

110  
years

Federated Women's  
Institutes of Ontario  
rural ontario  
sharing education

# Happy Birthday

1889

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless' son John dies from drinking impure milk. Adelaide begins her crusade to educate young women.

1896

Erland Lee hears Adelaide Hunter Hoodless speak at an agricultural conference at the Ontario College of Agriculture in Guelph. He invites her to speak to a Farmers Institute Meeting.

1897

on February 19th, the first organizationawl meeting of the Women's Institute takes place in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Later, Erland Lee and his wife, Janet, draw up the constitution of the Women's Institute on their dining room table.

1903

WI motto "For Home and Country" and the design of a pin are unveiled at the newly built Macdonald Institute in Guelph during the 1903 convention.

1904

Laura Rose proposes blue and gold as the official colours of WI.

1913

domestic science education by extension (an early form of distance education) is launched between the Macdonald Institute and the Ontario Women's Institutes.

1916

All 30,000 members are kept busy knitting socks and shirts to send to men fighting in the War.

1919

WI Branches organize themselves in a new way by forming a provincial body: the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO).

1933

the first issue of Home and Country is published.

1940

a recently widowed Lady Tweedsmuir approved that the history books of WI Branches should be named after her late husband, and so originated "The Tweedsmuir Village History Books."

1950s

Women's Institute Members propose several resolutions, some of which lead to: bread being sold in bags, painting of white lines on highways, and mandatory stopping for school buses with flashing lights.

1962

the Canadian Historical Association awards a certificate of merit to the Women's Institute for their efforts in preserving local history.

1972

FWIO purchases the Lee Family Home, and opens the same year as the Erland Lee Museum.

1994

FWIO opens its doors at the new Provincial Office on Wellington Road 30 in Guelph.

1999

ROSE Health Program launched (rural ontario sharing education)

2003

Calendar Girls is released- a motion picture based on a true story of the Rylstone Women's Institute in North Yorkshire, England.

2007

Women's Institute celebrates its 110th Birthday!



Erland and Janet Lee (right), Christina Smith (2nd from right) and others from Stoney Creek WI, 1922.