

**IODE National 75th anniversary**

# John Milton Chapter founded 64 years ago

**By Joyce Beaton**  
In this International Women's Year, 1975, it is interesting to dig back into the history of some of our volunteer women's organizations and find out how they were formed, and why.  
The IODE, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, is 75 years old in this year when the world is focusing on women. Seventy-five years ago the IODE was formed during the anxious days of the South African War. Mrs. Clark Murray of Montreal conceived the idea and the first chapter was formed in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Today the organization has chapters in every province and territory of Canada.  
Life in 1975 is a far cry from life in 1900. It is a tribute to the founding members that their early concerns have provided a firm foundation for the growth of the vital, relevant organization that the IODE is today. Education, services and citizenship are still the chief concerns of the Order.

**Pioneer projects**  
Many pioneer projects undertaken in the past are now government responsibilities. Members are conscious of new areas of challenge and undertake new projects with the same sense of dedication and tenacity of purpose as their predecessors.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding nationally of the IODE a Canadian bred, deep red floribunda rose was especially developed. Proceeds from the sale of this new, hardy rose bush will support Concern for Children projects in each province and territory. It is a beautiful symbol of the Order's 75 years of service and devotion to others.

In Ontario the sale of the rose bushes will further the cause of genetic counselling. It will finance a travelling genetic counselling team which will visit a centre in Ontario where no such counselling is immediately available.

**John Milton Chapter**  
IODE in Milton was founded in 1911 by some ladies who were considering the formation of a reading club. That was 64 years ago when Mrs. F. C. Willmott went to Palermo with Miss Bastedo, a well-known artist who had been commissioned to paint a portrait of Dr. Anson Buck.

In conversation with Mrs. Colin Campbell, Dr. Buck's daughter, the matter of the reading club was discussed. Mrs. Campbell, an ardent Daughter of the Empire immediately suggested the formation of an IODE chapter.

The result was that on June 6, 1911, at the home of Mrs. Horning, the John Milton Chapter was formed. Of the 25 ladies present, 17 became members. The first officers were Regent, Mrs. F. C. Willmott; secretary, Mrs. Andrew. Those who signed the constitution were Mesdames J. C. Willmott, Inman, R. Stewart, S. Hanant and the Misses Mary Scott, Mina Hume, Sara Bowes and Elizabeth Bastedo.

**Scrap books**  
Reading through the carefully kept scrap books of the organization is like reading a local history book. Just as the earlier women were most naturally concerned with the field comforts for Canadian servicemen fighting in South Africa, so were the women of Milton during the first and second world wars.  
In 1914 all else was

forgotten as members worked wholeheartedly for field comforts for the soldiers. Honor cards presented for knitting over 100 pairs of socks went to 11 members. Mrs. Maw received a special pin, the first to be given in Canada, for having knit a grand total of 1,000 pairs of socks!  
An interesting post-war ceremony was the presentation of life membership

badges to six Milton nurses who served overseas. The recipients were Mesdames Eric Robertson, D. R. Wark, A. E. Richards, J. V. Allott, J. Cathart and Miss Kathleen Panton.  
At the conclusion of World War 1, at each and every Christmas, flowers were sent to the war widows. The children were also remembered in a special way.

**World War Two**  
From 1939 onwards the John Milton Chapter again gave of its time, money and talent in the second call for war work. In addition, on each Remembrance Day members of the Chapter have attended the Memorial Day service and placed a wreath at the foot of the cenotaph.  
In the early years of the Chapter the need for a hospital in the Milton district was discussed. To this end Miss E. Bastedo started a hospital fund with an exhibition of her paintings, the proceeds of which were \$11. Through the years this fund has been added to and a substantial sum was made available for the Milton District Hospital when it was finally built.

Women in Halton  
Sixth  
in a series



International  
Women's Year  
1975



CUTTING THE CAKE at the golden anniversary of the John Milton Chapter IODE are four of the officials who played a big part in the day's program in 1961. From left to right are hostess Mrs. F. McNiven, Regent Mrs. John Vernon, Regent from 1916 to 1918 and from 1922 to 1925, Mrs. E. E. Yates and tea convener Mrs. F. McMaster.

**Pioneer cemetery**  
One extremely worth-while piece of work was undertaken in 1928 when the Pioneer Cemetery was restored. Contributions from pioneer descendants and from Chapter donations amounted to \$943. The brush was cut and cleared away, the ground levelled, and an iron fence placed along the front. The John Milton Chapter was also

Continued on page B7



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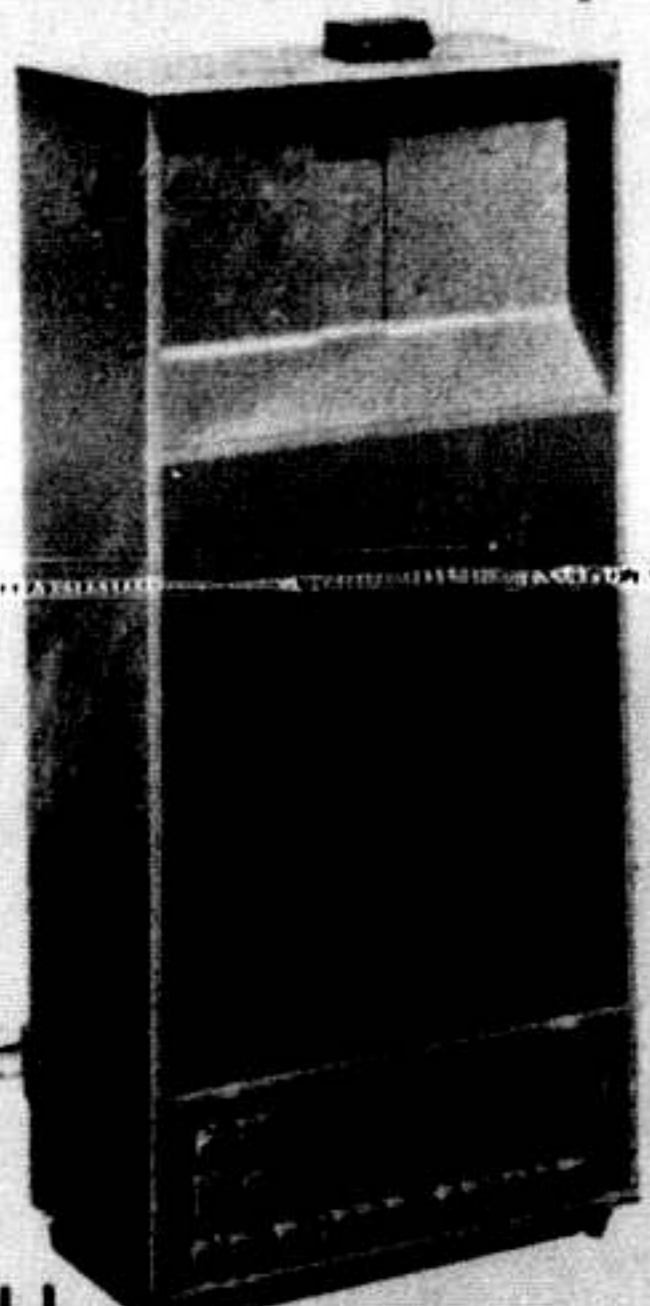
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JOHN MILTON CHAPTER IODE elected the 1975-76 executive recently. This is Milton's 64th year. The national IODE was formed in 1900. Local members from left in the front row are Mmes. H. R. Magee, C. Peacock, E. W. Foster, R. Mackay. Second row are Mmes G. F. Thompson, Cockam, M. Rasberry, J. Sproat, D. E. Martin, N. L. Pickett, G. Bussell, F. Edwards and T. A. Hutchinson.

## ATTENTION



INTERIORS — FURNITURE

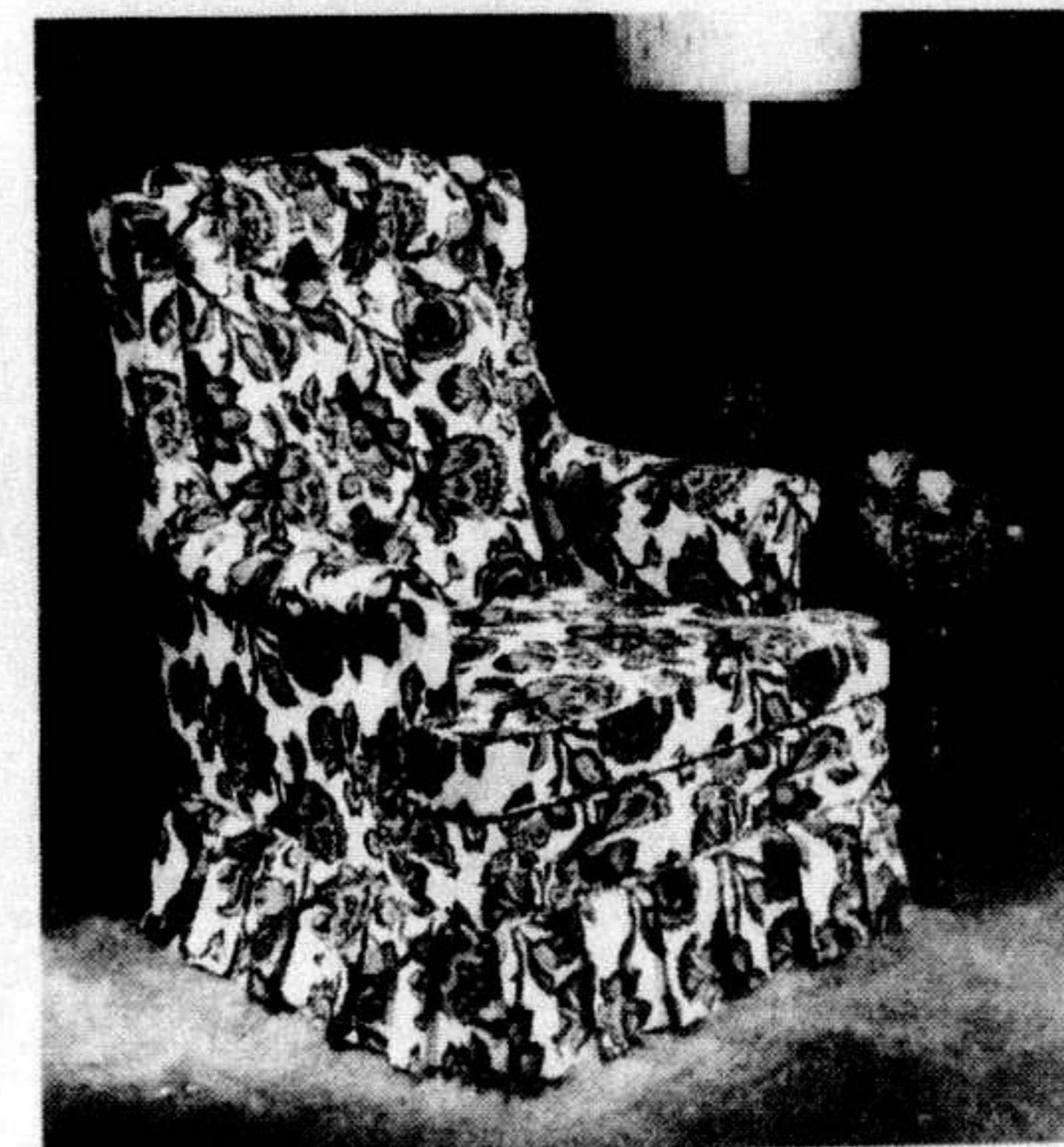
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