



# IODE Canada *Express News*

## IODE 2026 Founders' Day Message

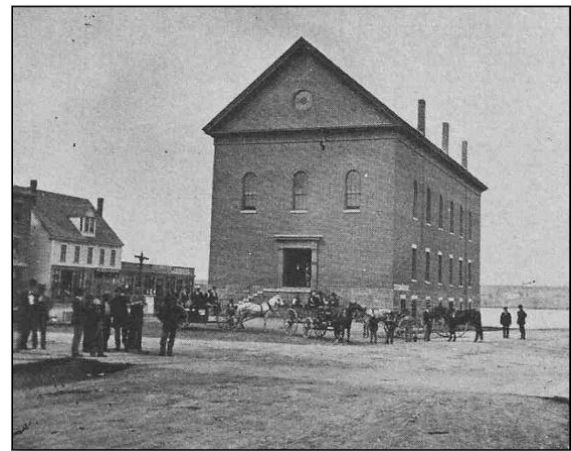


Over the years, IODE has celebrated its founders during the month of February. Margaret Polson Murray's picture peers out from the Founders' Day message and her vision in 1900, of a Canada supported by groups of women giving service to their communities across the country, is honoured.

Last year, IODE New Brunswick invited IODE members from near and far to join them as they kicked off IODE's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations on February 12, 2025 in Fredericton's Council Chambers at City Hall. In their invitation, and on the day of the meeting itself, attendees in person and via Zoom, were taken on a trip down memory lane to acknowledge the incredible success of the first chartered IODE Chapter in Canada.

Margaret Polson Murray's letter to mayors of major cities across Canada, seeking aid to Canadians departing to fight alongside the Empire forces in South Africa, was recognized. Mayor Harry Beckwith was applauded for responding to her letter with an invitation to the women of Fredericton, to attend a meeting in the Council Chambers at City Hall. And most importantly, the tenacity of the 37 women who journeyed to this meeting in wicked winter conditions on January 15, 1900, was acclaimed as astonishing to say the least!

From that meeting, and thanks to the collaborative determination of all involved, IODE was born and the date of February 13<sup>th</sup> was established as the date used to reflect on IODE's roots!



*Old Fredericton City Hall  
Photo from Provincial Archives of New Brunswick,  
Taylor Collection*

For 126 years, IODE has evolved with the times and the changing needs of the country. At the 125<sup>th</sup> National Annual Meeting, attendees were treated to an incredible slideshow demonstrating how IODE projects have developed through the years. While IODE's endeavours look very different today than they did in the past, the determination, dedication, and passion to make a difference in individuals' lives, qualities that motivated the remarkable women of 1900, remain just as powerful today.

Regardless of the date chosen to recognize IODE's beginnings this year, be sure to raise a glass to the women in your chapter who give their time and energy to impact lives in your community year after year.

**What will this positive difference look like in 2026?**

**Keep Telling Your IODE Story!**



Karen Dalton  
National President

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Founded in 1900, IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community services and citizenship programs.

For more information about our organization and charitable work, please visit our website.

[www.IODE.ca](http://www.IODE.ca)



**IODE Canada, 80 Birmingham Street, Suite B6, Toronto, ON M8V 3W6**

**1-866-827-7428 IODECanada@bellnet.ca**