

assistance in the operation of mobile clinics in rural areas. They also financed hot meal and school milk programs in rural schools in the 1940s. They sought to improve the minds of rural families by acquiring books and vehicles necessary for bookmobiles in many remote communities across Canada. In Ontario, books were often acquired by the WI through their connections in the province's Ministry of Education. In the 1960s, the lobbying efforts of Women's Institute branches on the Niagara Peninsula were instrumental in the establishment of Brock University.

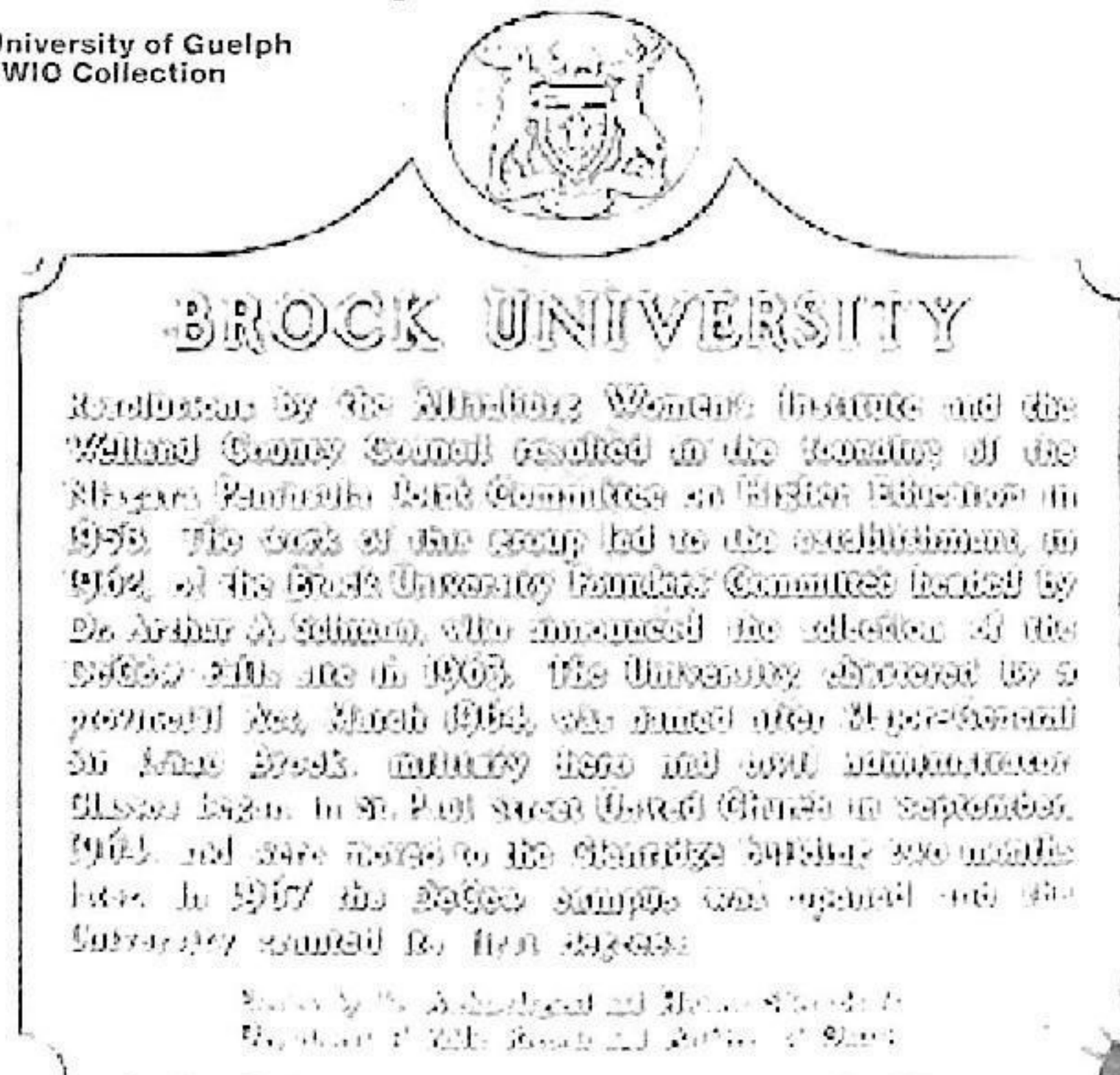


WI branches often funded public school milk programs such as this one in Waterloo County, Ontario.

University of Guelph FWIO Collection

An Archaeological and Historic Sites Board plaque commemorates the Allanburg, Ontario, WI Branch's role in the founding of Brock University.

University of Guelph
FWIO Collection



An interest in Canada's past prompted many branches to write and publish *Tweedsmuir Histories*, each documenting the local history of a county or region. These histories continue to provide

excellent documentation of this country's rural life. Their interest in the serious side of history did not prevent members from occasionally sporting old hats that they pulled from their closets to participate in comic hat competitions.

The history of the WI's contribution to Canadian life revolves around the unflagging role that the organization played and continues to play in supporting this country's farm communities.

Members of the Massey, Ontario, WI Branch wear their prize-winning comic hats.

University of Guelph FWIO Collection

