Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir who was Governor General of Canada from 1935 to 1940, requested that all Women's Institutes in Ontario keep a record of the history of each district, thus ensuring that valuable history would not be lost.

Port Carling Institute was named after Mrs. W. E. Sanford of Sans Souci Island, Lake Rosseau, who organized the first Institute Branch of this district in the year 1903.