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The Warton Echo

OPINION

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Editorial

Much more than bazaars

In small communities throughout the world (over 1,000 in Ontario alone), there is an organization that quietly and effectively, works behind the scenes with an objective of personal growth and community action.

That organization is the Women's Institute, and in Ontario, is the largest rural women's organization.

A common misconception associates the Institute as a social club, featuring bazaars and teas.

That association does not even scratch the surface of an organization whose accomplishments on an international, national, provincial and local scene, are tremendous.

Influence from the W.I. has resulted in better youth programs, advances in health

care, improved education and the passing of laws that benefit all.

It is amazing what the organization has done with little, if not any, publicity.

Figures from the Ontario W.I. board, estimate that the W.I.s of Ontario donated over half a million volunteer hours last year, with a monetary value of at least \$6 million.

Add that to the benefits the people of Ontario have reaped from W.I. work and it is almost impossible to calculate the Women's Institute's true value.

In 1997, the W.I. is celebrating its 100th birthday. The Warton Echo salutes the Women's Institute and is confident that an organization with such strength and determination will be around for another 100 years.