

## BIRR UNITED CHURCH

Birr United Church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1985. Originally it was a Methodist congregation served by circuit riders who met with the settlers in homes. The first chapel in Birr was a frame building built in the early 1830's in an area now occupied by the cemetery. In 1856 it was replaced by a brick chapel; a parsonage was built nearby to accommodate the minister. In 1902 the present church was built on a site directly across from the graveyard.

Birr Methodist Church became Birr United Church in 1925 when the United Church of Canada was formed.

## BIRR WOMENS' INSTITUTE

Birr Womens' Institute was organized in 1911, at a time when there was a need for rural women to have the opportunity for self-expression and learning. In 1986 when their 75th anniversary is celebrated, members of Birr W. I. will recall the influence they have exerted toward many facets of home and community programs detailed "for the good of all mankind".

A treasured heirloom of Birr W. I. is the "Emily Guest" pin, worn by each president during her term of office. Emily Guest (1871 - 1936), a native of the Birr community with an inherited interest in people, became an organizer of Womens' Institute locally and in Great Britain. As a tribute for the Institute work done in England and Scotland she was presented with a jewelled W. I. badge pin. After her death, the pin was given to Birr W. I. by her family. On June 9, 1985, by invitation, members of Birr W. I. attended a ceremony inducting Miss Emily Guest into the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Members of Birr W. I. feel privileged to have a part in hosting "Convention '85". It gives us an opportunity to meet Institute friends with a common cause, "for Home and Country".

by Edna Adams, 1985  
Curator of the Tweedsmuir History

## PROGRAMME

### SING-SONG

Manley Sadler and Anne White

### POEM OF WELCOME

Dorothy Dobbie

### BIDDULPH CHAMBER SINGERS

Conducted by Randy Martin

Everybody Has Music Inside  
Somewhere a Child is Singing  
Pass It Along  
Canon of Praise

### A FABLE FROM AFRICA

Told by Manley Sadler

### PIANO SOLO

Alexandra Luce

Thumbelina  
The Swiss Cuckoo

### A MIME ACT

Denny Byrne

### SOLOIST

Marilyn Bilyea  
Belle-Anne Luce (accompanist)

Still as the Night  
Oh, No John, No John, No John, No

### CLOSING

Manley Sadler

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### FOLLOWED BY

A social time downstairs with strawberries,  
cake and conversation.