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GREETINGS TO LAKESIDE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

and to your honoured guests at this celebration.

One hundred years! What a milestone! The Women's Institute has certainly earned a wonderful place in the history of Ontario. If we think back to the time of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless and the reason for the beginning of the movement, we certainly see a different environment for the women of the rural community.

What challenges women faced as this country opened up. Men who are honoured as pioneers of Ontario seem to have been brideless, wifeless, but not childless. Read the old manuscripts - no credit is given to the women who nurtured children in impossible conditions, women who made meals from the available wild game, wild vegetables and fruits, who tended the cows if they had them, who hoed and weeded all day, and sewed clothing by candlelight, after the evening meal had been served and the dishes were done. Women who often watched their children die as small babies, or at least before five years of age.

It was these women who embraced the Women's Institute as a way to learn better methods and the latest in technology. As you can see, they needed to have more to do! Certainly, it must have been nice to get out and see the other ladies, as well.

And, it is good to see the descendants of those pioneer ladies celebrating today. While the Institute has had it's share of good times, they have also experienced times of adversity. These

The mission of the OFA is to improve the economic and social well-being of farmers in cooperation with county, commodity and rural farm groups. ~~benefit the women's institute, and as a woman who honours the women of~~ the rural community, I wish you well as you begin your next one hundred years.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gerald R. ...".