



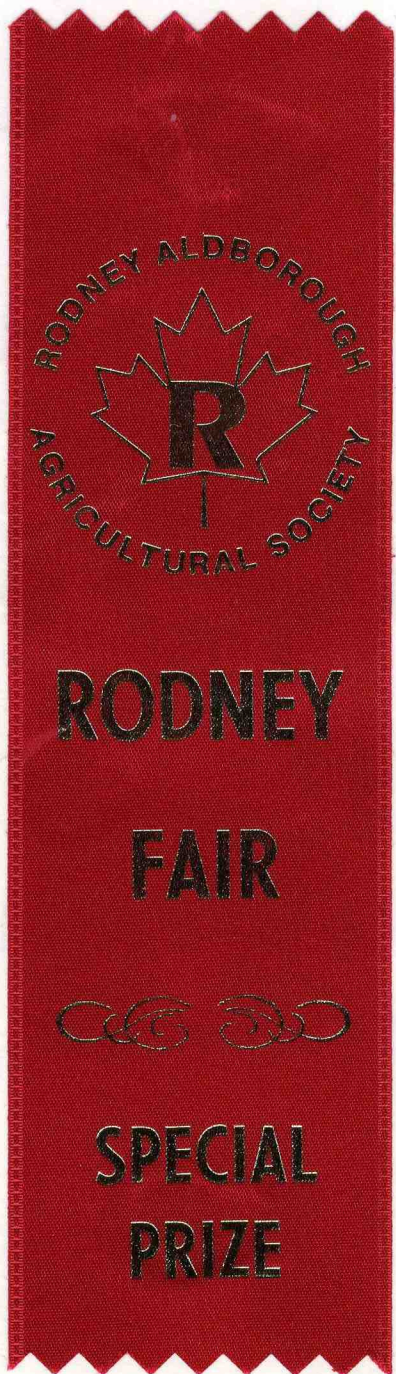
The on Cardiac  
 Corner  
 Display  
 For-1997

Crinan W.I. presents Kathleen  
 McLarty with gifts after she moved  
 from the Crinan Farm to West Lorne.  
 May 1997



SMILE - Your on Candid  
Camera

Crinan W. I. Display  
Rodney Fair - 1998



Crinan W.I. presents  
a party with gifts  
from the Crinan Farm to West  
May 1998



Charlene Carroll became Ambassador of the Fairs at the 1998 C.N.E. in Toronto.

Crinan W.I. members with Charlene at Lois Carroll's home in Strathroy, Oct. 15, 1998.



(M.A.L.)

*Speech for the Crinan Women's Institute Meeting: October 15 1998*  
*(revised from the original speech given at the 1998 Rodney Fair Ambassador*  
*Competition.)*

I'm sensing a serious *deja vous* right about now! But there is a huge difference between last year and tonight, because since then I have learned so much, and taken part in so many different events at the fair and throughout the community, and as the 1998 C.N.E. Ambassador of the Fairs, which is the title I received four weeks ago.

Currently I am wearing two hats, so to speak, which is why I am here tonight. I will be handing over my reign as the Rodney Aldborough Fair Ambassador. This is going to be really difficult because I had such an amazing year. From pinning cattle to drawing ballots, I had the chance to take part in every aspect of the fair. There was one event in particular that I will never forget from last year, which also happens to be the first time I saw my life flash before my eyes! I was invited to participate in the "celebrity chuck wagon race" here at the fair. I was expecting a trot around the track, little did I know they were going to go all out! I could handle the dust and the speed, but there wasn't really anything to hang on to!

Throughout my year as Rodney Ambassador I went in many parades, district meetings, and attended the Ontario Association of Agriculture Societies convention at the Royal York in Toronto where I met a lot of the other Ambassadors from all over Ontario. The Rodney Aldborough Fair is an excellent example of how talented and friendly our rural community is, and that is why I was proud to represent Rodney fair at the 1998 Canadian National Exhibition Ambassador of the Fairs Competition. The format was exactly the same as Rodney's agenda, except that only the top seven were able to say their speeches, which included Monica Murray from Wallacetown Fair, then three of us answered an impromptu question ... and ... there were eighty five of us competing from all over Ontario. This included eighty three girls, and two guys. I had absolutely no expectations of winning, so I cannot put into words how shocked I was when I won! During the press conference, about half an hour after my name was announced, the C.N.E. publicist Rick Sickorski came up to me and said that he had already contacted some of my local papers. With all due respect, I was really overwhelmed at how quickly he was able to contact them! But that was one of the best parts about winning. It put Rodney and West Lorne on the map for some people. Out of the hundreds of people I talked to during the two weeks, plus the audiences I spoke in front of, only eight people recognized where Rodney was, but now, thousands of people, including 150 other fairs in Ontario, know where the Rodney Aldborough Fair takes place. What also touched me was that a lot of the past Ambassadors were there the night of the competition, including the first winner from 1972! They gave me a gorgeous quilt.

The two weeks I spent in Toronto were the most incredible two weeks of my life. Some

of the highlights for me were pinning ribbons at the different horse shows that took place each day, having two television interviews, and taking part in some cooking and cow milking demonstrations. There is an excellent running farm set up at the C.N.E., where the urban population can see livestock up close, and be educated about life on the farm. You would not believe how many people were crowded around when a calf was being born one day!

Some of the presentations I helped give awards for were the Open Country Singing Contest, the Rising Star Talent Competition, and the Lions C.N.E. PeeWee Baseball Tournament. The "Fleeing Felon" is a competition that the Toronto Police Mounted Unit take part in. There are many obstacles that the horses have to go through, and the winners move on to compete at the national level. The tradition every year is that when the police officers win, they get their ribbon, dismount, and get a kiss from the Ambassador. I didn't want to ruin tradition, so I had to kiss about sixteen police officers! Just fulfilling my duties as Ambassador!

There were also many exciting attractions at the C.N.E. each day. The Car of the Century display had the top 100 cars according to an international jury of automotive journalists. One of these precious vehicles was the 1907 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, valued at 25 million dollars. Every year the C.N.E. hosts a feature country. This year the Philippines were invited to the cultural city as it is celebrating 100 years of independence. The pavilion of 70,000 square feet was filled with music and gorgeous landscapes. The 1998 Canadian International Air Show was a spectacular performance. It takes place every year during the last weekend of the Ex, and features some of the most incredible pilots and aerobatic champions, including the Snowbirds. At the Molson Amphitheatre at Ontario Place, I saw Vince Gill and Patty Loveless. I had never seen a concert of that magnitude before, and it was amazing! Watching the movie "Titanic" on the six story screen at the cinesphere was also sensational. Finally there was the magic of Disney, which performed three, thirty minute shows each day at the Chrysler band shell with over 25 different Disney characters. I may be 18, but I watched the show over and over and wished that I was up there on stage myself! What was really exciting was waiting in the greenroom to get my picture taken with Mickey and Minnie!

The second Saturday of the C.N.E., was Chinese Culture Day, along with two other promotions, and there were over 300,000 people. Everywhere you went it was busy. As I was leaving that night, the President of the C.N.E., Bob Bowman, pulled up beside me with a huge smile on his face. He said that he had not seen a crowd like that for 30 years!

The gifts in my showcase were incredible. The one of course that did not fit was the 1998 Sebring Chrysler convertible that I have for a year. I also received two plane tickets from Canada 3000 to see the Calgary Stampede, a Bulova watch, two train tickets to anywhere in Ontario or Quebec from Via Rail, a Bell Mobility phone, 400 dollars from the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, and a lot more, all of which I am truly grateful.

Throughout the year I will be attending different fairs across the province, staying at a convention at the Royal York Hotel to speak to this year's contestants about the C.N.E., and hopefully ride in the Toronto Santa Claus Parade, and drop a puck at a Toronto Maple Leafs

game.

There are a lot of people that I would like to thank before I sign off one last time. First of all, I would like to thank my family and friends who are always behind me. Shirley McKerrell is my official chaperon, and was my second mom for two weeks, and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate her guidance and generosity. I want to extend my gratitude to the Agriculture Department of the C.N.E., for running the Ambassador competition, and for giving me this incredible opportunity. I want to send a huge thank you to the Rodney Aldborough Agricultural Society. This Ambassador competition is part of its history, and it is an excellent opportunity for anyone, male or female, and I am thankful for Christine Miller and Jane McGregor's hard work and effort to keep this competition running. I want to thank all of you who were my very first supporters. Without your invitation to run for Rodney, I would not be where I am today. Thank you for your encouragement and for your support in the community.

Charlene Carroll

1998 C.N.E. Ambassador of the Fairs

1997 Rodney Fair Ambassador, sponsored by the Crinan Women's Institute

## HISTORY OF THE CRINAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

as compiled by Minnie Livingstone

and read at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

April 22, 1999

1919 - 1999

I take great pleasure in writing some of the events of the history of the Crinan Women's Institute from its formation on April 24, 1919, to the present day. At a meeting held in the classroom of Argyle Presbyterian Church on the above date, the Crinan Women's Institute was organized.

The first regular meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Neil McEachran on May 19, 1919, with seventeen ladies present. Mrs. John C. McMillan was president. (She later became the Provincial President of the Women's Institute of Ontario.) Mrs. George Carroll was Secretary Treasurer; Mrs. Sarah (McColl) McPherson later took her place.

During the past eighty years, the W.I. has engaged in various activities. Meetings have had very interesting mottoes and themes such as: "He who forgets the past, loses the key to the future", "A smile is a passport that will take you anywhere", "A merry heart kills more germs than medicine", "Life is like a seed. It grows according to care", and Roll Calls such as "Laws that have recently been changed".

We have two volumes of Tweedsmuir History. Volume I is in the West Lorne Library and is also on microfilm. Volume II is in my home. Anything of historical interest can be submitted to the curator. People tracing their family histories find these volumes useful.

Guest speakers have included: Sue Arblaster, a worker from the women's shelter at Strathroy; Ann Lilley, a nurse from Four Counties Health Services on diabetes symptoms and care; and Pam Stewart on the Bobier Home past, present and future.

Crinan Women's institute sponsors card parties, bake sales, etc., the revenue from which has been used to make donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cancer Society, the Tryconnell Heritage Society, the Daffodil Auxiliary, the Crinan community Centre hall board and many others.

Many events are sponsored by the Women's Institute such as the Annual Cancer Tea. Crinan W. I. has displays at Rodney and Wallacetown Fairs.

On February 19, 1997 about twenty-two people gathered to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Institute of Ontario.

We have been honoured to have Nicole Jamieson become Ambassador for Rodney Aldborough Agriculture Fair in 1993, and Charlene Carroll as Ambassador of the fair in 1997 went on to win Miss CNE Ambassador (Toronto) in 1998.

Over the past five years we have visited many interesting places such as Uncle Tom's Cabin at Dresden and a trip to Grand Bend to see "Bye Bye Birdie".

As a special project this year, we have quilted a quilt top donated by Anne Nethercott and a baby quilt donated by Anna McCallum.

I have told you of various events over the past five years. We hope that the enthusiasm of the previous years carries into the future, and the Institute members always bear in mind our motto "For Home and Country".

## THE SUMMER KITCHEN

by Mildred McCallum

Last year for this Institute program, we heard a paper read on "The Outside Cellar". Today we'll think back to the days in the summer time when our parents and grandparents did their cooking on wood stoves and many families had a "Summer kitchen".

Many of the houses, some of brick and others frame, built in this area between 1885 - 1900 were in the shape of an "L" with a frame kitchen and wood shed joined on at the back. If this was the shape of the building then the shed was used as the "summer kitchen" in the summer and as a place to pile dry wood for the winter's fire in the autumn. If the house was not this shape some families had a small separate building close to the kitchen to use as a "summer kitchen". These summer kitchens were used for cooking and eating (if desired) during the hot summer season as well as for washing clothes, canning berries and vegetables, making jelly and pickles etc. The use of this kitchen kept the "big house" cool for sleeping, entertaining company and freer from flies. My folks, as many others in the neighbourhood, did the cooking in this part and carried the food into tables in the big kitchen which was much cooler than if the food had been cooked there.

This summer kitchen was just one big room, furnished with the bare necessities, - the wood stove, a table and chairs, a cupboard for holding dishes, pots and pans, nails in the wall to hold the frying pan, dish pan etc. and a small table near the outside door to hold the wash basin, soap and a pail of water.

Moving into the summer kitchen was an exciting day! We all had to help clean it thoroughly - sweep the walls down, wash the windows, scrub the board