

A WI Centennial Celebration & FWIC Convention '97

From June 17-22, 1997, the city of Hamilton, Ontario, will be overflowing with guests from across Canada and around the world for a WI Centennial Celebration & FWIC Convention '97.

Two busloads of visitors from England are already booked to attend. Requests are coming from as far away as Australia to join in the celebration of the formation of the first Women's Institute in Stoney Creek in 1897.

Have you requested your registration forms for Convention '97 yet? The forms are now available from your provincial office. Early birds who register before October 31, 1996, will receive a reduced rate and are eligible for a special draw. The number of registration forms per province is limited by the FWIC quota system, which means that the forms for the full convention may not be photocopied.

The Convention '97 Committee has planned an exciting program which will ap-

peal to all. The first two theme speakers (to be announced when confirmed) will speak on "Indebted to the Past;" the last two will take a look into the next century discussing "Committed to the Future." Interspersed with speakers are Tweedsmuir Competition awards, historical displays, entertainment, an interfaith service and a roof top picnic. Also included in the program are information sessions on the work of the Women's Institutes in various provinces, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and the Associated Country Women of the World.

For those who are unable to attend the full Convention, special packages are available. Ontario Day will feature tours of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and end with a barbecue and a birthday party. Celebration Day includes a fashion show, an historic pageant and an international dinner and program.

Spouses accompanying WI members may

The Women's Institute



For Home and Country

take part in tours of the Hamilton area. Self-guided tours of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Dundurn Castle or the Canadian Football Hall of Fame will be available. Bus tours include Brantford's Alexander Graham Bell Homestead and St. Jacob's Farmers Market and Stockyards, among others.

Registrations will be received on a first come, first served basis, until quotas are filled, or until February 28, 1997. Don't delay; order your registration form from the provincial office today. Be eligible for the early bird draw!

Mary Janes is the Director of Public Relations for the Convention '97 Committee.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Katherine Garwood

Excitement is building throughout Ontario for the super celebration of the 100th Anniversary in Hamilton in 1997. Areas across the Province have stimulated Branches with outstanding projects, and there seems to be no end to them!

The Tea Towel Competition was judged on March 31. The winning entry, designed by Joan Chalmers of the Melbourne Branch in Middlesex East District, will be printed on tea towels to be released for sale at FWIO Conference '96 at Ridgeway on July 12.

Many Branches and Districts are initiating plans for Fashion Shows next Spring, with the Fashion Show Booklet presented by Northern Area as their guide. This Booklet has been a resounding success. Branches are encouraged to buy extra copies to present to their local schools and libraries. These are available through addresses given at the back of the Booklet.

The Centennial T-Shirts have travelled worldwide, and many have been given to friends overseas. For visitors to the Erland Lee (Museum) Home in the summer, a view of the Women's Institute Rose in full bloom will be a special treat. Unfortunately, many Branches had to be disappointed this year, due to lack of supply. Information about the full release of these roses will be sent to all Branches this fall.

Branches have now received details of Centennial Awards to be given to 100 outstanding Women's Institute members at the Branch level. Please copy the original form if your Branch wishes to nominate more than one member. This is an opportunity to honour that member who has been there for her Branch over and above the call of duty! Please send the nomination form to Ena Skene at Box 424, Dryden ON P8N 2Z2, by October 1, 1996.

The Women's Institute



For Home and Country

Women's Institute members, their friends and family - 1,900 in total - came to Toronto by bus and car to the Blue Jays Game on May 25 at the Skydome. The emotion was overwhelming as Marg McInroy, a Women's Institute member from the Walton WI in Huron East, sang the National Anthems.

The Centennial Logo appears on many memento items produced by Branches, Districts and Areas throughout the Province as fund raisers. The Centennial Quilt can be seen on your visit to the Headquarters. The Centennial Song has been a hit with many Branches. In 1997, it may just travel from sea to sea!

The Women's Institute has been meeting the needs of women and their communities for the past 100 years. This is an outstanding record, which could only be achieved by the many dedicated volunteer hours contributed by its members. Apart from the worthwhile assistance to those in need, the books to local schools, the upkeep of local halls, the friendships made and the goals met, there has been lots of fun along the way enjoyed by all members... And, you haven't seen fun yet!

To help you remember this milestone, Centennial Plates, T-Shirts, Tea Towels and Rulers are available from Helen Duffield, Centennial Committee, P.O. Box 29038, 55 Windham St. N., Guelph ON N1H 7T8, Phone: (519)763-8984.

Submitted by Katherine Garwood, Secretary, Centennial Committee.

All Institutes held their meetings on the same day, February 19, 1997 to recognize the origin of W.I. and to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of W.I.

PROGRAM

Opening Ode Mary Stewart Collect

Motto: Celebrate the past, Challenge the future

Roll call: What have I accomplished with a Womens Institute lifeskill?

CENTENNIAL SONG

Minutes: Read the first meeting of the Womens Institute held in Stoney Creek on February 19, 1897.

PROGRAM

"As we begin our program we will light a candle in Celebration of 100 years of Womens Institute, sharing this ceremony with all members throughout Ontario."

DO YOU KNOW?

Special Collection (for Headquarters Fund)

Grace

LUNCH: Beef, chicken, cucumber & watercress and egg sandwiches. Buttermilk tea biscuits with strawberry jam. Sugar cookies. Johnny cake with maple syrup. Gingerbread with whipped cream.

Hostess; Joan Derouin