

MS 28

**The Okanagan Centre Farmers' Institute**  
1911-1932  
AND  
**The Winfield Farmers' Institute**  
1926-1972

CHALLENGE '98  
Respectfully Submitted by:  
Danielle Slivinski  
to the  
Lake Country Heritage and Cultural Society

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## INTRODUCTION

The Farmers' Institute movement in B.C. arose as a result of the implementation of the *Farmers' Institute and Co-operation Act*, passed in the province in 1897. Shortly thereafter, in the spring and summer of the same year, Richmond petitioned to form an institute, and the Surrey-Langley district promptly followed suit. Encouraged by the immediate response from these regions, the Department of Agriculture held many meetings in several places throughout the province. This resulted in a total of 12 Institutes, with a membership of 528 individuals, by March of 1898.

The movement grew steadily, and in 1900 the number of Institutes in the province had grown to 20, with a total membership of 1031; a decade later, in 1910, there was an increase of Institutes to 49 with 5336 members.

Membership to provincial Farmers' Institutes increased in leaps and bounds, until, in 1914, there were 94 Institutes with an estimated membership of 8000 across the province. At this time, 16 years after Richmond petitioned to establish an Institute, the large majority of districts in the province where agriculture was the main pursuit of its people had an Institute to boast of.

Each Institute, upon incorporation, was instructed on the aims and objectives of the Department of Agriculture to be followed within the organization. It was the successful farmer who had studied the interactions of plant and animal life, who knew the latest manufacturing procedures, who knew the incidentals pertaining to his occupation, and who acted in accordance with his acquired knowledge. It was the successful farmer who worked hard to attain new knowledge in the easiest manner available.<sup>1</sup> These were the underlying aims of each Institute.<sup>2</sup> According to the *Agricultural Associations Act*, the goal of each Institute was

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"generally to promote the progress of agriculture, horticulture, and aboriculture... by importing or otherwise procuring seeds, plants and pedigree animals of new or valuable kinds... by offering prizes for essays on questions relating to agriculture, etc... by promoting the circulation of literature on these matters... by holding meetings for discussion and securing the delivery of lectures on subjects connected with agriculture and horticulture... and by co-operation for carrying on any industry or for any purpose relating to agriculture within the Province."<sup>2</sup>

The provincial Department of Agriculture helped it's Institutes to achieve some of these goals, namely by circulating literature to its members, by providing lectures to Institutes of a region, by organizing Field Crop competitions, by providing a market for livestock and seeds, and through many other services. The Department also served as the Institutes' link to the provincial government, acting as a liaison between the farmers and their government. As a result, many of the Institutes procured modernizations and benefits to their respective communities, supported and funded, in most cases at least in part, by the provincial government.

Okanagan Centre saw their Institute begin in 1911, and March 24 of that year saw the inaugural meeting of the Okanagan Centre Farmers' Institute. This organization went on to fulfill all the aims and objectives set up by the Department of Agriculture, and became the voice of the people of Okanagan Centre to both the provincial and federal governments of B.C. and Canada.

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#### OKANAGAN CENTRE FARMERS' INSTITUTE 1911-1932

The first few years of the Okanagan Centre Farmers' Institute (OCFI) were largely uneventful, in the sense that few major issues arose in which the opinion of the people of the district was necessarily proclaimed, however, the Institute did display a drive to achieve the objectives and aims of any Farmers' Institute right from the beginning. Throughout the first decade of its existence, the OCFI hosted many guest lecturers on a wide variety of topics ranging from Spraying Techniques and Sprays to Pruning to Animal Husbandry to Market Conditions in the Western Provinces of Canada. Each lecture was always received with the utmost respect, and a healthy enthusiasm and interest, and there was always a hearty vote of thanks carried by the members of the Institute. As well as lectures, it was not unusual for the OCFI to organize various packing schools or pruning schools, the purpose of each being to educate the attendees and to enhance any skills they may have already acquired in the field with which the school dealt. The Institute, eager to train the subsequent generation of farmers even organized a junior pruning school, designed to teach rudimentary skills to agriculturally inclined youth of the day. These schools were often hosted by a knowledgeable member of the Department of Agriculture, who would often be traveling through the area. It was up to the various district Institutes to arrange for a suitable location and time for the school, for a number of students to attend, as well as to secure the host for the course. The district Institutes were also expected to gather a school fee from the students, in order to pay for both the cost of the Department host and the rent and lighting of the building used for the school.

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Near the middle of the first decade of its existence, the OCFI found its opportunity to express an opinion regarding legislation, and the Institute carefully composed and delivered resolutions regarding laws concerning legal fencing on farm lands, including aspects such as the weight of wire permitted and the type of barbed wire required to meet the standards set forth by the *Fences Act*. This allowed the voice of the farmers of the area to be heard and recognized.

The OCFI also undertook one of its first public services in 1914, and a library was established for the use and enjoyment of the community. This was made possible by funds secured by the Institute, and the library acquired the items necessary for everyday matters, such as books, a stamp, and volunteers to run the affairs.

From 1915 onwards, the OCFI, and later the Winfield Farmers' Institute (WFI), was involved in a number of aspects of both community and Institute life, always helping, improving, corresponding, and changing. The OCFI was significantly involved in both the development of Institutes and the development of the community.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTES

Since the early 1900s, the Department of Agriculture of B.C. held annual meetings in Victoria in order to gather delegates from the Institutes around to province to discuss agricultural issues. Such meetings were always well attended, and it was here that the Institutes had a chance to put forward resolutions on any number of issues in their respective districts, as well as a chance to hear resolutions affecting districts across the province and express opinions on them. It was also an informative meeting regarding the current business and achievements of the Department of Agriculture on behalf of the farmers of B.C.

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These meetings came to an abrupt halt as the first World War broke out in the summer of 1914, and the Institutes felt keenly the lack of passed news and happenings in other districts of the province. By 1918, the Department of Agriculture was hard pressed to resolve this lack of correspondence with its daughter Institutes, and under the *Agricultural Act* the Department divided the province into 9 districts so that each Institute would be represented in convenings with the Minister of Agriculture on "matters of importance to farmers."<sup>4</sup> In response to a letter written by the OCFI expressing displeasure for the lack of annual conventions, the Department of Agriculture wrote that no annual conventions were held during WWI because of "heavy expenditures which would be hardly justified under War conditions."<sup>5</sup> Thus was born the annual District conventions. The idea behind the District conventions was that each Institute would send 2 or 3 delegates to the convention, held somewhere within the District boundary, and present the resolutions of their Institute, in addition to hearing the resolutions presented by the other delegates. These resolutions would then be carried or lost, and the delegates would return home. The business, however, did not stop there. The District convention would also see a representative travel to the Department of Agriculture annual convention to present the carried resolutions of the farmers of his District. In this way, the Minister of Agriculture effectively heard the voice of the people, without bringing all the people to Victoria and paying a large sum of money to host them all. Instead, the delegates of each Institute and District payed a small fee to attend either the District or Department convention, helping to defray costs on all fronts.

The convention issue was not the only matter the farmers of the OCFI raised their voices to. They were also often vocal in matters concerning stumping powder, Alfalfa cultures, and seeds of many kinds. These matters often involved special pricing for members of Institutes, and voices

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were usually raised as prices were raised. Granted that the OCFI did not singlehandedly prevent the inflation of costs for all members of Institutes across the province, but they did indeed have a significant contribution to these matters.

As more and more Institutes joined the movement, the Department of Agriculture found the demand for pertinent literature on agricultural issues increasing. And as the number of Institutes grew, the ease with which the Department could provide such literature became increasingly evident. The OCFI received numerous bulletins from the Department of Agriculture dealing with issues such as Poultry Conferences, Agrology, and Junior Farmers' membership in the B.C. Federation of Agriculture. The Department also provided useful updates on legislation and changes of legislation on matters such as Farmers and Unemployment Insurance, Barbed Wire Improvements and Recommendations, and School Taxation. This provided the Institutes and their communities with the information needed to fully understand the happenings of the provincial government, and to raise an intelligible and knowledgeable voice in dealing with such issues. These informative brochures and bulletins were a definite helping hand in bringing to pass improvements and advancements in many of the rural districts of this province. Such was the case in the Okanagan, as the OCFI undertook many endeavors to improve the community in which its members lived.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY

As mentioned earlier, one of the first contributions of the OCFI to the community was a library, established in 1914, and run by members of the Institute. This was merely the beginning of a number of accomplishments which helped make Lake Country the community it is today. While

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some of the accomplishments are very tangible and visible things, others are somewhat less blatant, and affect most of our lives indirectly.

#### Unfair Taxation

In February of 1918, many Institutes of the District felt it their duty to cry out against the injustice of taxation methods in our province. The OCFI received a correspondence from the Cowichan Ratepayers Association petitioning against the increased taxation in unorganized districts of B.C. This petition was endorsed by the United Farmers of B.C. and received considerable support from a number of Institutes across the province. The OCFI added their names to the list and undertook the added task of personally writing to the government regarding the issue. In a courteous reply from the Minister of Finance, dated from March 13, 1918, the Minister matter-of-factly stated the government's reasons for taxation and expressed its apology for the necessary evil. The Minister also went on to explain that although the previous government was to blame for the poor financial state of the province, it was the present government that was forced to remedy the situation and therefore take the brunt of the abuse from the disgruntled population. The Minister did, however, acknowledge the faulty assessment methods for taxation and promised to have "a complete new assessment made of all the realty liable for Provincial taxation by competent men at an early date."<sup>6</sup> Thus the OCFI, along with the other Institutes of the province, were forced to leave the issue in the hands of the legislative assembly, and to be content with having voiced their displeasure. This voicing, however, did result in an altered method of assessment of land taxation, from which many of us now benefit.

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#### THE AMALGAMATION OF THE OCFI AND THE WFI -1927

It is important to note, at this time, that this concludes the list of major contributions brought to the community and to the growth of the Institute by the Okanagan Centre Farmers' Institute. But the saga does not end here. The OCFI had general meetings for nearly 2 decades, and held annual meetings until January of 1932. At this time, there was another Institute in the area, the Winfield Farmers' Institute, which appears to have been incorporated sometime in 1926, as that is the date of the first known records of the organization. It is believed that at a joint meeting of the two Institutes on March 3, 1927 at the Rainbow Ranche, the OCFI and the WFI amalgamated under one name, the Winfield Farmers' Institute. This is somewhat disputed, however, since the OCFI held annual meetings under their title until 1932, and the WFI held separate annual meetings from 1927 to 1932. But since no general meetings were held by the OCFI between those years, and then the organization suddenly disappeared, we can only assume that its members became part of the WFI. Regardless of the nature of the disappearance of the OCFI, many of its members were members of the WFI after 1932, and various names appear in the minutes of general and annual meetings, as well as in the executive for the Institute (please see the Appendix). These members and others carried on with the same spirit shown in the OCFI, and the WFI began to show its strength and determination in bringing to the community that which it needed and deserved.

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### THE WINFIELD FARMERS' INSTITUTE 1926-1972

The WFI enjoyed many successes in the span of its 4 decade existence. Many things were accomplished for the community, and it seemed as though there was always some issue that needed to be taken up with various Ministers of our provincial parliament. Many of the achievements of the WFI are still being experienced and taken advantage of by our community.

#### Winfield Postal Service

One of the most tangible of the successes of the WFI was the establishment of the Winfield post office. Correspondence on this matter began early in 1947, and there ensued a nearly ceaseless flow of letters to and from the Office of the District Director of Postal Services. On February 18, 1947, the WFI wrote to the District Director expressing the desire of Winfield residents for a Sub-Post Office establishment. The District Director responded, asking for a sketch map of the area, showing the location and the number of residents serviceable, and emphasizing that the proceedings were merely in the enquiry stage only. This enquiry lasted only a few more months, and on August 7 of the same year, the WFI was notified of the approval of a Sub-Post Office in Winfield; however, all was not satisfactory. The WFI was informed that the name "Winfield" was not suitable since there was already such an established Postal Outlet in Alberta. Winfield was asked to change the name for its Post Office. The residents of the area of course were unhappy with this request and refused, and the WFI made specific enquiries to the nature of the restriction. As a result, in September, a correspondence from the House of Commons of Canada stated a compliance with the name Winfield, and the establishment of a Post Office on the condition that it remain a Sub-Post Office, meaning that no central mail delivery

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occurred from the outlet. Winfield therefore received approval for its long awaited rural route mail service, and in October of 1947 the District Post Office Inspector wrote to the WFI that the name Winfield, B.C. was indeed acceptable and that Mr. E.C. Clement was to be Postmaster as requested by the residents of Winfield. The letter advised also that the "new office cannot be opened, however, until such time as the necessary date stamping equipment comes to hand... must be specially manufactured...[it] may be several weeks... Arrangements will be made to open the Post Office at Winfield at the earliest possible date."<sup>7</sup>

By April of 1948, Winfield was pushing for its own mail delivery service, and the WFI wrote to the District Post Office Inspector to ask as much, without changing present conditions, which included the availability of posting letters, buying stamps, buying money orders and picking up mail. The Inspector replied early in June with a firm reminder of the initial agreement, stating that the only reason Winfield was permitted a Postal Outlet was on the condition that there would be no general delivery service. Furthermore, the Inspector stated that if the Rural Route delivery was in effect, then a general delivery service was unnecessary. The Inspector did concede that he would encourage a traveling officer to visit the area to reassess the question at the earliest convenience. Thus it remained for 2 years, until in 1950 the WFI was notified that the establishment of a "Rural Route in Winfield superseding in part the present Kelowna Rural Route No. 1 is receiving attention."<sup>8</sup> By May of 1951, Winfield acquired its own Rural Route, and mail dispatch times for the service were posted for all to see; by October of the same year, train delivery of mail from Vancouver to Winfield was under consideration. Today, both Winfield and Okanagan Centre enjoy the convenience of full Postal Services.

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but rather went straight to the most effective and influential party in order to get the job done. And so, when it came to transportation and the well-being of the Fruit Industry in the Okanagan, naturally the WFI contacted the Department of Public Works for this district.

#### Road Repairs and Maintenance

Not long after the emergence of road travel as the preferred mode of travel came the argument that these roads needed to be maintained. Many in the community were Orchardists, and good roads were paramount to good, marketable fruit. As such, the Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union of Okanagan Centre raised their voices in demand of decent road maintenance and repair. They contacted the WFI in August of 1948 in seek of support in the resolution to improve Okanagan Centre Road, from Highway 5 to Okanagan Centre, including Rainbow Hill. The Institute obliged and a petition was sent to the Ministry of Public Works, along with a copy of the resolution. The reasons stated in the letter to the WFI from the Fruit and Vegetable Union accompanying the petition include the following: the road was narrow; during the fruit season trucks and workers traveled the road every day, and the road was a "menace to lives and safety of workers and other travelers"; the condition of the road was "not conducive to delivery of fruit in good condition, resulting in monetary loss to all concerned."<sup>9</sup> The Fruit and Vegetable Union also desired the repairs done before the 1948 fruit season. Although no further correspondence between the three parties was recorded or filed, it can be safely be assumed in light of the previous success of the WFI that although the work may not have been done in time for the 1948 fruit season, it did eventually get accomplished, and the roads specified were satisfactorily repaired and maintained. This inference is also supported by a letter from the Department of Public Works,

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Not long after the emergence of road travel as the preferred mode of travel came the argument that these roads needed to be maintained. Many in the community were Orchardists, and good roads are paramount to good, marketable fruit. As such, the Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union of Okanagan Centre raised their voices in demand of decent road maintenance and repair. They contacted the WFI in August of 1948 in seek of support in the resolution to improve Okanagan Centre Road, from Highway 5 to Okanagan Centre, including Rainbow Hill. The Institute obliged and a petition was sent to the Ministry of Public Works, along with a copy of the resolution, The reasons stated in the letter to the WFI from the Fruit and Vegetable Union accompanying the petition include the following, the road was narrow during the fruit season trucks and workers traveled the road every day, and the road was a "menace to lives and safety of workers and other travelers"; the condition of the road was "not conducive to delivery of fruit in good condition, resulting in monetary loss to all concerned."<sup>10</sup> The Fruit and Vegetable Union also desired the repairs done before the 1948 fruit season. Although no further correspondence between the three parties was recorded or filed, it can be safely be assumed in light of the previous success of the WFI that although the work may not have been done in time for the 1948 fruit season, it did eventually get accomplished, and the roads specified were satisfactorily repaired and maintained. This inference is also supported by a letter from the Department of Public Works,

dated December 8, 1948, stating that a copy of a resolution received from the WFI was forwarded to the District Engineer, and that he would be in charge of maintenance of the highway between Vernon and Kelowna by way of sanding during the winter months.

The influence of the Institute on the condition of the roadways is obvious, and their need for order and cleanliness of the community did not end there. For late in 1948, the issue of garbage in Winfield arose, and would not be quelled for more than five years.

#### **The Garbage Dump**

The matter of garbage arose out of a letter to the WFI from the South Okanagan Health Unit in December of 1948. The WFI was to take over the maintenance of the water supply in the region, and the Health Unit wished to bring to the attention of the Institute to issue of garbage disposal, or rather, the lack of it. The garbage situation in Winfield was becoming a health problem as there was illegal dumping occurring along Winfield roads, and the Health Unit suggested contacting the Lands and Forestry Department in Victoria regarding a possible collection system and/or dump site. The Health Unit also graciously offered support to "overcome... [the] unsanitary conditions."<sup>11</sup> Being true to their word, the Health Unit again contacted the WFI in May of 1952, regarding the dumping on the back road to Okanagan Centre. They expressed the need that the dumping be stopped, and advised the WFI to form a committee to find a suitable location for authorized dumping and get it approved at the soonest possible date. The Institute took the suggestion to heart, and in July of that year approached Mr. Joe Casorso "with a request for permission from him to continue to use a portion of his property in the Winfield district as a community garbage dump."<sup>12</sup> By January of 1953, the WFI had made an offer to purchase the

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land for a small sum, but because Mr. Casorso had made no indication of favoring the offer by April, and no other progress was made, the Institute withdrew their offer. The property was still used as a local garbage dump, but the continuance of such a site was at the mercy of Mr. Casorso. This prompted the Institute to take matters to a higher level, and in October the WFI submitted a resolution for the District 'G' Farmers convention that:

"WHEREAS the dumping of garbage in improper places is a hazard to cattle ranging; AND WHEREAS this practice is becoming an eyesore along the highways; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the department responsible for the governing of unorganized districts take action to have land made available so that said districts could have properly maintained dumps."<sup>13</sup>

The issue remained dormant for several months until May of 1953, when the Institute wrote once again to the Minister of Health and Welfare regarding dumps in unorganized districts. The persistence of the WFI was commendable, and later that month the Minister replied. He stated that a committee had been formed consisting of members of the Departments of Municipal Affairs, Public Works, Lands and Forests, and Health. This committee was working on a full report, and the Minister informed the Institute that the preliminary report suggested that new legislation was needed to deal with the control of waste disposal in unorganized districts. Nothing further was accomplished for nearly a year. The Institute, determined to see a dump in the community, persisted in writing several letters to various officials involved in the proceedings. Finally in March of 1954, a letter was received by the Institute, signed by Mr. Casorso, detailing that the WFI was given permission to have Lot 140 Section 4 Tp20 Plan 521 as a garbage site for use by the residents of Winfield and Okanagan Centre on the condition that the Institute keep the site in satisfactory condition.<sup>14</sup> In that same month, the Health Unit informed the Institute that the Department of Public Works had consented to clean up the right of way along the road to the

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dump site, but that they were unable to commit any machinery to cover the garbage periodically. The Department of Public Works suggested that local farm equipment be secured for the job. They also suggested that signs for the dump be made by the Institute rather than their Department, owing to cost and lack of manpower. And so, the WFI had once again succeeded, for a time at least. The Institute continued to submit the same resolution regarding land for dumps in unorganized districts to the District 'G' convention, and in April of 1955 even went so far as to write the Premier, W.A.C. Bennett. They outlined the problem of lack of suitable land for garbage sites, divulging the uncertainty that Mr. Casorso would continue to let dumping occur at the site, and stating that the population of the area had grown so that the land was no longer suitable for so many people. The Institute respectfully suggested that a Provincially co-operative committee be formed to look into the matter. Bennett replied in May that the letter had been referred to the appropriate department, then he tactfully side-stepped most of the issue, and instead suggested that with such an increase in population, Winfield might wish to set up a local municipality or village.<sup>15</sup> In the face of such adversity, it was amazing that the WFI ever accomplished anything. Nothing further was to be done by the Institute, and the issue was left in the hands of the government. The Institute persisted, as always, in the only manner left, and for several more years submitted the same resolution to the District 'G' Farmers convention which had been composed in 1953.

Among the successes, both partial and complete, experienced by the Farmers' Institutes of the area, there was also the occasional failure. Perhaps it was not so much a failure as it was a lack of success. These incidences were often the result of a lack of adequate information on a matter, and therefore the voice raised by the Institute was perhaps, at best, wavering.

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### Big Game Licenses

In a few short correspondences with the Attorney-General of B.C. and the Games Commissioner, the WFI had a particular resolution firmly refused. In a humorously patient letter from the Games Laws and Regulations Commissioner, sent to the Attorney-General and forwarded to the Institute, the WFI's "resolution that no Big game licenses be issued to alien non-resident hunters to hunt in that portion of B.C. lying south of the Canadian National Railway line from Jasper to Prince Rupert"<sup>16</sup> was flatly rebuked for its ignorance. The commissioner explained that nearly half its revenue came from non-resident hunters, and should they be banned from hunting, the lack of revenue would prevent the Department from carrying out its present game management programme. Furthermore, the commissioner patiently explained, the resolution, if put into effect, would also put a large number of hunting guides out of business, forcing them to "leave the country".<sup>17</sup> The resolution was not pursued by the WFI.

The WFI did not make these mistakes often, and few failures resulted due to a lack of knowledge. Although the Institute was usually well informed on the issues it tackled, it was often simply the proceedings of the provincial legislation that ultimately defeated them, however, along with these few 'lack of successes', throughout the late forties and early fifties, the Institute once again demonstrated their value, and accomplished many more things for both its members and its community.

### The Margarine Issue

In January of 1949, a general outcry went up from nearly all those involved in agriculture as a livelihood. For it was that margarine was making its way into the market, and the Dairyman's

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Association was livid. They put out a general appeal to nearly every agricultural organization in the province, pleading that they support the Association in the fight against making margarine legal in B.C. The WFI received letters from SODICA urging Farmers' Institutes to write to parliament members regarding the issue, and should margarine break into the B.C. market that the color ban on margarine be retained to make it distinguishable from butter, and perhaps in that way save the dairymen from certain bankruptcy. Unfortunately, despite innumerable letters and petitions and names in opposition of the matter, margarine encroached upon the market, and was well established, and colored, by early 1953.

#### School Taxation

In the late 40s and early 50s, there were many issues concerning the agricultural sector of this province. Along with the margarine issue, there also arose the matter of taxation. This particular issue was one of great importance to the farmers, since many of them owned a good deal of land. The policy of school taxation was based on the amount of land one owned. Therefore, if one was a farmer and owned a hundred acres of land, one was paying a hefty amount of tax to the government to fund education in the province. If, however, one was a doctor or lawyer, and owned only a few acres for a house and a modest yard, one paid a significantly less amount in school tax. The agricultural sector of B.C. quickly realized the unfairness of the situation, and were up in arms. As a whole, the farmers of the province rallied behind the B.C. Federation of Agriculture (BCFA), who presented their argument against the government for paying education costs by means of taxing land and improvements. By August of 1951, nothing had been done by the government to appease the farmers, the protest having been in action for

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nearly 4 years. The BCFA, seeing that something drastic needed to happen, called a mass meeting of Farmers' Institutes and Municipalities, as well as the Board of Trades. Seeing the support behind them, the BCFA approached the Provincial Cabinet on November 4, 1952, to present the farmers' case on education costs. It was unacceptable to the farmers that with the present system farmers tended to pay more than fellow citizens in other businesses. At this meeting, a milestone in the effort was achieved, for the Cabinet acknowledged the injustice, and positive action was taken to readjust the method of assessment of farm land. In February of 1953, it was announced that legislature had resolved a plan to remove the inequality from school taxation. The Farmers' Institutes of B.C. had conquered again.

#### Other Achievements

The accomplishments of the WFI were not always surrounded by such controversy and long-winded debates. Often, only a simple request was required to gain what was needed, and the Institute merely let the right organizations know the need that was present. The Institute succeeded in such things as the paving of the more traveled roads in the area, the pouring of a suitable sidewalk on the highway for the safety of the school children who walked that way to school, speed limit reductions in the same area, as well as many monetary donations to worthy causes such as the bursary fund for the high-school, the Ambulance service in Kelowna and the surrounding district, and the swimming fund created by the Womens' Institute. The WFI was also responsible for sending a number of youth to the Youth Training Camp at UBC in 1949, an eight week short course in agriculture. Even until its final days, the WFI was always an integral part of the community.

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## CONCLUSION

Not much information was available to detail the activities of the WFI throughout the 1960s and the early 1970s, but from the records that were kept, it can be seen that the Institute was constantly busy. There was always something in the community that needed to be done, and having assumed the role nearly 60 years before, it was only natural that the Institute continue to get the job done. There was always a fund that needed donations, there was always the maintenance of the local dump, there was always some matter of safety, be it traffic control, sidewalks, road maintenance, or road visibility matters. And the WFI was always there to lend a hand. The organization that began merely as a group of individuals who found the truth of strength in numbers became the glue that held the community together, and added new pieces on, making the community stronger. The political influences of the Institute were paramount to its effectiveness. Interestingly, the Institute, though a political body in its simplest form, was non-partisan. It was simply a gathering of people unified in one voice of what was fair, just, and rightfully theirs. The Farmers' Institutes of this province were the true link between the population and its government, forcing Legislation to be what it was originally created to be, an organization by the people, for the people. The accomplishments were phenomenal. With the disbanding of the Institute around 1972, the community ended a chapter in its history. And in that chapter there were colorful tales of the growth and maturation of our community, the shining triumphs, and the faded faux pas. The achievements of the OCFI and the WFI are what makes our community the civilized, yet rural establishment that it is. With the passing of these organizations, we feel both the grief of a good thing ended, and the joy of the many successes procured.

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5. Ibid.

6. Letter: OCFI, March 13, 1918.

7. Letter: WFI, October 17, 1947.

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12. Letter: WFI, January 30, 1953.

13. Minutes: WFI, general meeting, October, 1953.

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**OCFI Executive 1912-1932**

Year	President	Vice-Pres.	Sec-Treas.	Directors	Auditors
1912	James Goldie	J.W. Fowler	H.H. Evans	N.H. Caesar MP Williams F. Loveday J. Godwin J. Newton	P.W. Pixton James Glead
1913	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1914	MP Williams	J. Newton	H.H. Evans	N.H. Caesar James Goldie J.W. Fowler F.C. Baker AS Towgood	P.W. Pixton J. Goldie
1915	MP Williams	AS Towgood	P.W. Pixton	N.H. Caesar J. Newton W.R. Powley H.H. Evans Sid Edwards	J. Goldie H.H. Evans
1916	as above	as above	as above	F.C. Baker J. Newton W.R. Powley H.H. Evans John Doak	as above
1917	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1918	AS Towgood	J.W. Fowler	P.W. Pixton	Sid Edwards John Doak W.R. Powley AS Towgood J.W. Fowler	none *Honorary President: MP Williams
1919	as above	as above	as above	AS Towgood J.W. Fowler P.W. Pixton John Doak S. Copeland	N.H. Caesar F.C. Baker

1920	MP Williams	AS Towgood	E.C. Shanks	MP Williams AS Towgood E.C. Shanks N.H. Caesar F.C. Baker	N.H. Caesar F.C. Baker
1921	MP Williams	J.W. Gibbons	?	J. Goldie P.W. Pixton T.A. Gray R. Venables N.H. Caesar	as above
1922	J. Goldie	R. Venables	P.W. Pixton	J. Goldie J.W. Gibbons R. Venables C Wentworth R.J. Johnson	W. Hughes N.H. Caesar
1923	E.C. Maile	J. Gleed	P.W. Pixton	C Wentworth R. Venables T.A. Gray	N.H. Caesar J. Gleed
1924	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1925	E.C. Maile	J. Gleed	P.W. Pixton	C Wentworth R. Venables T.A. Gray	N.H. Caesar S. Copeland
1926	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1927	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1928	as above	as above	as above	-----	-----
1929	J. Gleed	H. Mac-Farlane	P.W. Pixton	C Wentworth R. Venables T.A. Gray	N.H. Caesar
1930	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1931	as above	as above	as above	E.C. Nuyens T.A. Gray C Wentworth	as above

**WFI Executive 1928-1935**

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Vice-Pres.</b>	<b>Sec-Treas.</b>	<b>Directors</b>	<b>Auditors</b>
1928	J.W. Fowler	T. Duggan	MP Williams	J.W. Fowler T. Duggan MP Williams F.MacDonald W.H. Prowse	E.C. Shanks J.H. Baker
1929	as above	as above	as above	J.W. Fowler T. Duggan MP Williams F.MacDonald Jack Seaton	as above
1930	as above	as above	as above	as above	as above
1931	J.W. Fowler	Jack Seaton	MP Williams	J.W. Fowler Jack Seaton MP Williams F. Williams G. Edmunds	as above
1932	as above	as above	as above	J.W. Fowler Jack Seaton MP Williams F. Williams F.MacDonald	-----
1933	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1934	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1935	W.R. Powley	T. Duggan	MP Williams	W.R. Powley T. Duggan MP Williams F. Williams J.W. Fowler	J.H Baker E.C. Shanks