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Recognizing the need for rural women to be trained and educated in the area of domestic sciences, Mr. Erland Lee invited Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless to speak at the Ladies' Night of the Saltfleet Farmers' Institute. On the 19th of February 1897, the first Women's Institute in the world was organized at Squire's Hall, downtown Stoney Creek.

The Women's Institute provides women with the opportunity for personal growth. At the Branch level, educational programs are established for women in the community.

Our organization works to influence and shape policies in the community, the province, across Canada and around the world. Resolutions are passed at the Provincial Board level and passed on to various levels of government.

Collectively, members of the Women's Institutes and similar organizations around the world total over 6 million and form the Associated Country Women of the World. The United nations recognizes ACWW as a non-governmental organization concerned with issues relating to women and the family.



