

worked alongside her mother at Wallbank spring factory near Washington. That's where she met her future husband, Bob Trachsel, in 1961.

Leaving home that year, Winnie went to live with her mother's mother in London and worked between jobs at Carson's Ladies Wear and Birks Jewellers. Bob helped her get a job at Standard Products in Stratford and she lived with Marion and Harvey Steinman until the couple was married on October 26, 1963 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sebastopol-Tavistock.

"Bob always wanted to farm," Winnie said. He had grown up on a farm on the county line just west of Tavistock. A few months before they were married, Bob went to a farm sale on Line 29 to buy some used furniture. When he realized he might be able to actually purchase the farm, he quickly drove down the road to speak to his grandfather, P.W. Morgenroth, who helped him finance the purchase. It wasn't until later that he learned his grandfather was born in the house on the property.

After fixing up the house, Bob and Winnie worked off the farm for two years. They then started milking Guernsey cattle, several years later changing to Holstein and adding some Brown Swiss. They lost their herd to brucellosis in 1976, but with the help of Tony Danen, rebuilt a purebred herd with cattle purchased from another herd near Lakeside.

During that time they raised their two children,

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Tim and Tarra. Tim and wife Tina live on the home farm and have three sons, Tanner, 25; Tyler, 23; and Tayler, 19. Tarra and her husband, Darrell Green, live in Stratford with their two sons, Aaron, 10 and Rowan, 8.

Bob and Winnie went into partnership with their son, Tim and his wife, Tina, in 1996 and in 2003, moved west on the same road to live on their current property.

"We're very fortunate to have five grandsons," Winnie said. "The girls will come," she added. With the boys involved in hockey, "We go to every game we can get to," she said.

Any other free time Winnie does have, she enjoys oil painting. Self-taught, she has an eye for landscapes having produced some beautiful works that now hang proudly throughout their home.

Last week celebrated International Women's Day and Winnie is proud of what the Women's Institutes have achieved over the past 120 years. W.I.'s represent over 90 million women in 70 countries making a big contribution to women's issues around the world.

What she has learned is that we all make mistakes, but we learn from them and carry on. "And much of what I've learned I can attribute to W.I." she said.

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Women's Institutes celebrating 120 years

For home & country...

Are you aware February 19th, 2017 marks 120 years since the Women's Institute began in Stoney Creek, Ontario - 1897?

To commemorate this milestone, Huron-Perth District of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario is celebrating this day as "Women's Institute Day." Adelaide Hoodless spoke at the inaugural meeting in Stoney Creek, focusing on the need for rural women to be educated about home-making and child care. Co-founder Erland Lee used his influence in municipal government to assist Adelaide in the formation of the world's first women's organization.

Branches spread geographically throughout rural communities in Ontario as Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO), across Canada as Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and around the world as Associated

Country Women of the World (ACWW). This international organization is evidence of Women's Institutes' positive influence in hundreds of communities and in the lives of many thousands of women and their families.

Through the network of its branches, W.I offers education programs, community support and advocates for social environment and economic change which results in personal growth of all women "For Home and Country."

The Women's Institutes are celebrating the milestone of 120 years in conjunction with Canada's 150th birthday. Huron-Perth District Women's Institute invites everyone to mark February 19th as "Women's Institute Day" [est.1897] and celebrate with us.

Huron-Perth District Women's Institute
Winnie Trachsel,
Advocacy Co-ordinator
Tav. Gaz. p. 2 Feb 9, 2017