

1985

**Ontario North District  
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE  
75th District Annual**

**Goodwood - May 15, 1985**

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away pretence, and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great common woman's heart of us all; and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

*A Collect by Mary Stewart*

Property of  
Sunderland Historical  
Society & Museum

**ERLAND LEE  
(1864 - 1926)**

Of United Empire Loyalist stock, Erland Lee had a reputation as a good farmer, and had a keen interest in the welfare of his fellowman. On the Lee farm, he raised Jersey cattle, was one of the first to grow grapes commercially, and he shipped carloads of R.I. Greenings apples from his orchards to the British market. He was one of the first maple producers in the area to use an evaporator.

He served many organizations: secretary of his local Farmer's Institute for 19 years, Township Clerk for 20 years, first president of the Wentworth Seed Fair, president of the Wentworth Agriculture Board, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Saltfleet Agricultural Society. But it was his work with Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless to found the first Women's Institute in the world that gained him most acclaim. The organization was his idea originally; he convinced Mrs. Hoodless of its merit and proceeded to develop the Constitution and By-Laws and carried out the necessary negotiations with the Minister of Agriculture to secure the Charter.

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home is now an historic site at Stoney Creek, preserved and maintained by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario in memory of its co-founder, Erland Lee.