



Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario

You have been hearing a lot about the "Canada 150" celebrations taking place all across the country but I bet you didn't realize that the Women's Institute organization has been around

for 120 of those years!!! That's right -- the first Women's Institute was formed in 1897 in Stoney Creek and has grown throughout Ontario, Canada and the world with international affiliates in 70 countries with over 9 million members!

The Women's Institute began as an educational organization to enlighten rural women on how to provide healthy living conditions for their families. Branches soon opened in all the small farming communities across Ontario. Women were eager to learn and share experiences with their neighbours. The Women's Institute is a non-profit charitable organization whose goal is to improve the quality of life for all women, their families and communities. The organization is non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-racial and operates for the good of all citizens in a democratic manner and provides opportunities for expressing opinions.

Through the network of Branches the WI offers educational programming and community support, advocates for social, environmental and economic change and works towards the personal growth for all women, for home and country, to encourage a balanced lifestyle for all.

Lincoln District WI was formed in 1901 to give guidance and promote educational programs to the WI Branches in the area from Queenston to Caistorville. At one time there were 16 Branches in Lincoln District; currently there are three: Beamsville formed in 1905, Virgil formed in 1916 and St. Catharines formed in 2016. While membership numbers have dwindled since the early years, the Women's Institute remains a vital organization in pursuing its original educational goals.

The Women's Institute is noted for instigating health and safety issues through resolutions - the first being requiring milk to be pasteurized! Reflective stripes on the sides of rail cars, yellow lines on highways and wrapped bread are just a few of the 100's of resolutions that have been supported or initiated by the Women's Institute! The formation of Brock University was suggested by Alanburg Branch in Niagara District. This was acknowledged at a special celebration during the 50th anniversary of Brock University with the naming of a street "Flora Egerton Way" to honour the woman who advocated for a new University in the Niagara Region!

We may be a much smaller organization but we are still Mighty! For more information check out the web site: www.fwio.on.ca and locate a Branch near you!



Member Service Report

Nadine Gill

2017 is Canada's 150th year. A year to reflect on the growth of our vast and beautiful country, filled with varied peoples, national parks, diverse wildlife, historical sites, and bountiful land producing high quality foods. We are fortunate to call this nation home and work the rich soils of our province. As farmers and members of the agricultural community, we are the lucky few who devote our day caring for our livestock, crop

land, and natural landscapes for those living today and tomorrow. To ensure there will always be "Farms and Food Forever".

To assist in the cultivation of tomorrow's agricultural leaders, OFA will be accepting applications for its bursary program. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture is offering three \$2,000 bursaries this year, available for students of OFA families who are currently pursuing or are entering a post-secondary education in an agriculture-related program. Funds were raised at OFA's 2016 Annual General Meeting silent auction held in Toronto. The bursaries will be awarded regionally and selected recipients will be announced at the 2017 OFA Annual General Meeting. The application deadline is Friday June 30, 2017. Further details are available at www.ofa.on.ca/bursary. Members are also encouraged to check with their local county federations for available county-specific bursaries. Please contact your county administrator for further details.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) is celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial by giving away one of five "Canada 150" barn quilts. All that is required to enter is to be an OFA Member. Winners will be selected following the 2017 International Plowing Match in Huron County. Also, be sure to visit OFA's Federation House building at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in September for more "Canada 150" celebrations.

We welcome all members of the agricultural community to visit with us and share your concerns or items of interest. We look forward to seeing you all on this year's agricultural show circuit. Look for the South-Western OFA Field Staff at the remaining 2017 shows:



Canadian Dairy XPO in Stratford, April 4 & 5

London Poultry Show in London, April 4 & 5

Ontario Pork Congress in Stratford, June 21 & 22

Canada's Outdoor Farm Show in Woodstock from September 12- 14

International Plowing Match and Rural Expo in Walton from September 19 - 23

Canadian Greenhouse Convention in Niagara Falls, October 4 & 5

NIAGARA NORTH FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

PRESIDENT
Robert Bator 905-684-4251

DIRECTORS
Grimsby
Don Kouri..... 905-563-1835

Lincoln
Ian Johnston..... 905-359-6979
Jim Morrison 905-562-4866

Torrie Warner 905-562-5637
Chris Mullet Koop..... 905-562-3964

Niagara on the Lake
Linda Grimo 905-708-9219
Alyssa Bator 289-668-4251
John Wiens..... 905-682-4976

St. Catharines
Arden Vaughn 905-688-4570

West Lincoln
Ken Durham 905-957-7279
Les Klodnicki 289-332-0110
Albert Witteveen 289-253-7739

OFA POLICY ADVISORY COUNCILLORS
Robert Bator 905-684-4251
Mike Chechalk..... 905-386-6412

SECRETARY
Cathy Mous 905-957-3044

MEMBER SERVICE REP.
Henry Swierenga 905-957-4280

OFA ZONE 5 DIRECTOR
Drew Spoelstra 905-379-5751