

Press Release from
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of Ontario

Ontario Women's Institute Mark 75th Anniversary, Over 1600 Attend

Over sixteen hundred enthusiastic Women's Institute members, guests and friends from all parts of Ontario gathered at the Royal York, Toronto, on February 12th, 1972 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding at Stoney Creek, Wentworth County on February 19th, 1897.

Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, Ottawa, president of Ontario Women's Institute was chairman and extended a warm welcome to all present. A toast was proposed to her Majesty the Queen, and the Women's Institute grace was sung. They were delighted to have as their guests at the head table presidents at all levels. Mrs. Olive Farquharson, United Kingdom, president of the Associated Countrywomen of the World; Canada's deputy president, Mrs. I. M. Spry; Mrs. J. Phillip Matheson, Prince Edward Island, Area vice president; the president of Federated Women's Institute of Canada, Mrs. E. V. Fulton, Manitoba. They assisted Mrs. Noblitt to cut the birthday cake, which was a beautiful replica of the Erland Lee Homestead.

Special greetings were extended from her Majesty the Queen; Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau; Prime Minister of Ontario, William G. Davis; Hon. Wm. A. Stewart in expressing greetings from the Department of Agriculture and Food, said the weather had favoured the gathered, "How could it dare to do otherwise." The responsibility of elevating the nutrition & health standards of homes across Ontario, the far reaching impact of the training of 4-H Homemaking club girls, the part Women's Institute members have played in the rural farm homes, as to Farm Safety and the business aspects of farming, will never be fully realized. So from the people of Ontario, we thank you and congratulate you on past achievements and wish you continued success.

Mrs. Austin S. Zoeller, New Hamburg, introduced the guest speaker Mrs. Olive Farquharson, O.B.E., president of the Associated Countrywomen of the World. Mrs. Farquharson extended greetings from all organizations from around the world

which help make up the Associated Countrywomen of the World. She likened the founding of the Women's Institute to the light from a tiny candle which has spread a glow of light, friendship and practical help right around the whole wide world. We look forward eagerly to the next 75 years, not forgetting to make good use of our increasing leisure time. Do not forget the basic truths of friendship and being good neighbours. The Council of the World need women who will help families learn to help themselves through their own efforts. Are we going to rest on our laurels or are we going to look for fresh fields to conquer, so the candle power will continue to spread good fortune to all peoples in many parts of the world. Mrs. Farquharson presented a book to the Ontario Women's Institute entitled "To every man there is a season."

Mrs. Leonard Trivers, Thessalon, a past president, expressed the appreciation of the gathering to Mrs. Farquharson and presented her with a copy of the new Ontario Women's Institute story. Appreciation was also expressed to the committee who had done so much to arrange the birthday celebration; for the continued assistance we receive from Miss McKercher and the Extension Service, through the Department of Agriculture and Food. Mrs. Trivers also pledged our support to all projects at National and International levels.

A beautiful story was presented by Mrs. Kenneth Chapin and Mrs. Chester Jackson, Brant County in music and song of the Women's Institute history. The several lovely and most original hats represented Adelaide Hoodless, the founder of W.I., countries across the sea, etc. up to February 12th, 1972 and the 75th Birthday celebration. It was a most delightful presentation and the round of applause showed the appreciation of the attentive audience.

This brought the birthday party to a close, and will be added to the many happy memories of other momentous occasions of the past.