

# W.I. celebrates 100 years

Over 15,000 women are expected to gather in homes and community halls across Ontario to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute on Wednesday, February 19th.

The W.I. has always been active in the County

and a number of events are planned locally to celebrate the occasion.

The Consecon, Wellington and Hillier W.I. Branches are joining forces at a luncheon meeting at Hillier Township Hall at 1 p.m. Bloomfield W.I. have been invited to join as

guests as well.

The Cherry Valley Women's Institute will be presenting a special program at the Cherry Valley Township Hall at 1 p.m. to "Celebrate the Past, Challenge the Future". Refreshments will be served.

The Demorestville W.I.

will join with the Gilbe Mills W.I. in a Victoria Tea at the C.E. Centre Demorestville from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Women's Institute began on February 19th 1897 when 101 women and one man met at Squire Hall in Stoney Creek. Throughout the past 100 years the Institute has developed the personal growth of its members and has been instrumental in initiating government legislation to protect the environment and the citizens of Canada. Survival of the organization for 100 years can be attributed to its very simple goal of fulfilling its members' needs. Despite constant changes throughout the decades, the Women's Institute throughout the world continues to adapt to meet the new challenges.

An agenda was developed by the Committee from the Eastern Area of Ontario for branch meetings to celebrate the impressive history of the Women's Institute.

Each meeting will begin with the lighting of a candle to honour this centennial achievement and the singing of the Women's Institute Centennial song. A menu has been developed that reflects the fare that would have been served in 1897.

In her letter to Branch Peggy McLeod, Chair of the Branch Program Committee writes, "As Women's Institute members raise their voices in the singing of the new Centennial song may their melody echo across the forests and the lakes."

And may the W.I. continue to offer women the opportunity to make decisions which will improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, their communities and the world.

### W.I. Centennial Song

1. It's a hundred years since  
Adelaide Hoodless was convinced.  
That milk should be pasteurized.  
Then Janet and Erland Lee  
Found it easy to see  
That women should organize.
2. For Mrs. Hoodless knew  
That informed women grew,  
So they did mobilize.  
Hundred and one women came  
And things were ne're the same,  
For they formed the W.I.'s.
3. So this idea spread,  
Round the world it shed  
Its light. Things modernized.  
So women's homes improved,  
And countries laws were moved  
Their knowledge exercised.
4. To encourage, help and share,  
Build a better world with care  
Is the work of the W.I.'s.  
Now a hundred years young,  
Still there's work to be done.  
Women's lives to be vitalized.
5. Now it's time to celebrate;  
Achievements commemorate  
With honour and with pride.  
This Centennial salute  
Of the Women's Institute.  
Women of the world, Arise!

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

joint celebration with Consecon and Wellington Women's Institute Branches joining us. The 3 groups have co-ordinated their efforts to plan and follow the agenda designed by the Ontario Centennial Celebration Committee. We have also invited Bloomfield W.I. to join us as our guests. Lunch will be served. The celebration will be held

on Wednesday, February 19, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hillier Township Hall. For more information contact Peggy Burris at 399-5423. Over 15,000 women are expected to gather in homes and community halls across Ontario to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute on Wednesday, February 19th, 1997. An Agenda for these

Branch meetings was designed by a Committee from the Eastern Area of Ontario to celebrate the impressive history of the W.I. On February 19, 1897, 101 women and one man, Erland Lee, met at Squires Hall in Stoney Creek. The outcome of this meeting was the organization of the first Branch of the Women's Institute in the world. The W.I. grew steadily across Canada, and today offers women the vehicle, and the environment, to make

decisions which will improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, their communities and the world. Throughout the past 100 years, not only has the Institute developed the personal growth of its members, but is has also been instrumental in initiating Government legislation to protect the environment, and the citizens of Canada. Survival of the organization for 100 years can be attributed to its very simple goal to fulfill its members' needs. Despite

### 100th Anniversary

The Hillier Women's Institute want to make you aware that we are hosting a

