

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As the 16,000 members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario prepare to take their organization into the second century of service, the opening of this Provincial Office marks another milestone in their continuing evolution.

Founded in Stoney Creek in 1897, the W.I. is an educational organization based on the principles of sound nutrition, safe food, health and fitness, and the right of women to have access to up-to-date information on the issues that affect them and their families.

In addition to their monthly educational programs, the 800 local branches across Ontario work together for their own community development, while being members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and the Associated Country Women of the World.

Through Resolutions passed at the local level and backed up by authoritative data, concerns are passed onward to be debated at the District and Area levels on their way to ratification by the Provincial Board, where they are directed to those with the power to make changes:- a reasonable and well-informed Voice. If you drink pasteurized milk, are guided by the road markings on Ontario's highways, stop on a dark country road at sight of the warning phosphorescent strips on passing railway freight cars, use a blue recycling box, wish to make your wishes clear in a Living Will, can identify the ingredients in packaged food, or any one of a number of things we take for granted, it would be wise to remember they started with W.I.!

Through their valuable resource material stored in what are known as Tweedsmuir Histories, and at the beautifully maintained homes of their co-founders, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home at Stoney Creek and the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead at St. George, the Women's Institutes are able to provide a priceless insight into the progressive settlement and early family life of Ontario.

Always interested in education in all its forms, the W.I. supports a series of Scholarships. Each year monies are granted to 4-H members to assist with higher learning, to post-graduate students in food and/or family studies, and to their own members seeking to upgrade their skills to re-enter the work force.

Today's issues concern family violence, health problems specific to women, equal opportunity for all people to be considered for positions in the job market, acknowledgment of the proficiency of those who produce our food and are dedicated to an environmental sustainable agriculture, and child care during the peak farming periods of seeding and harvest.

For almost a hundred years the W.I. has had a mutually productive partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food which included, among other things, office space and services in Ministry buildings. In a changing partnership the W.I. will now co-ordinate its work from its new headquarters here, in Guelph Township.

Long may it continue to influence the decision-makers. Long may it continue to make a difference in the lives of its members, their families and their communities.

"For Home and Country"

Peggy Knapp

PROGRAM

M.C.	Margaret Munro
Invocation	Irene Richardson
Solo	Margaret McInroy

GREETINGS

Ontario Government Ministries

Ted Arnott, M.P.P.

Keith Dickson,
representing the Warden of Wellington County

Les Foote
Reeve of Guelph Township

Dr. Mordechai Rozanski
President of the University of Guelph

Charlotte Johnson
President - Women's Institutes of Canada

Peggy Knapp
*Associated Country Women of the World
Area President for Canada*

Susan Peavoy
President - Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario

Donna Russett
President - Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

Passing of the Key	Reeve Foote, Maisie Lasby, Donna Russett
Ribbon Cutting	Reeve Foote, Donna Russett
Unveiling of Plaque	Reeve Foote, Marjory Durnford
Solo	Margaret McInroy
Music in the Park	Valerie Lodge, Vanessa Lindsay

Tour of Office