

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR MARCH 11TH, IN RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, CELEBRATES RAE LUCKOCK

Born in 1893 as Margarett Rae Morrison to James Morrison and Margaret Blyth, Rae Luckock grew up on a farm 2 kilometres south of Arthur, until moving to Toronto in the 1920s.



In 1943, she was elected alongside Agnes Macphail (the first woman elected to the federal House of Commons) as the first woman elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (Queen's Park), both as members of the Ontario Co-operative Commonwealth Federation – a pre-cursor to the New Democratic Party of Ontario.

Rae followed in the political footsteps of her father J.J. Morrison, who in 1914 helped found the United Farmers of Ontario (UFO). More information on Morrison can be found on a plaque beside the old County Registry Office (present-day Hunter Tax Management Ltd.) in Arthur.



While in the Legislature, Mrs. Luckock served as her party's Education Critic and promoted the idea of free university tuition and improved rural education. She campaigned for the equality of women by advocating equal pay for equal work and pay for homemakers and raised environmental issues such as deforestation during House debates.

Luckock was also co-founder of the Housewives Consumers Association (HCA), which pushed for affordable food, such as milk, as prices rose. In 1948, Luckock led a 500-strong HCA delegation to Ottawa to deliver a petition with over 700,000 signatures to Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King demanding rollbacks of food prices. The campaign resulted in the federal government acting against milling and baking companies for artificially fixing the price of bread.

After leaving provincial politics, Luckock became president of the peace organization Congress of Canadian Women and travelled around the globe working toward world disarmament. Sadly, in the 1950s, Luckock developed Parkinson's Disease and spent the last years of her life in hospital, passing away in 1972. She is buried in Greenfield Cemetery outside of Arthur.

In his book "After You Agnes – Mrs. Rae Luckock MPP," author Michael Dawber notes that the "name of Rae Luckock is virtually unknown, but as a tireless defender of women and a singular figure in Ontario History, she deserves better."