

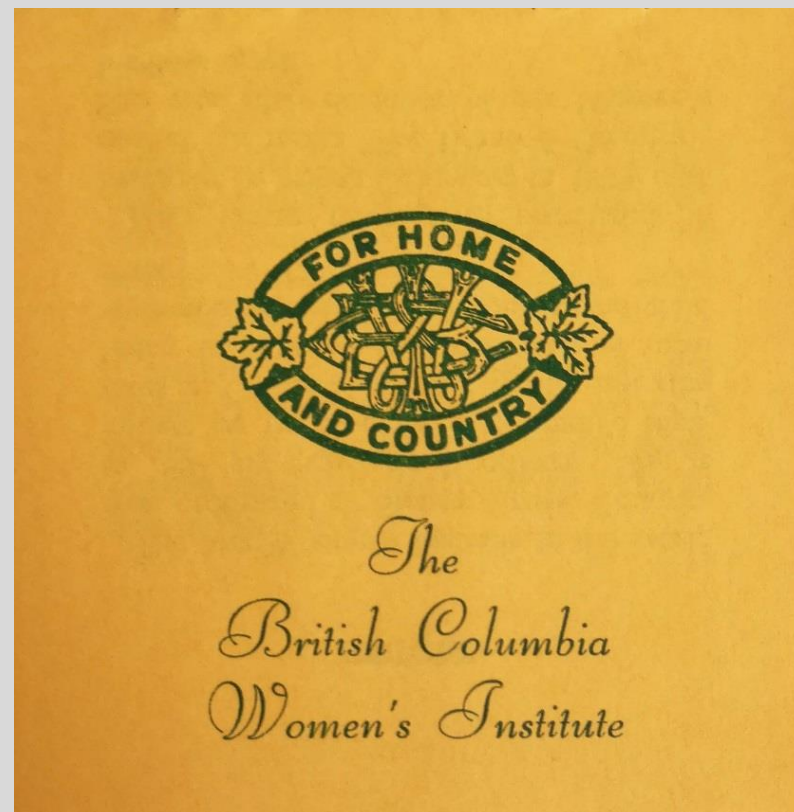
MAKING AN IMPACT: 110 YEARS OF THE BC WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

“Women interested, informed, and involved in building a better tomorrow”

The Canadian Women's Institute is an educational organization for women and families established in Ontario in 1897.

Life for rural women during the early years of 20th century settlement in Canada was often lonely and difficult. The Women's Institute gave women a reason to get together and the opportunity to learn more about rural homemaking.

The first branch of the BC Women's Institute was formed in **Gordon Head** in 1909.



MAKING AN IMPACT



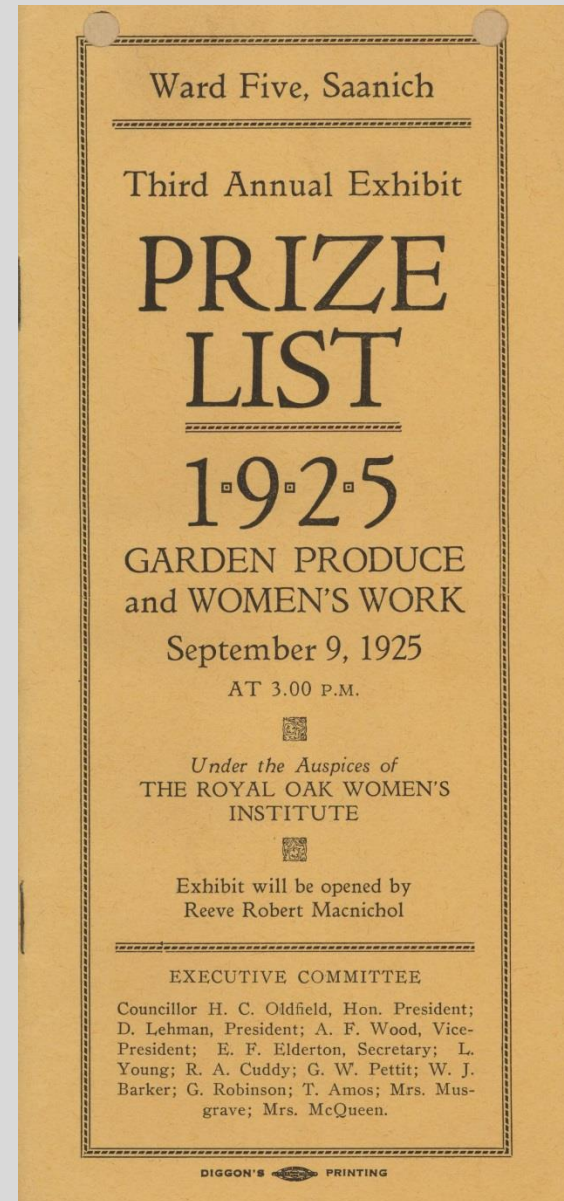
The Irvine family at Rose Bank Farm, Cedar Hill Road, 1892 (1980-017-001)

MAKING AN IMPACT

In 1909, Laura Rose, one of the organizers of the Ontario Women's Institute, toured Alberta and BC to support and encourage rural women to establish Women's Institutes in their own communities. During her trip, Laura Rose held 30 meetings, organized 15 institutes, and appointed committees to start organizing 7 others.

In a report to the Farmer's Institute, Rose had this to say about her experience:

"The Institute will be the means of bringing together under one banner, whose motto is "For Home and Country", the rich and poor, the old and young, and those of all religions, to receive and give valuable, practical knowledge along the lines of home-making and housekeeping."



MAKING AN IMPACT

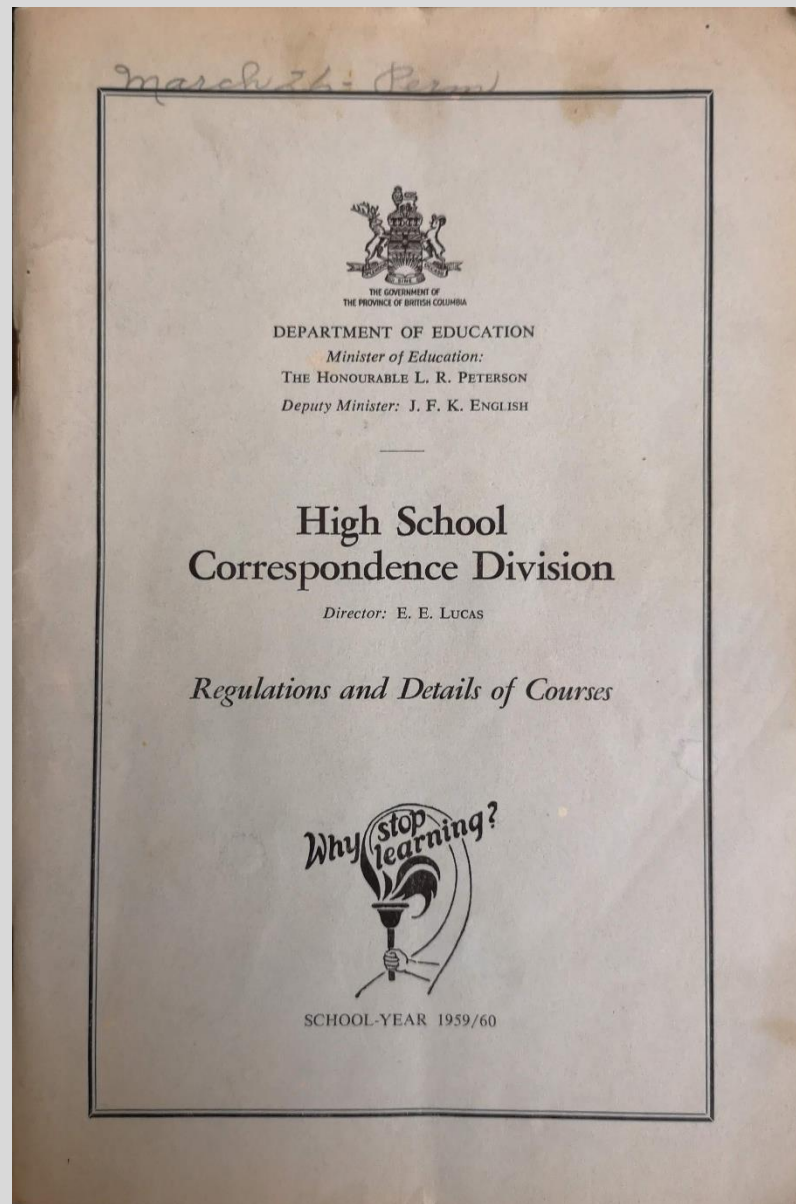


*South Vancouver Island Women's Institute banquet at the Lake Hill
Women's Institute Hall on Quadra Street, 6 October 1938 (2013-011-001)*

MAKING AN IMPACT

Each chapter of the Women's Institute takes on projects specific to the needs and circumstances of their community. They hold classes in nutrition, cooking, sewing, and weaving. They host social events and raise money to support hospitals, women's and children's health, social assistance and welfare programmes, and environmental causes.

They also promote skills in food production and conservation for women and children, advocate for the provision of public services and facilities, and work to preserve the community's heritage structures and landscapes.



MAKING AN IMPACT



Craigflower Women's Institute sewing bee, ca. 1980



*Women's Week booth, 1984
75th anniversary of British Columbia Women's Institute*

MAKING AN IMPACT

During the depression, Women's Institutes became the focal point of social life, organizing parties, picnics, dances, and small entertainments to raise morale.

They also collected books for school libraries, established relief funds for needy families, assisted house fire victims, and encouraged children by organizing potato growing contests.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

LANGFORD

A very successful Hallowe'en party for all children in the district was held, recently, under the auspices of the Women's Institute. About 100 children and parents sat down to supper. The hall was prettily decorated with Hallowe'en colors. Tea was followed by all kinds of games. Later, the children and parents were entertained by a varied programme of motion pictures, shown by Mr. Flintoff, of Victoria. During the evening, candles and apples were given to the children. Mrs. H. Hincks was convener of the social committee, and was assisted by Mrs. Ritchie, Miss Savory, Mrs. Dack, Mrs. Cowie, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Stewart and other members. Many thanks were extended to the Langford Community Club, and the Parent-Teacher Association for the donations given, also to Mr. Wilkinson and Mr. Mackie for the candies, and apples from Miss Savory.

The Daily Colonist, 4 November 1934

Women's Institutes of Vancouver Island

STRAWBERRY VALE

Under the auspices of the Strawberry Vale Women's Institute a successful guest tea was held in the Colquitz Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Tables were in charge of Mrs. Williams, Mrs. G. Jones, Mrs. Gardiner, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Huntington, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Harper. On behalf of the institute the president, Mrs. Foster, expressed appreciation of the attendance of visitors and generous support given by the ladies of the district.

ROYAL OAK

The regular monthly meeting of the Royal Oak Women's Institute will be held on Thursday afternoon at the regular hour. Members are reminded of the jam shower, which will be held in aid of the Solarium.

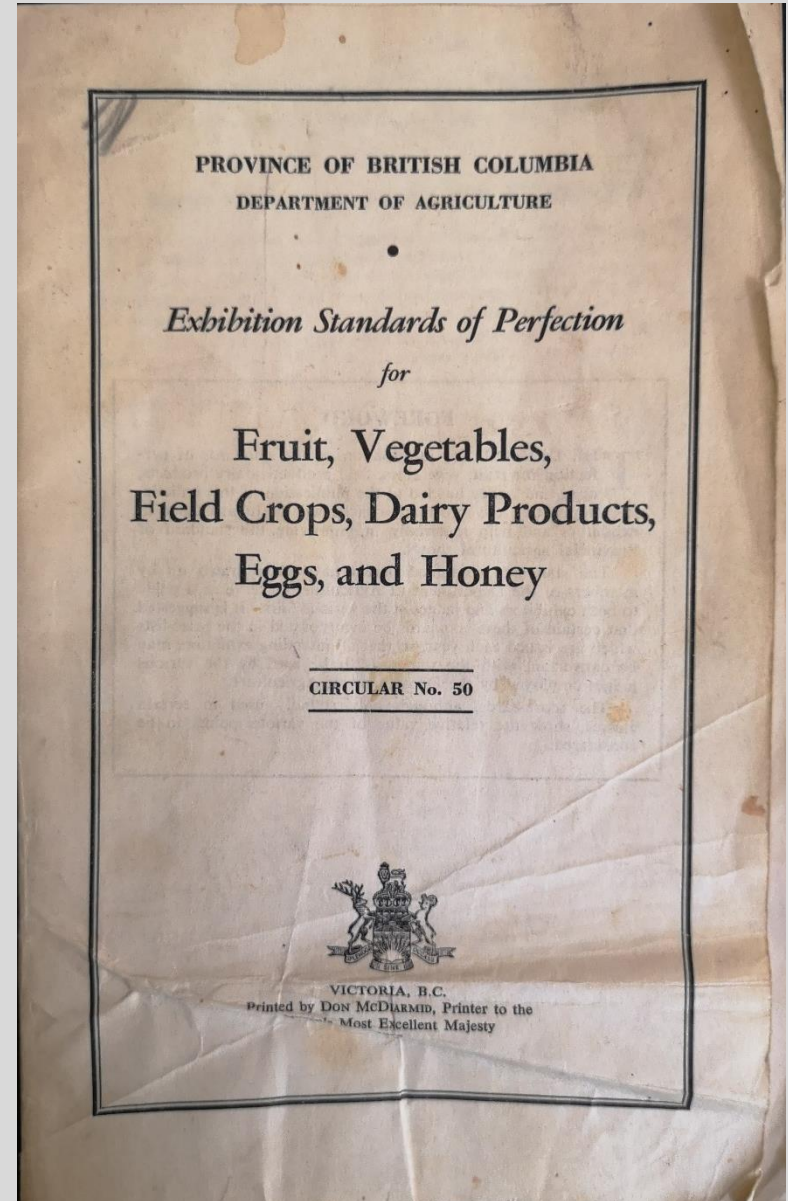
The Daily Colonist, 12 November 1931

MAKING AN IMPACT



Lake Hill Women's Institute picnic, 1930s (2001-001-001)

MAKING AN IMPACT



MAKING AN IMPACT

Prior to the 1920s, there were no facilities in British Columbia dedicated to caring specifically for the health needs of children. As a result, children with illnesses like polio or tuberculosis could not access the care they desperately needed. Responding to this need, Mrs. V. S. MacLachlan called on 126 chapters across BC to help raise funds for a hospital for disabled children.

The **Queen Alexandra Solarium** opened in 1927 in Mill Bay. (Now called the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health, the hospital moved to its current location in Gordon Head in 1958.)

The dedicated members of the Women's Institute not only raised money but also donated essential equipment and food such as vegetables, fruit, and eggs and sewed clothes and bedding for the children.

From the 1920s to the early 2000s, local chapters of the BC Women's Institutes continued to support the hospital to ensure the availability of essential health and educational services to children.

X-RAY NEEDED AT SOLARIUM

Royal Oak Women's Institute Appeals for Donation to Purchase Equipment

The Royal Oak Women's Institute is collecting money for the purpose of buying X-ray equipment for the Queen Alexandra Solarium at Mill Bay.

Need for X-ray equipment is great inasmuch as the crippled children at present have to be taken to the city for this treatment, and transporting them to a city hospital often is quite a painful fast.

In view of the fact that the equipment will cost \$5,000, an appeal is made to all institutions and friends to do all they can to further the project. Contributions can be sent to the Royal Oak Women's Institute or to the Solarium office, in Victoria.

The Daily Colonist, 18 December 1934

MAKING AN IMPACT



Constable Peter Battison delivering a school safety education program to students at the Queen Alexandra Solarium, 1971 (1980-005-017f)

PUBLIC ASKED TO VISIT SOLARIUM

**Institution at Mill Bay to Be Thrown
Open to Visitors May
28 and 29**

Queen Alexandra Solarium at Mill Bay is to be thrown open to the public on May 28 and 29, from 10 to 6 each day. In making the announcement the committee extend an invitation to any who are interested to call and see the work that is being done in restoring crippled children to health by means of sunshine, fresh air, sea bathing, and such assistance as properly-made splints, massage, and other treatment can give.

There are thirty-two little patients at the Solarium, although three have already been discharged. The children practically live out of doors, and even the babies are taken to the beach to paddle. The school, instituted shortly after the Solarium opened, is providing most successful, and it is a great help to the children.

At the regular business meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary, held on Thursday, Miss, Hodge, of the Junior Red Cross, gave a most encouraging report of the work which this organization was doing for the Solarium, the little members having made a number of pillows.

A letter from Miss Willis, matron in charge of the Solarium, indicated that the children were happy and doing splendidly.

The Daily Colonist, 15 June 1927

MAKING AN IMPACT

During the First and Second World Wars, Women's Institutes provided clothing, supplies, and funds for the Red Cross and prepared parcels of clothing and food to be sent to the front.

"...of course...
come right in!"

**WE'LL GIVE TO THE
RED CROSS**



+

My young brother, a prisoner in Germany, writes that he wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for you people . . . and your life-saving parcels!

Many, many boys are alive today because of the food parcels they receive regularly from Canada. Up to the present time 7,000,000 parcels have been packed and shipped to the International Red Cross for distribution. The food packed in these parcels were selected by a committee of experts and represent a per diem allowance of 2,000 calories to supplement the rations issued to the prisoners. They include whole milk powder, butter, jam or marmalade, tea or coffee, pilot biscuits, cheese, corned beef, salmon, raisins, sardines, sugar, chocolate, salt and pepper, and soap. The Canadian Red Cross aims at sending one eleven-pound parcel to each prisoner of war each week. Besides these parcels the Red Cross send bulk quantities of vitamin capsules, cigarettes and tobacco. "Capture parcels" are also sent, containing razor, tooth brush and paste, warm underwear, etc. Books, sports equipment and other articles of clothing are sent weekly by next-of-kin as requested by the prisoner. Drugs, medicines and so on are looked after by the British Red Cross.

Nothing can take the place of this world-wide organization for relief of human suffering . . . with its war parcels, medicines, comforts, blood serum and nursing . . . YOUR dollars make the work possible. The work must go on! Give Generously!

THE NEED GROWS—GIVE NOW!

CANADIAN **+ RED CROSS**

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MAKING AN IMPACT



Red Cross jam kitchen, August 1944 (2019-016-388)

Five Tons of Jam To Go to Britain

The Victoria City and District Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society states that the Jam for Britain Project objective of five tons of jam has been completed at the Red Cross jam kitchen, 517 Yates Street, and no more fruit is required. Cooking utensils and food choppers are at 602 Broughton Street for owners to call for same.

*The Daily Colonist,
16 September 1944*

MAKING AN IMPACT

The BC Women's Institute has provided important leadership opportunities for women, and continues to promote greater involvement of women in civic affairs.



Associated country women of the world 17th triennial conference, 1983

MAKING AN IMPACT



South Vancouver Island District's collage of British Columbia Women's Institute leaders and presidents, presented to Wanda Richter and Betty Bartlett, 2008

Embarking on our

100th Anniversary

British Columbia
Women's
Institute
Thirty fourth
CONVENTION

June 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2008

Travelodge
Convention
Centre

Duncan, BC

A decorative line-art illustration of a large evergreen tree on the left and a cluster of flowers on the right, set against a background of stylized mountains.

MAKING AN IMPACT

" FARMERS' AND WOMEN'S INSTITUTES ACT "



Certificate of Incorporation

I hereby certify

that South Vancouver Island District Women's Institute

has this day been incorporated as an Institute under the " Farmers' and Women's Institutes Act."

The locality in which the operations of the Society will be chiefly carried on is _____

South Vancouver Island _____, Province of British Columbia.

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of Office at Victoria, Province of

British Columbia, this twenty-second day

of April _____, one thousand nine hundred

and sixty-three _____




Minister of Agriculture.

200-556-3249

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