

Women's Institute set to mark centennial in February

On Feb. 19, Women's Institute (W.I.) members around the world will celebrate the formation of the first W.I. branch in Stoney Creek. In Ontario, all branches will meet on that date, using a common program.

The purpose of this meeting is "to join together in unity and spirit to honour this very special day," said branch program chairman Peggy McLeod.

The program includes the traditional singing of the

W.I. Ode, the recitation of the Mary Stewart Collect, the reading of the minutes of the first meeting in Stoney Creek, and a candle-lighting ceremony.

As well, a skit entitled, "Do you know that..." will be presented. Roll call will be answered by members stating: "What I have accomplished with a W.I. life skill."

In the early years, all branches presented a motto: two minutes of inspiration. For the province-wide meet-

ing, the motto will be: "Celebrate the past; challenge the future."

The major celebration of the centennial will take place at the Hamilton convention centre, June 17 to 22. Delegates have already registered from Canada, New Zealand, China, India, England, the U.S., Cameroon, and the Isle of Wight.

The theme of the national convention, hosted by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, is "Indebted to the Past: Committed to the Future." Theme speaker on opening day is Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of *For Home and Country*, the re-

cently-published history of the Women's Institute movement.

Also featured is motivational speaker Rosalie Wysocki, who will speak on positive attitudes, team building, and communication skills.

Norman Rebin, internationally known innovator,

futurist and author from Saskatchewan, will speak on the convention theme.

Centennial day, June 21, features an internationally renowned speaker on "Committed to the future," followed by an historical pageant written by Peggy Knapp, former FWIO president.

An international dinner, with delegates in national costumes, and a multicultural program will complete the program.

Registration forms for the centennial celebration are available from the FWIO provincial office in Guelph, telephone (519) 836-3078.

FWIO WILL BE 100 YEARS OLD!

The promotion started early and builds!!

June: Women's Institute Month

Women's Institute aims to :

- assist and encourage women to become more knowledgeable and responsible citizens
 - promote and develop good family life skills
 - help discover, stimulate and develop leadership
 - help identify and resolve needs in the community
- Ontario Women's Institutes have achieved many accomplishments:
- support of 4H clubs, agricultural fairs, hospitals, foster children overseas, community halls, museums
 - developed an maintain TWEEDSMUIR HISTORIES, books which document the history of Your

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vicinity through its buildings, people, farms and industry

- offer scholarships for continuing education
- belong to the Associated Country Women of the World supporting community improvement projects in the Third World i.e. nutrition, education, sanitary water facilities

• act as consultants to the United Nations Federated Women's Institute of Canada are instrumental in:

- planting trees
- recycling programs
- getting legislation for the *Living Will*
- encouraging an awareness for the Environment
- dental and medical inspections in schools
- requiring pasteurization of milk
- having poisons clearly marked
- enacting legislation on dimming car lights when meeting
- making the law mandatory for traffic to stop when a school bus is stopped (1962)
- having white line painted on the center of provincial highways

Women's Institute have a respected voice in government.

Do you want to make a difference in our community?

Inquire about your local W.I. branch and see if, together, **We Can Make a Difference.**

Marlene Matheson, P.R.O.

Voice of the Farmer, Tuesday, October 27, 1992

Women's Institutes continue to be strong supporters of rural Ontario

The Women's Institute is at it again. A strong supporter of traditional rural values for the past 95 years ago, the W.I. is now urging its membership to help ensure the preservation of archival documents that help tell the story of rural Ontario.

The original resolution for the preservation of archival documents was submitted in August by the Springford W.I. in Oxford South District. On Oct. 14, members of the Women's Institutes in London area came together in Ailsa Craig for their annual convention and adopted the Springfield resolution as their own.

The resolution is in keeping with what the Women's Institute has always promoted and preached. The organization's Tweedsmuir histories have been religiously maintained and faithfully updated in most every community where a Women's Institute is active. If not for the W.I., many a rural community in Southwestern Ontario would not have a record of its past and its history.

But more than that, the Women's Institute has been responsible for a wide variety of responsible legislation, not the least of which was requirement for pasturized milk within the province of Ontario.

For this we offer the Women's Institute a tip of the hat. The organization has always strived to enhance the quality of rural living, and the Springfield resolution would seek to ensure that a record of rural life is maintained.