

Prince Edward County  
Women's Institutes  
History

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**Women's Institutes  
Have Contributed  
Much to County**

**Worked for Betterment of Commu-  
nities for Thirty Years—Hospital—  
War Work**

(By Mrs. W. R. Munro, District  
Sec.-Treas.)

The Department of Agriculture under its Institutes Branch, aided by Farmers' Institute speakers, the District Representative of the county, and local women, with Miss Susie Campbell of Toronto, organized the first Institute in our county thirty years ago, just ten years after Institutes were started by Mrs. Hoodless and Mrs. Laura Rose-Stephen at Stoney Creek.

The first one was organized at Wellington on January 20, 1908, having been worked up for in 1907. The president was Mrs. Rockwell, and Sec.-Treasurer, Mrs. C. E. Bowerman.

In that same Institute year 1907-1908, Cherry Valley, Milford, Picton and West Lake were organized, Mrs. W. R. Browne and Mrs. W. R. Munro assisting.

Bloomfield, Gilbert's Mills, Rednersville, Mountain View in 1908-1909, and later Big Island, Demorestville, Consecon, Greenbush, Hillier, etc.

The first District Annual was held in 1908-1909, and the first District President was Mrs. H. Y. Cooper, Bloomfield; and the first Vice-President, Mrs. W. P. Niles, Wellington. Since then we have had Mrs. Charlotte Talcott-Cox, Mrs. W. R. Browne, Mrs. Sanger Harris, Miss Filona Barker, Mrs. Stanton Fox, Mrs. James Fargey, Mrs. S. P. Dodds, Mrs. W. W. Ward, Mrs. Chas. Fraleigh, etc. All these leading four or five hundred women in doing their bit for community uplift—non-sectarian and non-partisan we live our motto for "Home and Country."

When the Great War came, we women organized in every corner of the county, worked for our men and the late Mrs. Herb. Moxon, Mrs. Blanche Smith, Mrs. S. J. Collier kept the Red Cross room records, aided by young and old. Our supplies and field kitchen were sent across.

Then, after the armistice, when the need of a hospital was felt, again our W. I. worked and four of our charter members—Miss Filona Barker, Mrs. Blanche Smith, Mrs. W. R. Browne and Mrs. W. R. Munro—are still busy, and our county women all about aid very substantially.

Our Children's Welfare Work, our Home for the Aged, our Libraries, Cemeteries, School Fairs, all get our aid, besides local needs are aided.

We are working now for some mode of health care for each and all.

The Rest Room in Picton, property of the town, has been aided, but is now looked after by the Town Council as the supervision was too much for the rural women.

We co-operated with the Teachers' Institute in the promoting of music teaching, and our "cup" is annually competed for in unison rural singing.

We aid the Girls' Work as provided by the Institute's Branch, Toronto, and the high girl each year holds the Louella Wilson-Martin Trophy, kindly donated by Mrs. Iva Martin, Picton, for the county girls.

Always the right-hand helper of our Agricultural Representatives, Mr. MacVannel and Mr. Webster, we aid the School Fair Work.

Last week we held our twenty-ninth annual convention and our two local papers tell you about us in 1937—Picton's Centennial Year.

My report would not be finished with out a word of appreciation for our Times and Gazette, who, through these thirty years have kept us before the public—printing news free as sent in by our branch secretaries, thus aiding us in our striving for the Betterment of Our County.

—Mrs. W. R. Munro,  
District Sec.-Treasurer.

Respectfully  
E. V. Lord  
Picton Ont.