-tiered birthday cake, beautifully iced and decorated with gold leaves and lettering, placed on a gold standard centered the head table. Mrs. Hamilton Lee, who is the oldest living president, lit the candles; later these were snuffed out by Miss Marjory Lee and the cake was cut by Mrs. B. E. Thompson, who was the oldest charter member present. After the banquet this cake was cut into 150 pieces and mailed to friends in Canada and overseas. Individual pieces had been cut from a duplicate cake, wrapped in cellophane and secured with a gold seal bearing the W. I. crest and placed at each guest's plate. The cake was made, iced and distributed by one of our members, Mrs. Chester Nash.

A portrait of Mrs. E. D. Smith, the first president, occupied a prominent place and underneath it was a beautiful bouquet of flowers sent by Hon. E. D. Smith as a tribute to the memory of his late wife. We also received a bouquet of fifty golden roses from our local fire department, a huge bouquet of snapdragons from the Village Council and a bouquet of spring flowers sent by air express from British Columbia.

Mrs. Angus Jackson, the President, presided over the gathering and after proposing the toast to the King, welcomed the charter members and guests and introduced them.

Mrs. Hugh Summers proposed the toast to the Institute and on behalf of the F.W.I.O. brought good wishes and congratulations. In her remarks she paid great tribute to the charter members and said the name of Stoney Creek Women's Institute was known all over the world and that our branch had carried its responsibilities continuously from the time the first Institute was established.

Mrs. Hugh Bertram replied and spoke for all of us when she said we felt so proud of the wonderful messages received from Canada and Overseas. She also paid tribute to our charter and older members present, whose accomplishments were outstanding. Throughout the whole fifty year period many talents of different members had been uncovered. The present officers could well be proud of their achievements.

The toast to the guests was proposed by Mrs. F. T. Green. She welcomed our husbands, charter members, department representatives and all who had received invitations.

Mrs. W. G. Marritt, of Hamilton, wife of our County Agricultural Representative, responded, saying the occasion would long be remembered by those present.

The President then spoke briefly and proposed a toast to our British sisters for the courage and fortitude they had displayed during the war and for their efforts now in winning the peace. In response to this toast Mrs. J. Wickett sang "Jerusalem" and Mrs. J. E. Goodswan, formerly of Postwick W. I., Norwich, Norfolk, Eng., now of Toronto, spoke and said her branch was celebrating that night the formation of the first Institute in Stoney Creek, and as a token of the esteem in which they held Stoney Creek she presented our President with a beautiful bouquet.

Each past president then gave a two minute resumé of her term of office. Those speaking were Mrs. Hamilton Lee, Mrs. A. E. Walker, Mrs. Chester Nash for her mother, the late Mrs. J. F. Felker, who was president at the 25th Anniversary; Mrs. Hugh Bertram, Mrs. W. E. Boden, given by Mrs. Lampman, her daughter; Mrs. Thos. Dale, Mrs. K. Emberley and Mrs. L. O. Jones.

Miss Anna Lewis brought congratulations and good wishes from the Department and said that in visiting Stoney Creek she felt as if she were treading on hallowed ground.

Miss Edith Collins and Miss Ethel Chapman, of Toronto, both expressed their pleasure at being present and brought good wishes.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Lyle Nash, then read some of the letters and cables we had received. Among these were cables from Miss Elizabeth Christmas and Hon. Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and letters from Lady Albermarle, Lady Patrick Cooper, Mr. I. Nugent Harris, Mrs. Cameron Dow and Mrs. Alfred Watt.

Miss Jean Stewart, of Hamilton, was our guest soloist. She was accompanied by our pianist, Mrs. Burwell.

The Presidents of North and South Wentworth, Mrs. Carey and Mrs. McAvoy, brought us greetings, as did Mrs. Booth, of Port Arthur.

Mrs. A. E. Walker, former Dominion President, then introduced Mrs. Gordon Conant who gave an address of unusual merit on her observations while in Europe last summer as a member of the Girl Guide organization. As Mrs. Conant is the daughter of our first President, Mrs. E. D. Smith, her words of inspiration made a deep impression on all those who heard her.

Our Institute Choir contributed two numbers, the Blue Danube and By Bendemere's Stream. Mrs. Hamilton was the accompanist.

On behalf of the Institute the Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. Piott and Mrs. F. Mather, presented Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Nash with gold compacts.

Mrs. Emberley then thanked all those who had contributed toward making the evening a success, after which everyone joined hands and sang Auld Lang Syne.

The Mother Institute sends greetings. Your many letters and good wishes have warmed our hearts. Your many accounts of the splendid work being done by Institutes everywhere is an inspiration for the years to come.

We treasure the past,  
We face the future.

Leone Jackson,  
President

Bernice Nash,  
Secretary-Treasurer