

# Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Attends WI's 119th Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, the 119th Anniversary of the Women's Institute was celebrated at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home with The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

The Anniversary marked the rededication of a historic plaque on the Museum site, which is recognized as the birthplace of the Women's Institute. Originally mounted at Squire's Hall in the Town of Saltfleet (now Stoney Creek) to commemorate the location of the First Women's Institute meeting in 1897, when Squire's Hall was demolished in 2001, the plaque was brought to the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. During recent renovations, the plaque was placed inside the Carriage House. Mr. Hollie Archer saw the plaque and felt that it would be better appreciated if it were mounted on a monument stone in front of the flags. Mr. and Mrs. Archer, WI Members and supporters of the Museum, provided funding for this monument. They also provided funding for two of the flag poles near the monument, with WI Member, Jerinne Porteous, donating the centre flag pole in honour of FWIO Past President, Peggy Knapp, who passed away in 2014.

Thank you to all WI Members and friends who took part in the celebrations. Special thanks to MP Bob Bratina, Dave Rosborough for MPP Paul Miller, Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Hamilton City Councillor Brenda Johnson who brought greetings. FWIO Past President, Evelyn Peck (and current Executive Officer to FWIC), brought greetings from the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Christine Reaburn, FWIO Past President and current Provincial Tweedsmuir Coordinator, spoke about the Tweedsmuir History Books, while Museum Curator, Alyssa Gomori, gave a preview of FWIO's new Virtual Archives. We were also delighted to welcome descendants of Erland and Janet Lee.

The 119th Anniversary was also celebrated across Ontario with the *Teddy Bear & Quincy Book Project*. See pages 14-15 for more information.



*Pictured: The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell addresses WI Members and guests.*



*Pictured (L-R): FWIO President, Margaret Byl, and The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell.*

*Pictured (L-R): Jerinne Porteous, Anne Bain, The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Hollie Archer, Marlene Archer, Marian Austin, President Margaret Byl and President-Elect Barbara Weese.*



CALENDAR

*Mark your  
calendars!*

**Application Deadline for FWIO Scholarships**  
June 30, 2016

**Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award Deadline**  
June 30, 2016

**Board Meeting**  
July 26-28, 2016

**ACWW Triennial Conference in England**  
August 17-23, 2016