

Scrapbook

Created by

Irene Moir

On her attendance at the

Federated Institutes of Canada

Celebrating

100 Years of Women's Institutes

Hamilton, Ontario

June 17-22, 1997

Made in U.S.A.

Item no. 016137



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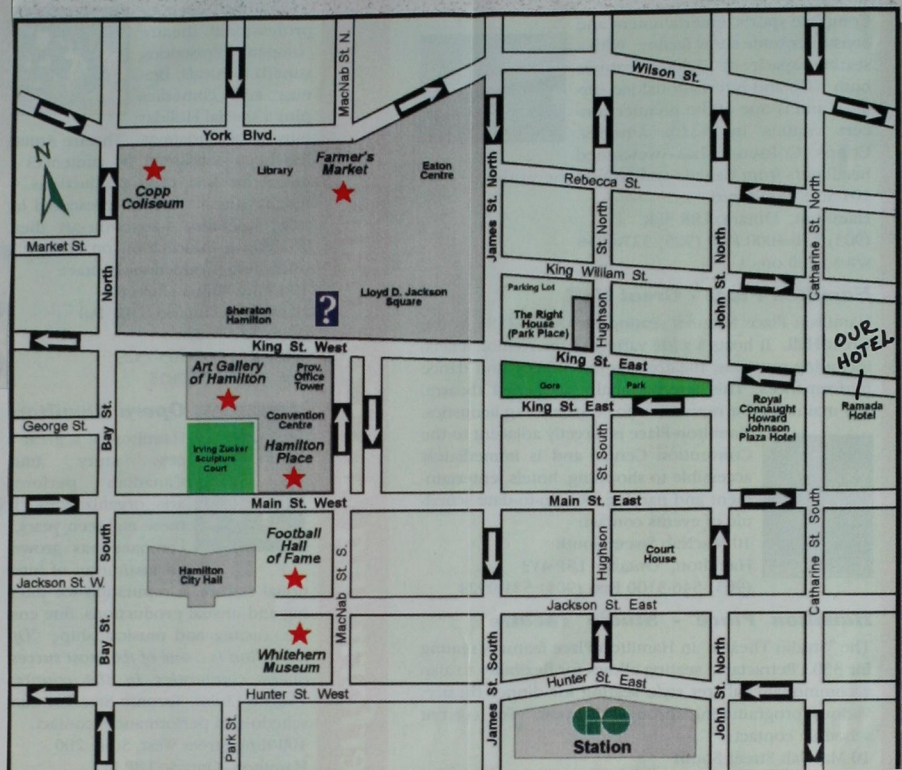
W.I. Centennial Song

1. It's a hundred years since
Adelaide Hoodless was convinced.
That milk should be pasteurized.
Then Janet and Erland Lee
Found it easy to see
That women should organize.
2. For Mrs. Hoodless knew
That informed women grew,
So they did mobilize.
Hundred and one women came
And things were ne're the same,
For they formed the W.I.'s.
3. So this idea spread,
Round the world it shed
Its light. Things modernized.
So women's homes improved,
And countries laws were moved
Their knowledge exercised.
4. To encourage, help and share,
Build a better world with care
Is the work of the W.I.'s.
Now a hundred years young,
Still there's work to be done.
Women's lives to be vitalized.
5. Now it's time to celebrate;
Achievements commemorate
With honour and with pride.
This Centennial salute
Of the Women's Institute.
Women of the world, Arise!



(C) Words and music by Marie F.
Harris, October 1994





100 ANNIVERSARY

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

1897 - 1997

CONVENTION

JUNE 17 - 22, 1997

HAMILTON, ONTARIO

Copps Collection

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in the archives of the University
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available for research and
study. For more information,
please contact the University
of Toronto Archives.

University of Toronto Archives



The Mary Stewart Collect

Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be
large in thought, in word and deed.

Let us be done with fault finding and leave
off self seeking.

May we put away all pretence and meet
each other face to face, without self pity
and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and
always generous.

Let us take time for all things: make us grow
calm, serene, gentle.

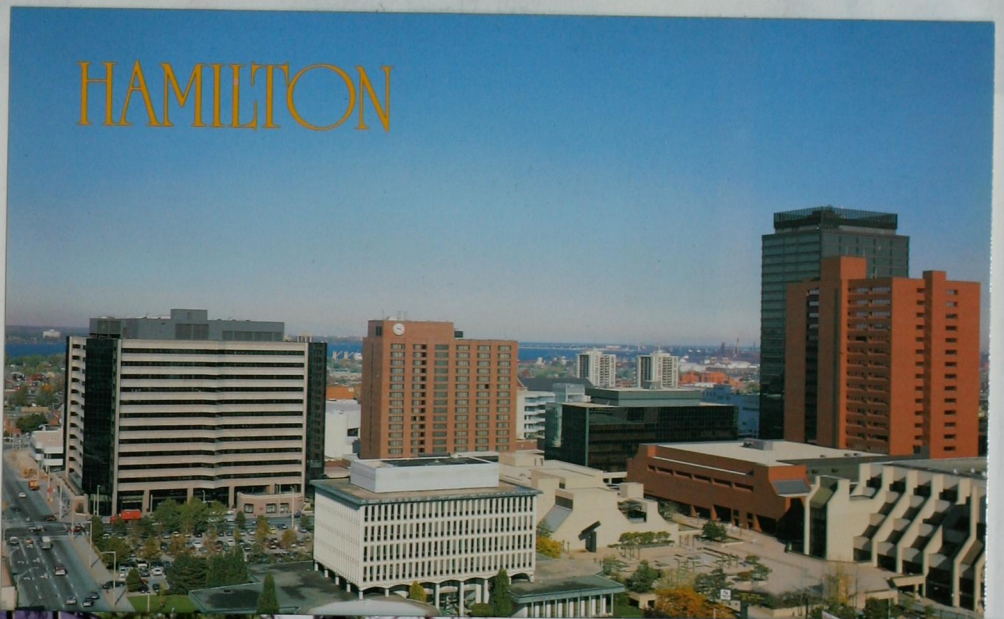
Teach us to put into action our better impulses
straight forward and unafraid.

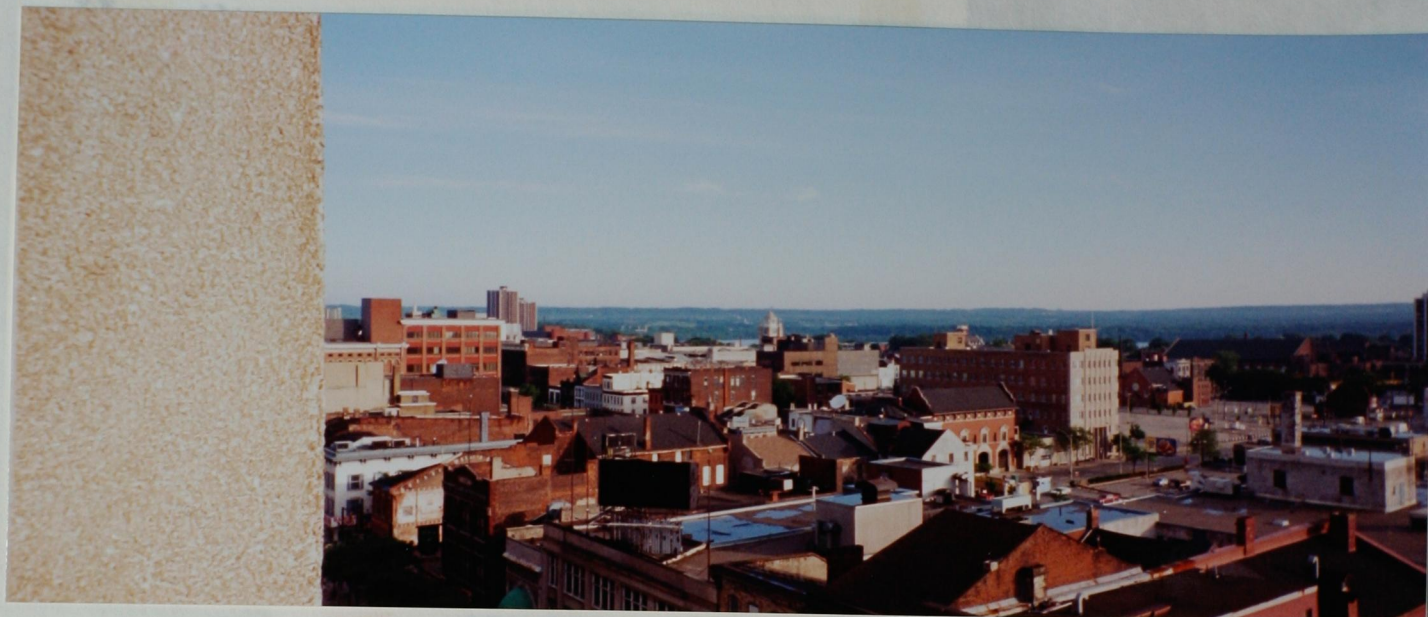
Grant that we may realize that it is the little
things that create differences: that in the
big things of life we are one.

And may we strive to touch and know the
great human heart common to us all, and
O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

W.I. 100 YEARS 1997

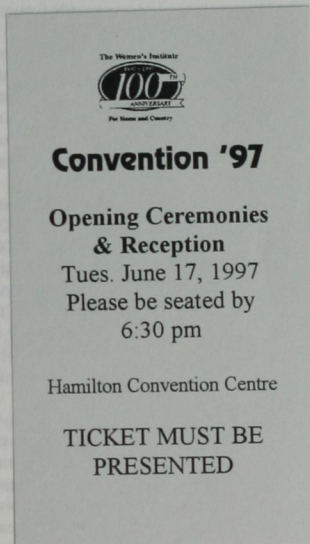
**PLACES WE VISITED
ON FIRST AFTERNOON
IN HAMILTON.**





**VIEWS OF HAMILTON
FROM HOTEL WINDOW.**

Received from Irene Moir Nov 29 1996
four hundred & five XX 100 Dollars
Early Bird Registration
+ \$10.00 for Commemorative Booklet
\$ 405.00 Reg No. 058
with thanks
Tax Reg. No. Registrar Jeanne Porteous



W.I. Centennial F.W.I.C. Convention '97

Hamilton, Ont.
June 17-22, 1997

LIST OF ATTENDEES - ALPHABETICAL WITHIN DIVISIONS

WESTERN PROVINCES

Attridge, Grace Sask. 208
Bailey, Myrna B.C. 164
Ballhorn, Beryl Alberta 52
Ballhorn, Gordon Alberta 53
Bangs, Janet B.C. 144
Bartel, Lorena Sask. 213
Brown, Carol P. Alberta 70
Brown, Roy L. Alberta 37
Brown, Olga Alberta 44
Brown, Les Alberta 63
Brown, E. Marion Alberta 36
Butcher, Mildred Manitoba 224
Coons, Gloria E. B.C. 167
Davies, Vera Alberta 29
Desrocher, Lynda B.C. 129
Duncan, Frances 166
Enns, Emma P. Manitoba 219
Evans, Eleanor B.C. 115
Fauth, Josephine Alberta 68
Flin, Valerie B.C. 158
Gorrill, Gloria Alberta 74
Gunderson, Hazel B.C. 162
Hacking, Shirley-Anne Alberta 30
Hall, Evelyn B.C. 143
Hammerlindl, Winnifred J. Alberta 46
Hammond, Edna Manitoba 217
Harris, Clara R. Sask. 207
Hatten, Eleanor B.C. 108
Hatten, Helene B.C. 107
Hatten, Sharon B.C. 155
Haughton, Doreen B.C. 109
Herbert, Lorna B.C. 159
Holgate, Joan B.C. 112
Hopley, Lynne Manitoba 216
Hoszouski, Susan B.C. 114
Hummason, Bernice Sask. 201
Irwin, Nancy B.C. 156
Jager, Joan E. B.C. 139
Jennings, Edna Sask. 209
Johnson, Jean B.C. 106
Johnson, Alice B.C. 113
Johnson, Janet B.C. 122
Kadatz, Beverly Alberta 47
Kadatz, Evelyn Alberta 59
Karl, Elsie B.C. 118
Kirk, Margaret B.C. 133
Kitcher, Mary B.C. 172
Klein, Lois Alberta 26
Krekleuch, Virginia Sask. 202
Kritzinger, Aileen B.C. 127
Lancaster, Nancy B.C. 153
Lefsrud, Elizabeth Alberta 51
Lockhart, Mildred A. B.C. 130
Lewis, M. Alice Alberta 41
Luz, Mildred Alberta 49
Manness, Gladys Manitoba 220
Martin, Blanche Alberta 57
Mason, Wanda B.C. 110

McCormick, Lucy B.C. 169
McKinlay, Sylvia Alberta 40 **DID NOT ATTEND**
McLaren, Alice Manitoba 223
McLeod, Liz Alberta 35
McNabb, Marion Manitoba 221
Mercer, Mary Alberta 79
Meyer, Olive Alberta 34
Milman, Bonnie Sask. 203
Milne, Elizabeth Alberta 73
Minish, Dorothy Manitoba 226
Moir, Irene Alberta 58
Morelli, Joan B.C. 161
Nelson, Ada Sask. 212
Oosterhoff, Auktje Avelia B.C. 150
Parker, Gwen Manitoba 218
Pimm, Bill Alberta 33
Pimm, Zella Alberta 32
Plaizier, Marie Alberta 50
Ranos, Bertha Alberta 43
Rigby, Helen Manitoba 225
Roland, Margaret Sask. 197
Rushton, Elizabeth Alberta 38
Saastad, Kay Alberta 65
Schaff, Lucie B.C. 157
Schultz, Sheila B.C. 132
Schuster, Margaret Alberta 61
Scott, Patricia Alberta 81
Sells, Carolyn Sask. 210
Shadlock, Gerri Alberta 60
Shenfield, Stephanie Alberta 69
Soule, Colleen Sask. 199
Strange, Ruth Alberta 31
Stangland, Kathleen Sask. 211
Steadman, Barbara Alberta 42
Storch, Florence Alberta 78
Swainson, E. Hazel Alberta 48
Swanson, Laurie Alberta 80
Taylor, Lulu B.C. 151
Tee, Irene B.C. 126
Thomson, Elaine Manitoba 222
Toombs, Edith B.C. 128
Tower, Martha B.C. 168
Wakabayashi, Tomi B.C. 165
Watt, Mary B.C. 124
Weingart, Linda B.C. 149
Welter, Elizabeth Alberta 77
Will, Elane B.C. 121
Willis, Bernice Alberta 67
Wold, Mary Alberta 28
Young, Patricia Alberta 64

EASTERN PROVINCES

Archibald, Isabel Nova Scotia 416
Beazley, Doreen Nova Scotia 426
Belyea, Corrine N.Brunswick 352
Boone, Pat N.Brunswick 365
Briggs, Elsie N.Brunswick
Bryant, Helen N.Brunswick 346
Burke, Lillian Nfld 589

Burns, Marilyn Nova Scotia 439
Clark, Jean Quebec 299
Cleland, Ina Quebec 293
Clow, Evelyn P.E.I. 496
Cogswell, Joan Quebec 279
Colwell, Hilda N.Brunswick 334
Constantine, Evelyn N.Brunswick 359
Craig, Karen P.E.I. 488
Craig, Muriel Quebec 288
Crandall, Alice N.Brunswick 360
Crawford, Carol M. Nova Scotia 421
Dawson, Joan P.E.I. 479
Demont, Ruby Nova Scotia 424
Dickie, Ruth N.Brunswick 356
Eagles, Donna N.Brunswick 340
Elms, Eileen Nfld 590
Erskine, Rita Nova Scotia 437
Estey, Kay N.Brunswick 361
French, Lucy Quebec 286
Giberson, Shirley 364
Gidge, Joyce Nfld 587
Graham, Hazel B. 493
Gray, Mary N.Brunswick 324
Green, Marion N.Brunswick 322
Griffith, Joan Quebec 280
Hancock, Marg Nfld 586
Hartley, Muriel N.Brunswick 368
Hersey, Holly N.Brunswick 335
Himelman, Wendy P.E.I. 480
Hinckley, Barbara Nova Scotia 440
Hoy, Linda Quebec 273
Jones, Doris Nova Scotia 430
Jones, Delores Nfld 591
Keddy, Margaret Quebec 292
Keenan, Agnes Quebec 283
Knox, Carolyn 282
Kochoom, Tina Nova Scotia 444
Lacey, Betty N.Brunswick 321
Landry, Dawna N.Brunswick 347
Laracy, Frances Nfld 594
Lee, Jean Quebec 685
Leslie, Alexa Quebec 287
Lockau, Bernice Nova Scotia 417
MacDonald, Lorna P.E.I. 481
MacDonald, Reta P.E.I. 491
MacKenzie, Nettie Nova Scotia 423
MacPhee, Shirley Nova Scotia 425
Machum, Eliza B. N.Brunswick 367
Manuel, Mabel Nfld 588
McNeil, Brenda N.Brunswick 336
Mellish, Betty N.Brunswick 348
Moase, Pauline P.E.I. 497
Mullins, Patricia Nfld 576
Murray, Evelyn N.Brunswick 345
Myers, Priscilla H. P.E.I. 489
Needham, Neil Quebec 267
Needham, Betty Quebec 268
Paquet, Kathleen Quebec 270
Parker, Gwendolyn Quebec 266
Parker, Sterling Quebec 278

Here Mail

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
CENTENNIAL
Celebration

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES
OF CANADA CONVENTION



*"Indebted to the Past —
Committed to the Future"*

HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE
HAMILTON • ONTARIO

JUNE 17 - 22, 1997

ADELAIDE HUNTER
HOODLESS HOMESTEAD



RR 1, Blue Lake Rd.
St. George, Ont.
N0E 1N0
(519) 448-1130
Curator: Sue Doiron

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless
Homestead



THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FOUNDER OF
WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

ST. GEORGE, ONTARIO BRANT CO.

ADELAIDE
HUNTER HOODLESS
HOMESTEAD

Tuesday AM
ADMIT ONE
June 17/97

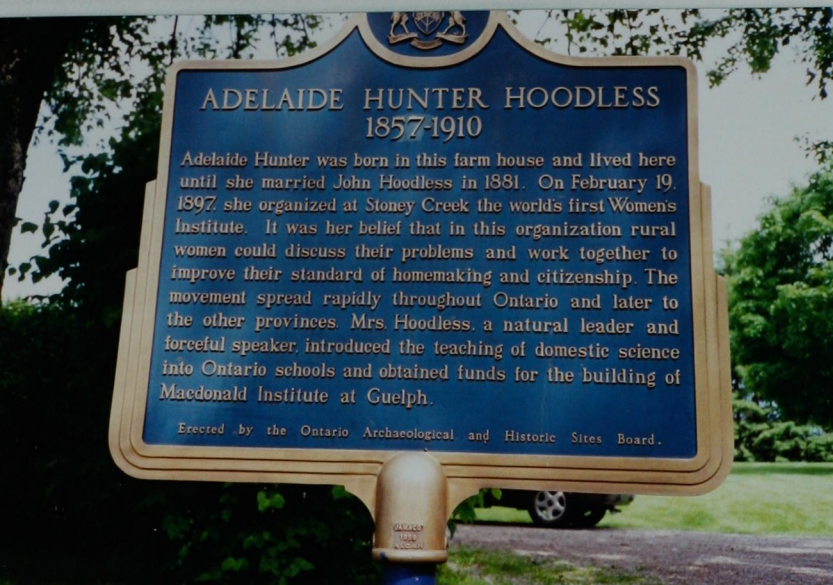
Feb 10 19 97

xx
100 Dollars

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless
Homestead Tour
June 17/97

No.

Jerinne Porteous



**BLANCHE MARTIN, MYSELF
AND EVELYN KADATZ.**



**FRONT VIEW OF ADELAIDE
HOODLESS HOMESTEAD**



**ANOTHER VIEW OF THE
'HOMESTEAD'**



**PARTICIPANTS IN THE
FASHION SHOW.**



**TWO LADIES IMPERSONATING
QUEEN VICTORIA AND ADELAIDE
HOODLESS.
BOTH VERY GOOD, THE LADY
WHO WAS THE QUEEN DID NOT
SMILE DURING THE WHOLE
FASHION SHOW.**



I LIKED THE PANTALOONS ON THE LADY'S NIGHT ATTIRE. THE LITTLE GIRL HAD ON A BEDCAP.

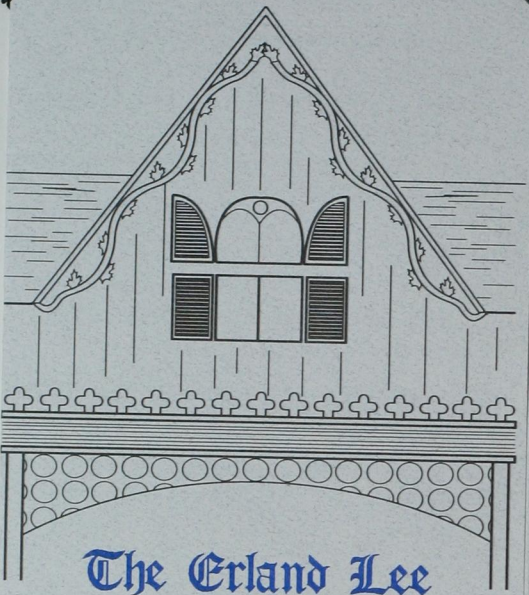


I THOUGHT THE COVER FOR THE "BEDROOM POT" WAS REALLY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.



EVELYN KADATZ AT THE PODIUM USED AT THE FASHION SHOW.





The Erland Lee (Museum) Home

552 Ridge Road
Stoney Creek, Ontario
L8J 2Y6
(905) 662-2691



Erland Lee (Museum) Home



Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada





The Grange Lee
General Store

211 Maple Road
Petersburg, Ontario
N4B 2Y5
(519) 882-2892

LOOK FOR THIS
SYMBOL TO LOCATE
SITE OF 1995
OKTOBERFEST
FESTIVAL.

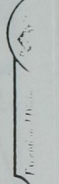
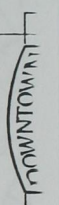
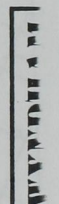
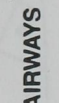


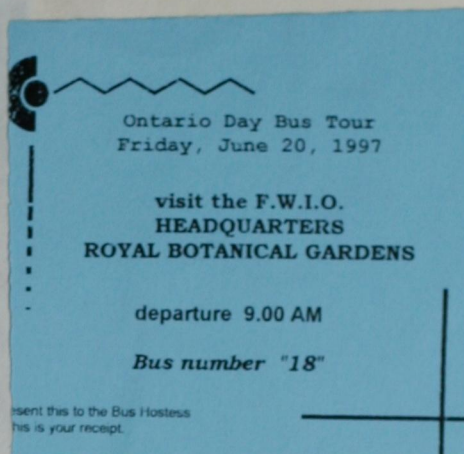
E F G H I J

COME FEE!
THE PRIDE



In the Heart of the City





THERE IS A PICNIC SITE AT THE BACK AND LUCKY FOR US IT HAD A ROOF. IT RAINED THE DAY WE WERE THERE AND WE WERE HAVING A "BROWN BAG" LUNCH. IT QUIT BY THE TIME WE WERE READY TO LEAVE.



HOUSE LEASED BY THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL FOR THEIR OFFICES. ONLY PROVINCIAL IN CANADA TO CALL THEIR OFFICES BY THIS NAME.

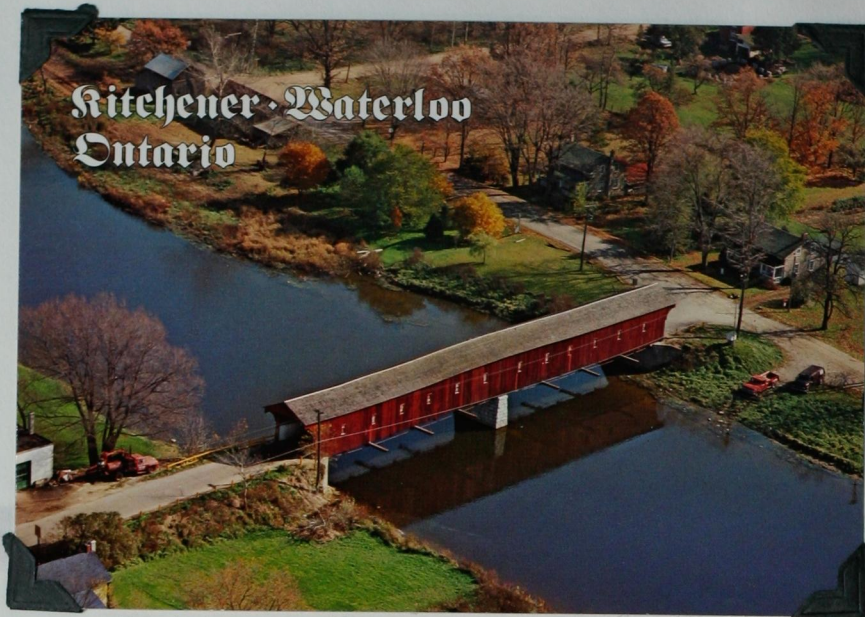
Royal Botanical Gardens



Paradise Found.
Ontario, Canada.







**Kitchener · Waterloo
Ontario**

**WEST MONTROSE COVERED BRIDGE ALSO
KNOWN AS THE KISSING BRIDGE.
208 FOOT STRUCTURE OF WHITE PINE
WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1881. IT SPANS THE
GRAND RIVER AND IS STILL IN USE TODAY.
WE WALKED ACROSS IT.**

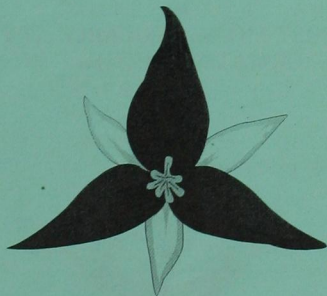
**MENS CHOIR ENTERTAINING US AT
GAGE PARK ON ONTARIO DAY.**



ONTARIO DAY CELEBRATIONS



JUNE 20, 1997
GAGE PARK
HAMILTON
ONTARIO



STAGE AFTER THE BANNER MARCH.
ALBERTA'S BANNER IS THE FIRST
WHITE ONE BY THE WALL.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA CONVENTION

INTERFAITH SERVICE



Sunday, June 22, 1997

Hamilton Place Theatre
Hamilton, Ontario

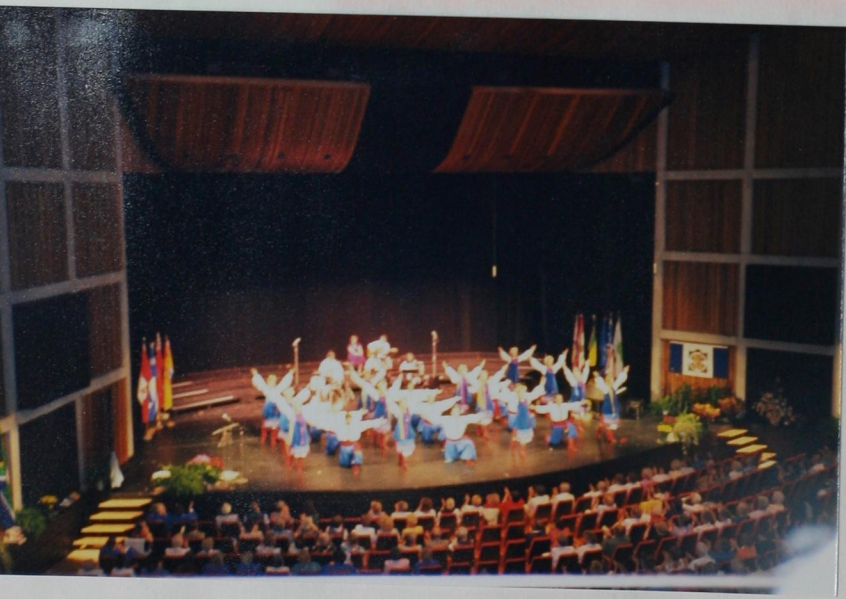
THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
1897 - 1997

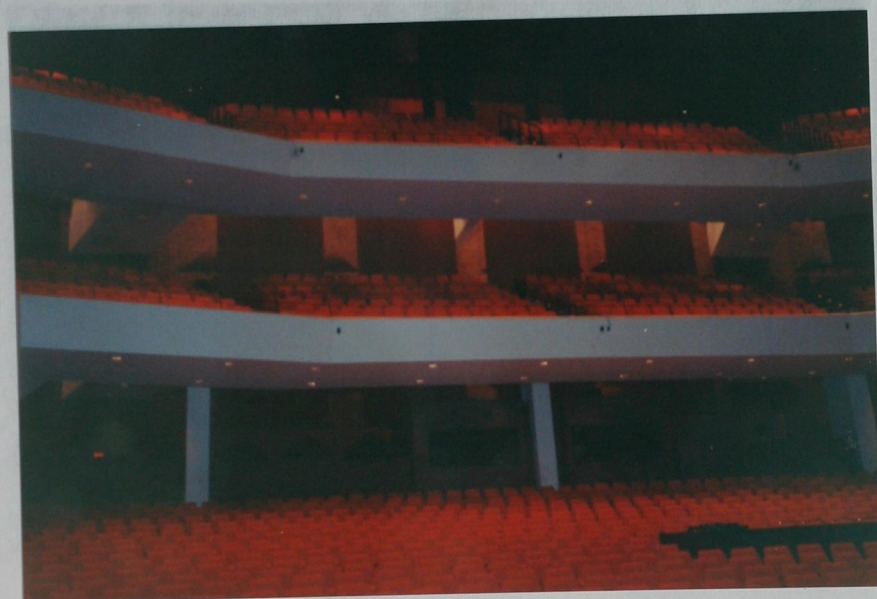
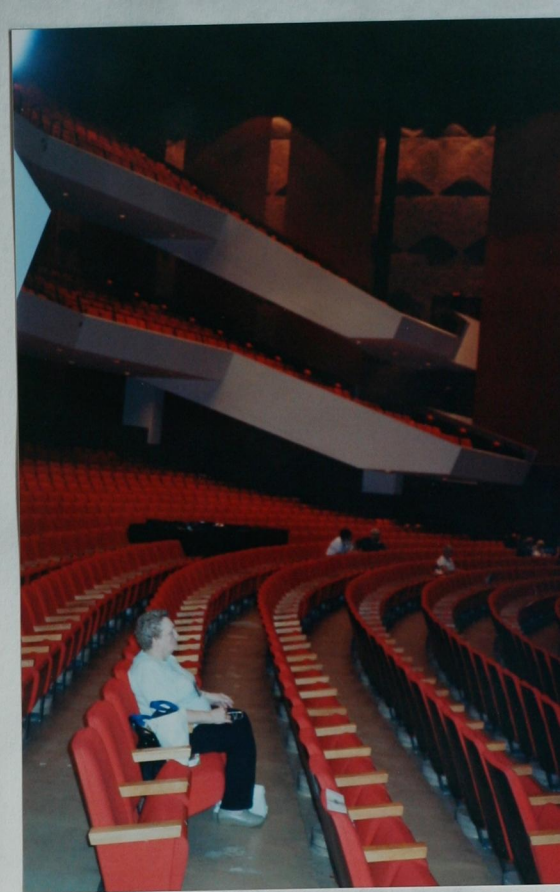
CENTENNIAL
INTERNATIONAL
DINNER





**ENTERTAINMENT ON
"INTERNATIONAL DAY"
SINGERS AND DANCERS
REPRESENTING MANY
LANDS.**







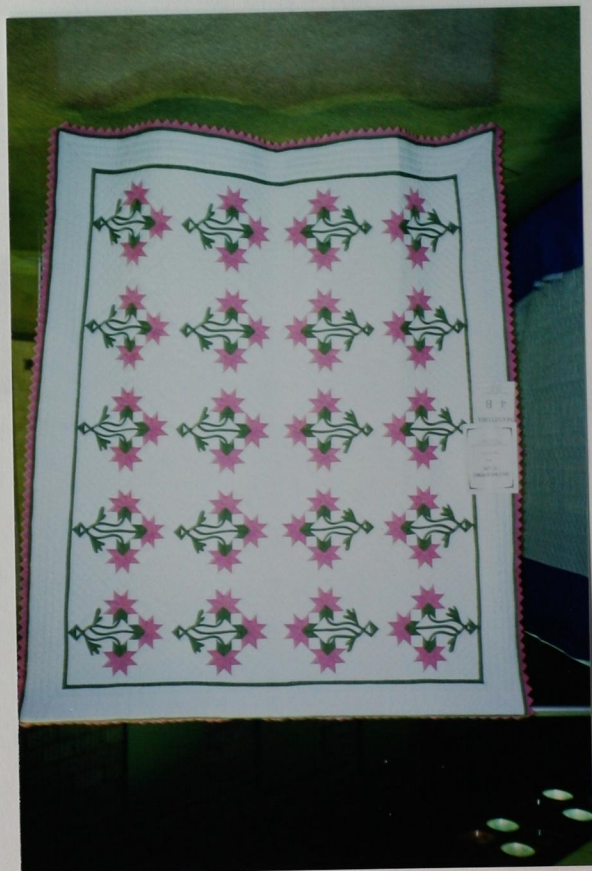
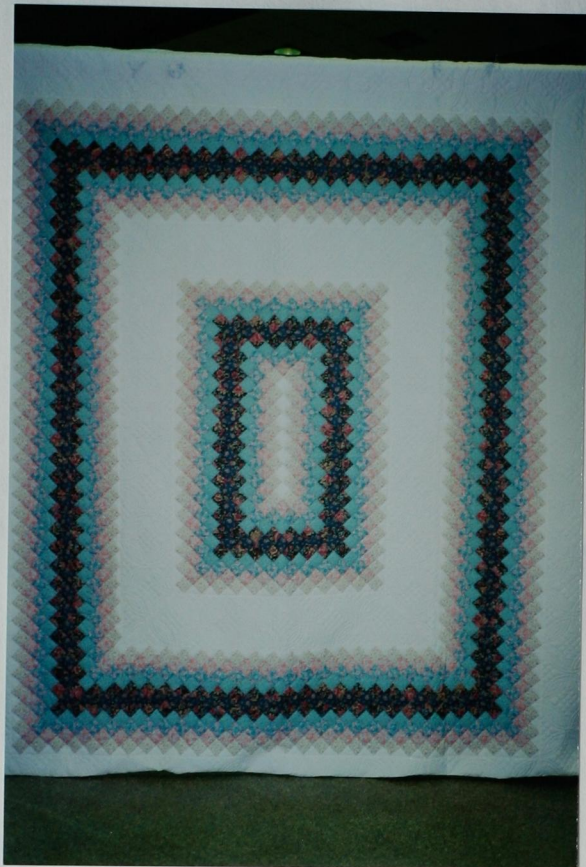


**SHIRLEY ANNE HACKING
BLANCHE MARTIN
BEVERLY KADATZ
AT LUNCH. ALL OF
THE MEALS WERE EXCELLENT.**



**EVELYN KADATZ AND IRENE MOIR
BESIDE THE CREST, MADE FOR THE
CONVENTION.**





JUST SOME OF THE QUILTS
DISPLAYED.



**THE ANNIVERSARY CAKE.
FROM THE HORSE AND BUGGY
TO THE SPACE AGE.
ADELAIDE HOODLESS HOMESTEAD
AND THE ERLAND LEE HOME .
MOST IMPRESSIVE..**



**A GIFT FROM THE SCOTTISH WOMEN
WITH A WEE DRAM OF THE "GOOD STUFF"
IN IT.**



ONE AREA OF THE SECOND FLOOR NEAR THE DINING ROOM..



ONE OF FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THE MAIN CONVENTION FLOOR. THERE IS LITTLE ALCOVES FOR FLOWERS. AT EACH SIDE OF THE STAGE.





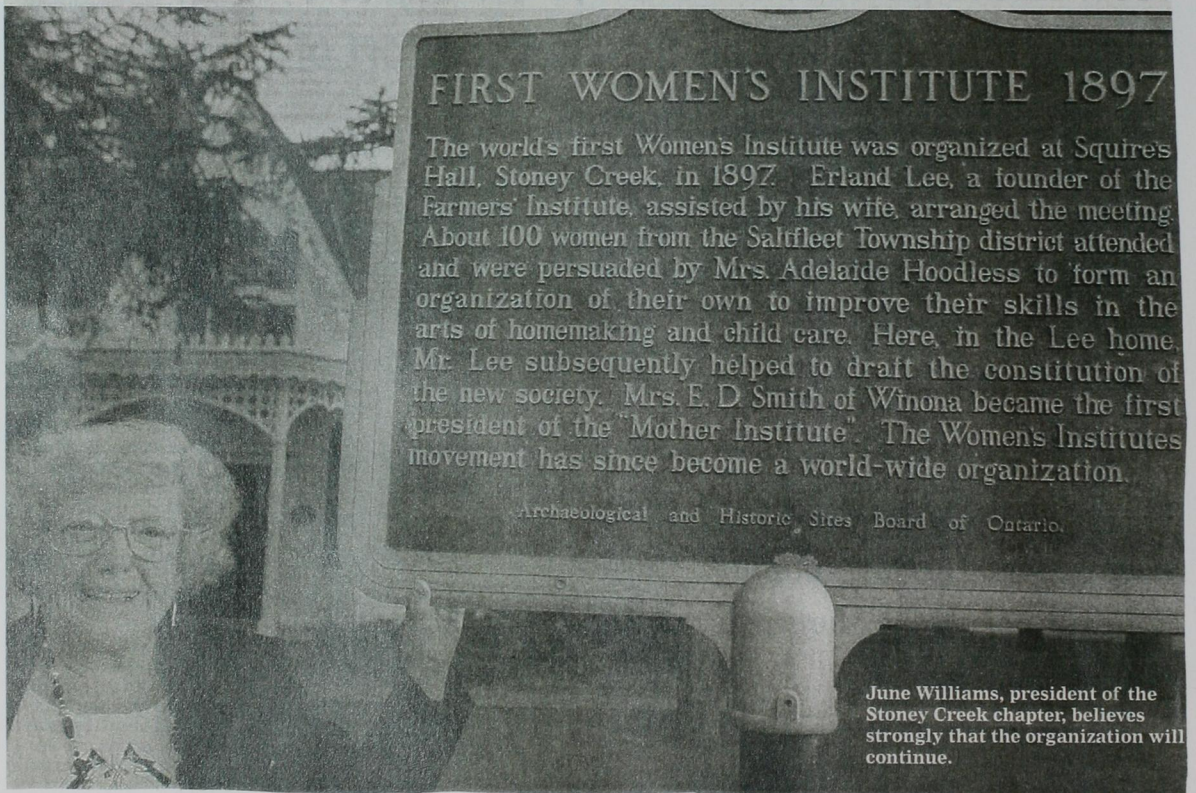
SOME OF THE ALBERTA LADIES THAT WERE IN HAMILTON FOR THE CONVENTION. PICTURES SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN EARLIER, SOME HAD LEFT AND SOME OTHERS WERE NOT AROUND AT THAT TIME.



A PICNIC LUNCH HELD ON OUR LAST DAY. CATERED BY THE HOTEL AND HELD IN THEIR PARK AREA.

SOME OF THE ARTICLES WRITTEN IN THE
HAMILTON NEWSPAPER..

Historic roots, modern issues



June Williams, president of the Stoney Creek chapter, believes strongly that the organization will continue.

The WI: relevant in its 2nd century

By KATE BARLOW
The Spectator
STONEY CREEK

The Women's Institute — a quaint anachronism, a form of genteel activism more suited to the past?

Not so, say members of the world's largest rural women's organization. Starting today, about 2,000 WI members are meeting at the Hamilton Convention Centre for their international conference.

Membership may be in the doldrums and the average age increasing — it's currently around 72 — but the Institute's practical community action both here and overseas is as relevant as 100 years ago, when it was founded in Stoney Creek.

As an example of its work, WI members cite an incident in 1995, when Health Canada asked the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada to be a partner in a study on substance use and abuse among rural women.

Health Canada program consultant Lisa Mattar approached the Institute because members are keyed into rural communities across the country.

"They are the only national organization we knew of that had links to rural women in particular and rural community approaches and health issues."

Local WI members in three test communities in Newfoundland, Québec and Saskatchewan co-ordinated the project. Mattar says that as a result, Health Canada received valuable insight into the reasons for substance use and abuse by rural women.

"It was a really good experience working with (the Women's Institute) and we certainly would in the future," said Mattar. A final report is due to be released soon.



Adelaide Hoodless

Special Report
Historic roots,
modern issues: A5

Continued from A1

Previous projects undertaken with Health Canada include a 1990 rural child-care survey which has become a standard reference work for those trying to find solutions to the problems of child care in rural areas.

Then, there are the projects undertaken with Agriculture Canada and the National Association of Women and the Law, focusing on workshops for rural women on farm finance and matrimonial property and inheritance law on farms.

In the works is a literacy project in partnership with a national non-government organization.

FWIC president-elect Mildred Keith of New Brunswick says the Women's Institute is asked to help because of its deep roots in rural Canada.

In 1995, Ontario's 15,000 members alone logged three-quarters of a million volunteer hours in rural communities.

"We are really the only group in touch with rural women across Canada who can speak with a national voice," says Keith.

But it's not just nationally that the Women's Institute collective voice is heard.

The FWIC was involved in planning the 1995 Beijing United Nations World Conference on Women and FWIC president Charlotte Johnson was an official representative.

And as a founder and the largest member of the Associated Country Women Of The World, the Women's Institute has access to the needs and achievements of millions of rural women through ACWW's 350 member societies in more than 65 countries.

Consults with UN

In turn ACWW has consultative status with 13 United Nations Agencies, among them UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the World Health Organization.

This has resulted in programs in developing countries aimed at clean drinking water and basic sanitation, stopping the spread of AIDS and leadership and skills training.

And if this all seems somewhat remote from the quiet work done by individual branches, consider two anecdotes by Peggy Knapp, the Women's Institute's ACWW representative and a member of a WI branch in Guelph.

In one village in Uganda, AIDS had so devastated the population that only a few women and children were left alive. The goat herd, the only available source of food, had become inbred and was producing little milk.

What was needed were healthy goats in their prime to improve the stock.

Once the story was relayed to branches through the ACWW, members in every province buckled down and raised sufficient funds to send four healthy male goats from South Africa to that Ugandan village.

In a second example, a group of children in another Ugandan village were left orphans after their parents died from AIDS, with the result that the children felt worthless in a culture where old and young work for the common good. The children had no way of contributing to their village and no money for school.

Once again, Canadian WI branches came to the rescue with funds to start a piggery. The orphaned children earn wages looking after the pigs with the result that they are able to once again contribute to their village. The pigs are a valuable source of food and the money earned by the children pays for their education.

The movement that Adelaide Hoodless founded is still helping rural women around the world.

Right: flashback to the 75th anniversary in 1972. Institute members (clockwise from left, according to information provided at the time) Mrs. Lloyd Daw, Olive Farquharson, Mrs. E.V. Fulton, Marjorie Lee.



Members meet in the Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek, where the Women's Institute was founded 100 years ago.



Adelaide Hoodless

KEY DATES

- **Feb. 19, 1897:** The first meeting of what was to become the Women's Institute was attended by 101 women and one man — co-founder Erland Lee — in Squire's Hall, Saltfleet Township (now Stoney Creek) to hear Hamiltonian Adelaide Hoodless talk of the need for an educational forum for women. The catalyst had been the death of her infant son from drinking impure milk.
- Hoodless together with Erland and Janet Lee of Saltfleet, who arranged the meeting and helped draw up the original constitution on their dining table, are recognized as co-founders.
- **By 1913** there were branches in every province leading to the formation of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada six years later. The movement then spread to the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and more recently to South Africa.
- **By 1933** the dream of Canadian WI member Madge Watt was realized and the Associated Country Women of the World was formed as a worldwide association of rural women, with representatives from 26 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.
- **Today** the organization has more than seven million members in more than 65 countries with seven representatives in specialized agencies at the United Nations.

THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR Tuesday, June 17, 1997

Women's Institute keeps an eye on the future of the family

Stories by KATE BARLOW
The Spectator
BINBROOK

When Clea Yachetti first stepped into a Women's Institute meeting she felt as though she had stepped 50 years back in time — and that was 25 years ago.

"I remember thinking, I like these ladies, I'm not quite sure what I'm doing here, but I'm interested in what they're talking about and in what I know and can contribute."

She had come at the urging of a neighbour and because the Mary Stewart Collect, which starts

every meeting, had struck a chord with her.

It begins: "Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed" and ends, "And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind."

"It appealed to me because here was a gathering of people together in a non-judgmental fashion ... it was straightforward in a lovely way."

Clea Yachetti's original branch in Blackheath, near her family's hobby farm, disbanded in the mid-1980s and she moved to the Binbrook branch, where she's held several positions including

branch and district president.

Yachetti, 55, is now a convener, one of several appointed in each branch to line up speakers on the variety of subjects which are the focus of each meeting, held monthly in members' homes or Binbrook Memorial Hall.

She credits the Institute for giving her leadership training in chairing meetings, making up agendas, public speaking and formulating resolutions, all within a supportive fun-loving sisterhood.

The Binbrook membership includes women

late eighties. Many of the younger members work full time outside the home.

The membership shares her concerns about the stresses faced by families today.

Yachetti believes the Women's Institute will come into its own once again as women around the world fight to make the family the base for a healthy social structure.

"To me the Women's Institute represents what was stable and what we must get back to. I'm seeing at this time in my life a huge and wonderful

Concerns

Knapp likens the relationship between Women's Institutes and the Third World to two sisters, one with a closet full of clothes the other with an empty closet. "The one with the full closet says let's share."

But, despite the successes, there are concerns about the WI's future.

A FWIC strategic planning workshop, held a couple of years ago, pointed to a need to publicize achievements of the WI. An example of the widespread ignorance about the WI, along with its talent for understatement, is the lack of success the organization has had so far in getting co-founders Erland and Janet Lee elected to Hamilton's Hall of Distinction. Co-founder Adelaide Hoodless is already a member.

The workshop also found a lack of focus, that the Institute was spreading itself in too many directions.

A glance at the current list of resolutions before the centennial celebrations and international conference

which begin today in Hamilton, includes a range of calls, from a review of ad-mail rates so that non-profit organizations can use the service, to concerns about the presence of unknown chemicals in liquid-filled products such as paperweights.

Another 23 resolutions still on the books include concerns about such diverse subjects as gratuitous violence on television and the safety of growth hormone used to increase yield from dairy cows. The hormone has not yet been approved for use in Canada.

An even more important concern is the institute's falling membership. Aging members are dying off and fewer young women are joining.

Since 1990, Canadian membership has fallen by about 30 per cent, to just under 24,000 from 34,700.

Some members believe part of the problem is the WI image of women sitting around quilting, knitting or making jam. Few outsiders realize the strength of the institute's lobby, much less that each branch conducts its meetings according to parliamentary procedure and follows an educational program, with presentations in several different areas including Canadian industry, education and cultural affairs.

Membership has also fallen because of the increase in urbanization and the increase in the number of women who work outside the home and have both less time and more choice of clubs and volunteer groups.

According to Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario figures, there are

1,628 WI members in the rural areas surrounding Hamilton.

June Williams is president of the Stoney Creek charter branch, which has a membership of about 24, all but three over 75.

"We're good Canadian antiques who belong in a museum," she says.

Yet, despite the aging membership, Stoney Creek members still raise enough funds to provide cash prizes for a local historical literary contest and prizes for area schools.

Recently the branch funded the planting of a centennial rose garden at the Erland Lee Museum, home of the Lees.

Williams admits to sadness at the thought that the charter branch may eventually fade away, but believes strongly that the organization it spawned will continue.

"Women need each other and the Institute supplies that necessity"

Knapp also believes the Women's Institute will continue and flourish. It may also have a future role in urban areas — there are already a couple of branches in the Toronto area — where women living isolated lives could find support and friendship within a non-sectarian organization like the WI, which has a voice extending through provincial and national governments to consultative status at the United Nations.

"What other organization can offer you this?" asks Knapp.

While it's true that membership is falling, she sees younger women joining, if not yet in sufficient numbers to

offset the decline. Many young professionals are also returning to their rural roots and in the Hamilton area especially, recently retired professional women are joining and bringing with

them energy and new concerns.

Wendy MacDougal studied the Women's Institute for her master's degree at Brock University and as a result joined Carluke Branch.

She believes that part of the WI's dilemma is that societal changes have resulted in reliance on "experts" to solve problems instead of finding solutions through the kind of mutual self-help that is the very essence of the Women's Institute.

"The (WI) will have a role if someone recognizes what they are and taps into them ... They have a good message. Maybe the 100th anniversary will be an opportunity to share that good message."

The Binbrook branch is an example of a resurgence in interest and advocacy. With 35 members, ranging in age from their late twenties to their early thirties, the branch has a regular attendance of 25 at its monthly meetings.

Much of its energy is devoted to fighting pornography and increasing awareness about what it views as too-explicit sex education in schools.

Concerns expressed last fall by several groups, including the Binbrook branch, about a 20-minute sex-education video for ages nine to 12 led to the inclusion of videos in the Wentworth County school board's policy on the handling of sensitive human sexuality material. Parents must now give permission for the video to be shown to their children.

Amazed

"As an Institute we've moved on from issues like wrapping bread to the major concerns of today," says member Mary Whitwell, a retired teacher.

And it's that emphasis on today's worries for parents that has brought Nicole Belanger, 38, into the Binbrook fold. The mother of three teenage children, she felt the need of a support group with whom she could discuss her concerns.

She's amazed that other women aren't beating down the doors to join.

"We have to be aware of how children are influenced. Where are the women my age? Don't they need to learn together?"

The branch also co-sponsors, with Binbrook United Church, a Morning Out program at a local church for young mothers with pre-schoolers.

A trained child-care worker looks after the older children, while babysitting is done by WI "grandmothers" so that the moms can take advantage of classes in skills as diverse as bread-making to self-defence and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

The branch is also known for its fundraising through fashion shows, silent auctions and catering for workers at the local fair.

Knapp says she continually marvels at the Women's Institute's achievements over the past 100 years.

"When Janet and Erland Lee escorted Adelaide Hoodless up the steps of Stoney Creek Squires Hall that cold February night, they couldn't have had any idea what they were starting.

"To think, 100 years later, millions of women all over the world are celebrating the Women's Institute."



Astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar, former McMaster University neurologist, spoke at a women's institute conference Saturday.
Ted Brellisford, The Spectator

Bondar tells WIs to blaze a path

Youth need mentors, Women's Institute conference told

By JOSH BROWN
The Spectator
HAMILTON

Indebted to the past; committed to the future.

That was the slogan used by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario during their 100th anniversary conference at Hamilton Place last week.

And what better woman to represent the changing role of women than Saturday's keynote speaker, Dr. Roberta Bondar.

A former McMaster professor, Bondar has just finished a book, starred in an IMAX film, has honorary degrees from 20 universities in Canada and the United States, holds a private pilot's licence, swims in shark-infested waters and is currently researching the effects of weightlessness on the blood flow to the brain.

Oh yes, she also flew aboard the space shuttle Discovery in January 1992.

"She's done a lot for women all around the world, but the fact that she's Canadian makes us all really proud," said Mildred Keith, president of the Federation of Women's Institutes

of Canada.

Bondar was welcomed by a group of distinguished guests including British High Commissioner Sir Anthony Goodenough, Stoney Creek Mayor Anne Bain, Ontario's deputy minister of agriculture and food Ken Knox, as well as more than 1,900 Women's Institute members from around the world.

It was 1897 when a small group of women facing changes brought on by the industrial revolution started the organization. They had a dream to give women a public voice and develop their minds and skills. One hundred years later, Bondar, a Sault Ste. Marie native, echoed the importance of keeping the dream alive.

Dreams

She said she always wanted to be four things when she was four years old; a doctor, a scientist, a photographer and an astronaut. Her parents were keen and let her follow her dreams, which she said was very important growing up.

"I had a great collection of rocket models as a child," said Bondar. "But in high school I

bent to peer pressure and starting playing sports. I threw the models out of my window and almost trashed a dream.

"I wanted to belong to social groups at school but I would think about space at night."

Later in life, when she figured out that she really wanted to be an astronaut, her mom gave her a big box with a red bow out for her. Inside were all the space models from her childhood.

"My mom hid them in the attic all those years. Mothers know stuff," said Bondar.

She said while it's important to achieve a goal, it's just as important to always have a new goal. It's the only way to move forward.

Before blasting off from the packed theatre, Bondar complimented the FWIO for helping women realize their importance in society, and paving the way for the future generations of young women.

"It will be a difficult struggle. We constantly have to have mentors and monitors in the community and I think the Women's Institute is case in point of someone trying to make a change."

"ONE TREE - MANY BRANCHES"

MODERATOR - Hilde G. Morden

Branch Elizabeth Rushton

Provincial Deris Hollett

National Pauline Meek

International Peggy Knapp

W.I. CENTENNIAL & F.W.I.C. CONVENTION '97

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