

A WI member demonstrates the ease of washing dishes in an ergonomically designed kitchen.

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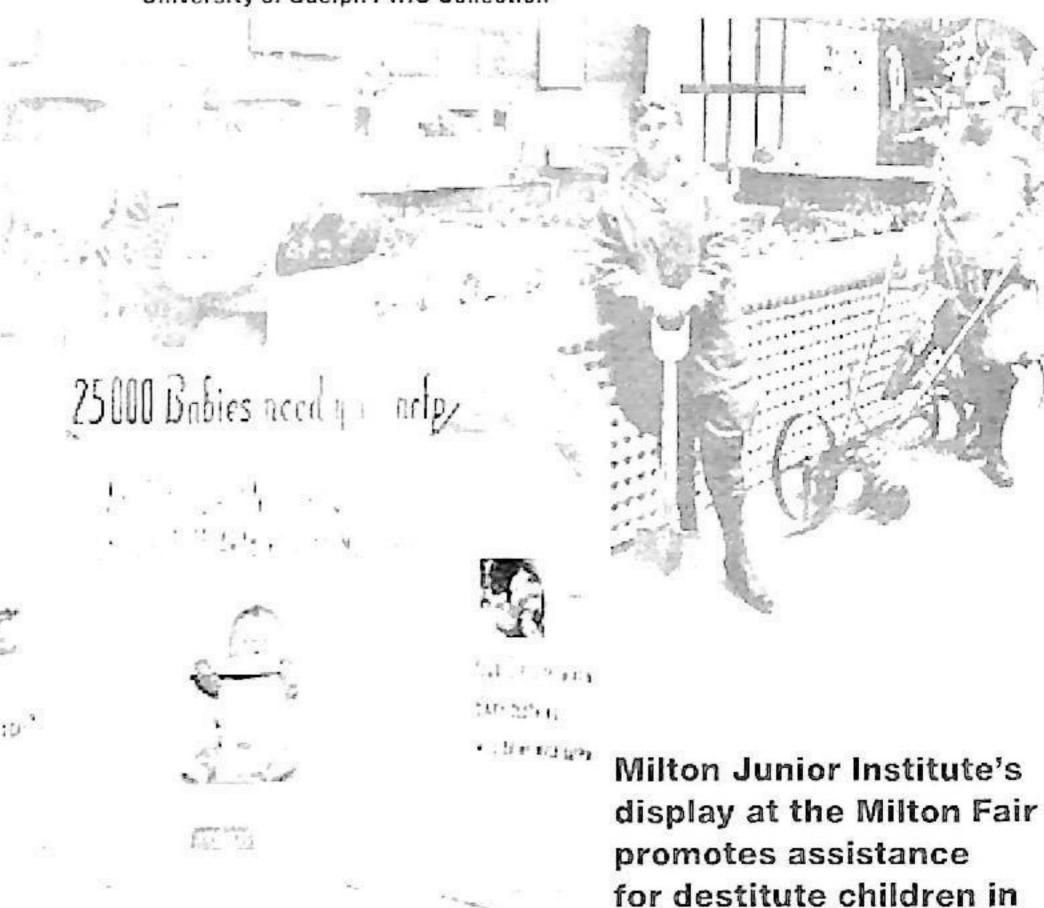
On the domestic front, changes in the WI's focus mirror similar developments occurring in society at large. These ranged from short courses on canning practices to prevent botulism, or adopting new labour-saving devices for the home, to recommendations for ergonomic kitchens designed for comfort of use, to suggestions for farm ownership succession and estate planning. Experts invited to address the Ontario Annual Convention in 1906 touched on a myriad of topics including tuberculosis prevention, safe milk handling practices, dental hygiene and the role of women in country life.

Like their peers, Women's Institute members provided patriotic support for Canada's participation in both World Wars. In addition to knitting innumerable pairs of socks and rolling bandages, members also undertook fund- and consciousnessraising activities to assist the war effort and the home front. Because of the members' association with agriculture, many of those efforts focused on increasing food production and decreasing waste.

Much of the WI's worldwide efforts were co-ordinated through Associated Countrywomen of the World chapters around the world. During both World Wars in Europe, Canadian WI members provided assistance and moral support to their counterparts and their families in Great Britain. Today, working in tandem with other non-governmental organizations, the WI bolsters the development of craft programs for women in developing countries to help augment household incomes.

The WI did its part to help the war effort on the home front during the First World War as demonstrated by this exhibit at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto.

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the Middle East.