

In 1905 Kari Johnson and her Sons opened the first store in Kipling. Others opened stores and even a co-op run store over the years but are no longer around. Edmund and Jean Johnson still operate the Johnson's General Store. Edmund took over from his father Amund Johnson in 1957.

The Kipling Helping Hand club was established on February 25, 1916. Since there was no government help for needy families they would buy yarn and materials and make articles to either give away or sell. Medication and doctor fees were expensive so the club helped those in need. Their aim is to help those less fortunate. The yearly Smorgasbord Supper is famous and draws people from near and far and the proceeds, every second year, goes to the Church.

The locals called it the "Farmers Club", it was officially the United Farmers of Ontario (UFO) and was organized in 1918 and dissolved in 1960. The meetings were held in the hall built by the young people. The local farmers branched out to many things besides cattle and cream to grain and potatoes competitions. The women had garden clubs and their achievement nights were held in 1B Hugel school. The club over the years purchased two road graders, cement mixer, wheel barrow and a canning machine. The community got to use these articles to help them make the work easier.

The Kipling Branch of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario was organized in Kipling on October 23, 1953. The ladies paid fifty cents (50) to join and became Charter members. It is through the Women's Institute that our Kipling Tweedsmuir History Book was started. This is an important effort to preserve the past and present history of Kipling.

Over the years our home making courses and crafts at meetings are instrumental in educating the women in cooking, baking, sewing, quilting, leather work along with several different needlework courses. These meetings and courses provided a much needed social outlet for the women. Many of the homes have been adorned with their handiwork and a tribute to their many talents.

The Women's Institute have sponsored 4-H clubs, donated time and monies, and serve lunch after funerals. The Federated Women's of Ontario is the largest rural organization in the World and we are proud to be part of it. In 1997 the F.W.I.O. celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a week long celebration in Hamilton, Ontario.

A Centennial Award was established recognizing and honouring 100 outstanding Women's Institute members from across Ontario. This Award particularly recognizes those "grass roots" members who have contributed their talents and service to their Branches. Jean Johnson is the recipient of this special award. The awards will be presented by the Provincial President at the Northern Area Convention, October 18, 1997 in Huntsville, Ontario. Jean is one of three women nominated in the Northern Area.