

Taken from Winnipeg Free Press by
M. Allen.



Sketch of Stoney Creek, Ont., home of Erland Lee, founding father of the Women's Institute which has spread across Canada and around the world since Feb. 19, 1897.

Ont. W.I. restores place of birth

STONEY CREEK, Ont.: The Erland Lee home, opened here last week, will be maintained by the Ontario Women's Institute as the birthplace of the world-wide organization. Here, in 1897 Mr. Lee gathered 101 women together at a South Wentworth Farmer's Institute to hear Adelaide Hunter Hoodless. Out of this came a new women's organization and its original constitution was handwritten at a dining room table in the old house.

The Ontario WI has spent \$40,000 on the home and the province's 30,000 members will be assessed 10 cents a year to build a maintenance fund. One member donated \$5,000 and the National Federation of Women's Institutes in England sent 100 pounds sterling.

Mae Allen

F.W.I. honour Janet and Erland Lee

Women's Institute History was made in August 1973 when over 400 people gathered at the Erland Lee Home, Stoney Creek, for the Official Opening. The occasion was to celebrate the acquisition of the property by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario in June of 1972 and to honour Erland Lee and his wife Janet. With Adelaide Hoodless

providing the idea, Erland Lee and his wife Janet helped found the first Women's Institute in 1897. The first constitution was written by Janet Lee on the beautiful dining room table still sitting in the dining room of the Home.

The last Lees to reside in the house were Frank, son of Erland, and his wife Katie. Among the special

guests were Frank's sisters, Miss Marjorie Lee and Mrs. H.C. Freal, both of Stoney Creek; daughters, Mrs. R. L. Davis, Mrs. Frank Ryan and Miss Allison Lee, Hamilton and Mrs. Leslie Tulk of Newfoundland.

The crowd gathered under the shade of the whispering pines in front of the house for a brief ceremony. The Hon. William Stewart, Minister of Agriculture and Food, brought greetings and commended the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario for the great contribution it had made to the growth of the individual member, in the communities of Ontario, and now, in acquiring the Home for members all over the world.

Greetings were brought from the Associated Country Women of the World, by their deputy president, Dr. Irene Spry, Ottawa. Congratulations were read by Mrs. Austin Zoeller, New Hamburg from Mrs. John McLean, Nova Scotia, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, chairman for the event, gave a short history of the Lee family. James was a staunch United Empire Loyalist, coming to Canada from the United States in 1792. She paid respect to the progressive, public spirited family who have played such a prominent part in the development of their communities, especially to Erland and his wife, for their part in the formation of the Women's Institute.

M. Cawker