

Home & Country

Federated Women's
Institutes of Ontario
rural ontario
sharing education

ROSE Garden Winter 2007



Let's Celebrate!

About 110 years ago, the passionate and courageous Adelaide Hunter Hoodless was motivated by the tragic loss of her infant son from drinking raw milk. She believed that increased training for young women could only improve family life and help avoid tragedies like hers.

In 1897, Adelaide worked with Erland and Janet Lee to create the first Women's Institute. The phenomenon quickly spread across Ontario, Canada and then the world becoming one of the most important women's organizations in history.

Today Adelaide's vision lives on through Women's Institute and the ROSE (rural ontario sharing education) Program. And raw milk is still an important issue. Some of the issues affecting today's women and families still exist even after all these years. In December, Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound MPP Bill Murdoch introduced a private members bill calling for a task force to investigate whether raw milk sales might be made legal – the bill was soundly defeated but debate erupted right across the province. WI Members were quick to defend the pasteurization of milk to their communities and the media. There is more on this story on page 4.

With over 500 Branches and 7,500 Members across the province, Adelaide's legacy of educating women and positively impacting family life continues. Advocating for change, fundraising for important causes, providing a meeting place for neighbours, family and friends -- WI has a lot to celebrate!