



**VISITING GUESTS:** Among the guests and visitors attending the Castleton Women's Institute 95th anniversary tea at Castleton last Wednesday were, above left (left to right): Earlene Armstrong of White's School W.I., Joyce Glover of Trent Valley Area W.I., and Polly Norwood of White's School W.I.



**CENTENARY TARTAN:** Betty Milne of Roseneath W.I. wore her W.I. centenary tartan ribbon and W.I. pins to the anniversary tea at Castleton last Wednesday.



**COUNTY-WIDE REPS:** Among the many guests at the 95th anniversary tea to celebrate Castleton Women's Institute founding last Wednesday were, left to right: Shirley Little of Seymour West W.I.; Dorothy Beedham of Cold Springs W.I.; Dorothy Harnden of Castleton W.I. and a director of the Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario; and Cathy Galt who presented a commemorative message on behalf of husband Northumberland MPP Dr. Doug Galt.



**LET THEM EAT CAKE:** Castleton W.I. President Shirley McComb, left, with Dorothy Harnden of Cold Springs representing the provincial Federation of Women's Institutes of Ontario, with the anniversary cake served at the celebratory tea marking the 95th Castleton W.I. anniversary.

**ANNIVERSARY TEA:** Left to right are Velma Harper, Roseneath W.I., Beth May of Castleton W.I., Mary Harnden of Grafton and Helen Hogg of Roseneath W.I.



Hillary Maskell of New Forest, England, left, peruses the Colborne/Cramahe millennium history book with Castleton W.I. member Irene Osborne.

## A book for the community

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MANDY MARTIN  
STAFF WRITER

Details of how the local Millennium history book *How Firm a Foundation* were related to members and guests attending the Castleton Women's Institute 95th anniversary tea November 8. Guest speaker was author Eileen Argyris.

"I've always been fascinated by Canadian history and particularly these local areas," Mrs. Argyris said.

"The immediate problem was there is no printed record of history, for example, copies of old newspapers. No such record exists, not on microfiche, microfilm or bound books. The only thing that does exist is the wonderful clipping done by people like the members of Women's Institute. This book could never have been written without the Ridge Road, Castleton and Colborne Tweedsmuir histories."

Local chapters of the Women's Institute compile local news clippings and memorabilia as the organization's commitment to compiling a "Tweedsmuir history" of their local area. In areas such as Colborne and Cramahe, the scrapbooks and file folders of information are the only ongoing printed record that exist detailing local events, people and lore.

"The other source is anecdotal histories," Mrs. Argyris said of her research for the millennium history book. "School teachers in particular were wonderful. There are many accounts of one-room schools, handwritten histories. I received a handwritten diary given to one woman in the 1940s that was 90 years old back then.

"When a generation is passing, this is a great loss. We want to get these treasures

senior citizens have," Mrs. Argyris urged. "The people who were in their 90s back in the 1970s were our last living link to the pioneer generation. They remembered the pioneers, had heard the stories directly from the source, before there were even roads.

"When I think of the advantages we enjoy today, and the people who left their homes in Ireland, Scotland, Germany, to come to this new country and forge a life from the complete unknown - climate, vegetation, everything - they have my greatest admiration."

The author was "honored when Stan Chapman asked me to write this book for the Millennium Committee." As 17-year editor of the Colborne Chronicle, Mrs. Argyris had prepared a 125th Colborne Village anniversary edition of the paper in 1984 and in 1992 a Cramahe Township 200th anniversary history edition.

"This was a beginning," Mrs. Argyris said of her research. "Based on that information, I started searching."

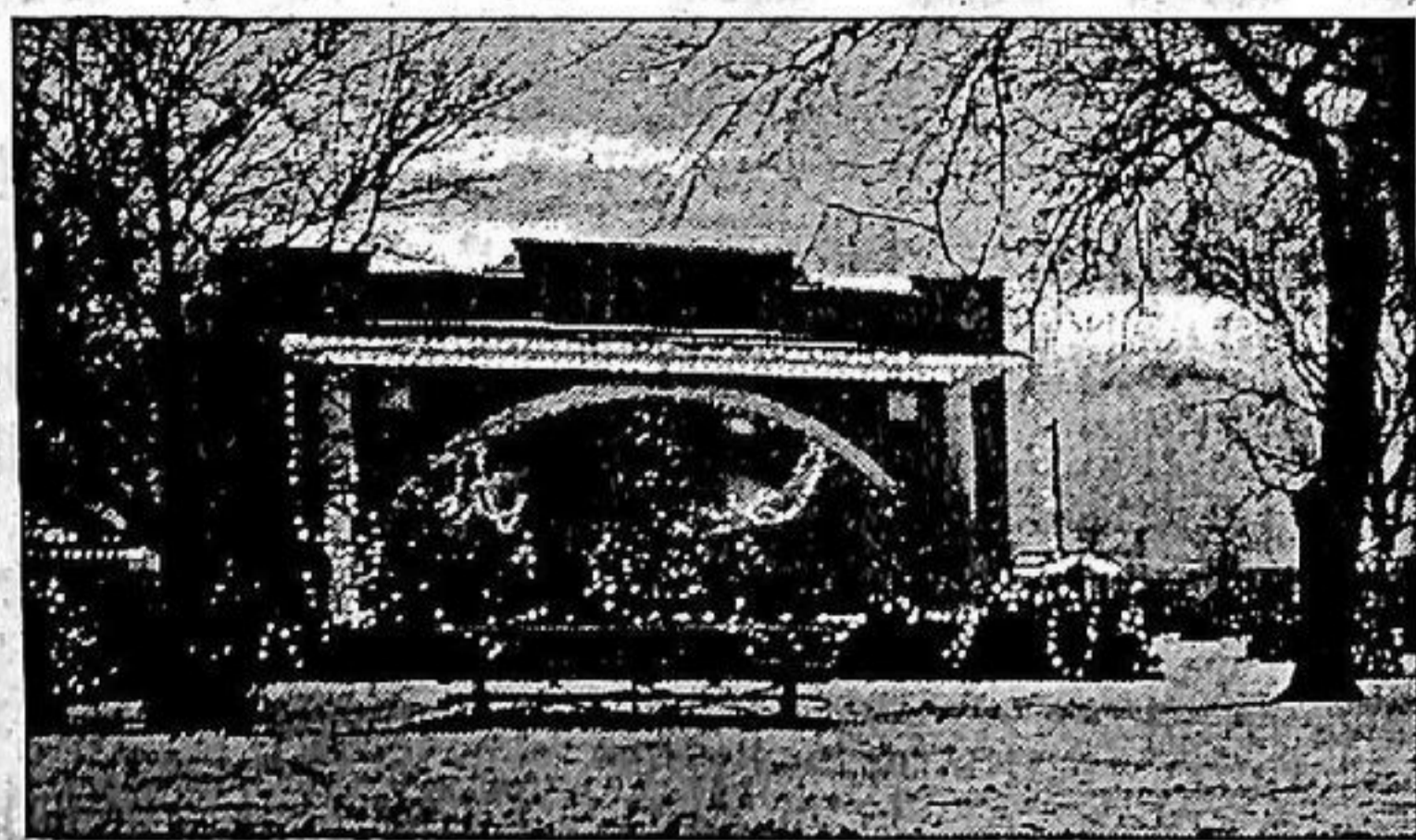
When Colborne library closed last summer to prepare for relocation, the entire local history section was given to Mrs. Argyris to store. That, she says, was a bonus - but it also crowded her Port Hope home for the duration.

"Roseanne Quinn was so much help. Amy Gresham had given Roseanne a box of clippings not yet compiled into books and I got so much from those. The relationships between people and events became clear, how things fit together."

The need to preserve and centralize a local history still exists, she noted.

"If any group within the sound of my voice wants a good project for the commu-

# Christmas Magic in Cobourg



**FRIDAY, NOV. 17<sup>TH</sup>**

Exchange a non-perishable food gift for Fare Share at Victoria Hall for a candle. Ceremonies start at 6:00 p.m. at Victoria Hall, when the downtown Christmas lights will be officially switched on. Candlelight procession to Victoria Park follows at 6:45 p.m.