

Halton Women's Institutes

1901 - 1951

In 1897, the first Women's Institute ever organized came into being at Stoney Creek, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless being the inspiration.

On February 2nd, 1901, ten ladies met in Milton to organize a Women's Institute in Halton County. The officers elected were President, Mrs. J. S. Deacon; Vice-President, Mrs. Robertson; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. W. J. Cottrell and directors chosen were Mrs. J. L. Warren, Mrs. A. T. Mann, Mrs. John Dicken, Mrs. F. C. Wilmott, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. W. J. Clements, Miss McGregor, Mrs. D. Hartley, Mrs. A. W. Peart, Mrs. D. Campbell, Mrs. W. T. Brown, Mrs. D. Turner, Mrs. John Wrigglesworth, Mrs. M. Crawford.

It was decided at this meeting to hold a public meeting on March 5th and ask Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless to address the meeting. Mrs. Hoodless was unable to come, but the minutes record that a joint meeting with the Farmers' Institute had an attendance in the afternoon of 300 and 250 at the evening meeting, with Miss Laura Rose, Mr. George Cottrell and Mr. A. W. Peart as speakers.

At the April meeting, it was decided to have printed six copies of the Constitution and By-laws of the Stoney Creek Institute.

In May the meeting was held in Acton with 20 ladies present. Miss Laura Rose of Guelph addressed the meeting.

The next recorded meeting was on September 17th with 11 present and papers given by Miss M. Hollinrake, Mrs. S. R. Bews and Miss M. McGregor.

On November 21st, the Women's Institute held a meeting at Bronte with 35 ladies present. The following ladies were added to the Board of Directors, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Speers, Mrs. Dudley Alton, Mrs. McCrimmon.