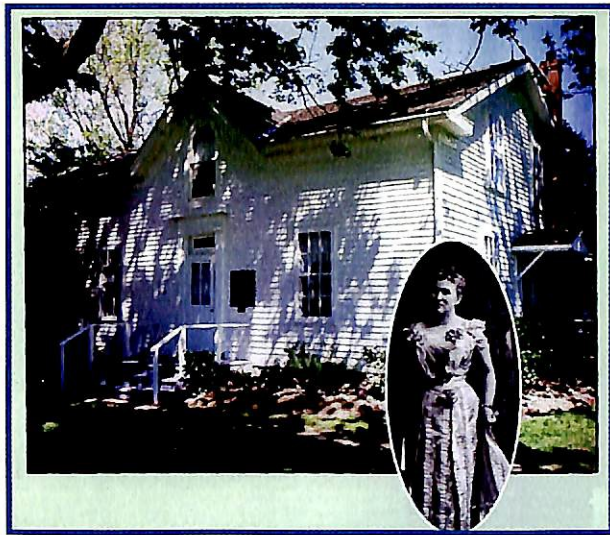


"The Willows", where Adelaide Hoodless (inset) was born in 1857 and lived until she married in 1881. The homestead, located near St. George, Ont., is maintained as a heritage home. Hoodless founded the Women's Institute, Victorian Order of Nurses, YWCA, and Council of Women



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA, FROM THE WI'S CENTENNIAL CALENDAR

These are awarded each year at national meetings. As well, each triennium, there is a national citizenship competition for the Senator Cairine Wilson award.

Believe it or not, the WI has a laudable war record. Participation in both World Wars included everything from "buying Brenn guns and equipping air raid shelters, to sending seeds to Britain, and distributing cookbooks to war brides". Members also knitted

socks, made quilts, and prepared parcels for shipment overseas.

The future

The WI has always met change and the future head-on (see box). Its motto is "For Home and Country", and its aims include "development of

informed responsible citizens through the study of local, national, and international issues, encouragement of good family life skills, initiation of programs to achieve common goals, and leadership development".

The challenges inherent in that statement are immense, especially in view of rapid change in the fields of technology and communications, as well as shrinking farm populations and declining membership numbers. But members are committed to facing the future "with courage and faith".

And so the WI will continue to struggle with social, political, and economic change, and focus on addressing such concerns as safety, health, rural revitalization, education, values and family lifestyles. We wish them well!

Want to order the centennial calendar (\$10) or get more details about the upcoming celebration? Contact Mary Janes, Public Relations, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, 6868 Egremont Road, R.R. 8, Watford, Ont. NOM 2S0 (phone 519-786-5511)

The WI tree has strong branches

Ontario:

Established, 1897; developed programs focussing on child welfare, rural education, and community work. Organized travelling libraries and schools on wheels to take education to isolated areas in northern Ontario; installation of drinking fountains, sanitary basins, and toilet equipment in rural schools; and, by 1913, adoption by the provincial government of a system of medical and dental inspection of all school children.

Manitoba:

Established, 1910; one of the first challenges was maternal mortality. A lasting monument to the WI was established in 1930 at the International Peace Garden, on the Manitoba/North Dakota border: "Peace does not exist of its own accord, but through a conscious effort to develop and maintain understanding and tolerance."

Saskatchewan:

From 1911 to 1972, the group was known as the Homemakers Clubs of Saskatchewan. Focussed on teaching homemaking skills and sponsoring music and drama festivals, libraries, and community halls. Worked to get the provincial government to undertake road improvements and rural health and education services, and to

change laws that adversely affected women.

Alberta:

Established, 1909; managed to get medical services to isolated parts of the province, and with the Canadian Cancer Society, provided the first free radium treatment in Alberta. Started under the auspices of the province, chose independence, and has been self-sufficient for most of its history.

British Columbia:

Established, 1909; when fruit farming was in crisis, started raising certified flower seed as economic contribution. Branched out into bulb growing and canning salmon. Slogan "Buy in B.C. First" set a trend others would follow much later.

Yukon & Northwest Territories:

In 1962, organizing work started, and by 1966, there were 15 branches. Established adult education program for women and encouraged youth participation in 4-H programs.

Nova Scotia:

Established, 1913; has promoted nutrition, documentation of provincial history and heritage. Since 1966, has been "on the air"

with CKEC Radio in New Glasgow. The *News & Views of the Women's Institutes* radio show covers programs, projects, activities, and events of interest.

New Brunswick:

Established, 1911; focussed mainly on promoting provincial products and developing cottage industries (weaving, spinning, rug-making, embroidery). Operates the Women's Institute Home for Senior Women, established in 1953 in Woodstock, N.B.

Prince Edward Island:

Established, 1911; instrumental in delivering programs to isolated areas via an extension van, and in bringing about legislation concerning school age and premarital health certificates. In 1930, helped establish a provincial sanitarium.

Quebec:

Established, 1911; worked on nursery schools and rural high school curriculums, as well as pushing through reforms in the Protestant Women's Jail.

Newfoundland & Labrador:

Established, 1935; known as Jubilee Guilds of Newfoundland and Labrador, joined federated WI in 1951. Stressed education, self-help, and use of local resources.