

# Cochrane District Women's Institute meets

*NORTHMANND POST May 23/90 Re: W.I. Annual*

The 1990 Cochrane District Annual Meeting of the Women's Institute (W.I.) took place at the M.A. Hall, Iroquois Falls on Wednesday, May 4.

In attendance were 14 people, including delegates, members and guests.

Edith Moore (Clute W.I.), district vice-president, was in the chair.

Workshops were held on Recycling, led by Ruth Raymer (Monteith W.I.), and Teamwork and Marketing, led by Anne Dyas (Clute W.I.).

The emphasis of the Recycling workshop was to show what we can do as individuals to reduce our waste, since our town councils do not presently feel they have the money for Blue Box programs or to set up collection centres.

One suggestion was careful shopping, using a fabric shopping bag (one kind being available through W.I.).

It was also suggested reverting to some of the older methods of housecleaning - using ammonia, borax, baking soda and vinegar in various combinations.

A "recipe" paper was distributed.

Composting kitchen waste (except meat, fat and bone) and even finely shredding paper year round were other suggestions discussed.

In the Teamwork workshop, the importance and benefits of working together towards a common goal even though we may not agree at all times how to go about it was stressed. A Brainteasers quiz showed this to be true.

There was an opportunity to examine the displays set up by each branch showing some of their areas of expertise: a quilt and cushion by Clute W.I.; a recycling display by Hunta W.I.; and assorted handwork by Monteith W.I.

The afternoon program began with the Marketing workshop and showed how the 4 "P's" of marketing can be applied whether one is marketing W.I., recycling or pizza.

Deborah Howes of Matheson, Cochrane-Temiskaming District director on the 4-H Council, was

our guest speaker, "Today's 4-H" being her topic.

4-H is a worldwide organization for youth aged 11-21 years (10-21 starting Jan. 1991) designed to teach life-skills and agricultural projects in an interesting and entertaining manner and to develop in our youth self-confidence, self-worth and responsibility. There are 7 million 4-H members in 80 countries. Of 44,000 Canadian members, 15,000 are from Ontario.

Prior to the Ontario 4-H council the 4-H Leaders Committee was formed in 1982 and leaders selected by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (O.M.A.F.) to be a liaison between the Committee and the districts and to advise O.M.A.F. on policy for the 4-H program. Following a review of the 4-H program in 1985, the 4-H Council was established with 18 elected regional representatives.

We were told of the colorful "4-H is 4-U" campaign designed to attract new members and the many interesting projects available to members: the scholarships for eligible members for post-secondary education; national and provincial competitions and trips; and of a newsletter to replace The Enthusiast, for and by members, which will be introduced in 1991.

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of 4-H in Ontario a visit to the SkyDome and a Blue Jays game has been arranged. Watch out for us on August 9, as the game is televised. There will be 3,981 members present, the largest group booking at the SkyDome to date.

Be on the lookout too for 4-H Christmas cards later in the year. At \$5 a dozen they are a good buy and 50 cents from each dozen sold will go to your District Council to benefit our youth.

Since many 4-H Clubs are sponsored by W.I. branches, we found all the information most interesting. Howes was thanked by Charlotte Johnson (Clute W.I.) and presented with a W.I. Cookbook.

Following a stretch break, Elna Blackburn (Hunta W.I.), provincial board director for the Cochrane-Temiskaming Area, brought us up to date with information from the

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (F.W.I.O.)

Adult Leaders Training Courses presented by "Pass-it-on" (Maxine Innes-Holbrough and Barbara Klages) will be available for groups of 12 or more people who will then return to their home towns and give the courses locally. At present, only Landscaping and Breadmaking are available, but W.I. branches throughout Ontario have been asked to submit ideas for other courses.

Conference '90, to be held at Carleton University in Ottawa June 1-3, still has a few vacancies and will take phoned reservations until May 24. The theme, "Women and their Environment - An International Challenge," will be addressed.

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (N.F.W.I.) of England and Wales. A joint celebration with the F.W.I.O. is planned, July 11-22, in England. Ontarian, Mrs. Alfred (Madge) Watt founded N.F.W.I. during World War I.

The Associated Countrywomen of the World (A.C.W.W.) represents over 9 million women around the world and is recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental association. Their current project is "Women Feed the World" and they need the generous financial support of Women's Institutes of more affluent countries to help improve the lot of women and children worldwide.

We are asked to participate whole-heartedly in Pitch-In Week, May 7-13. This is a national program with a focus on litter prevention, recycling and beautification.

The meeting concluded with the election of officers for 1990-91 - the formation of a committee to determine standing rules and a tentative date of Tuesday, May 7, in Cochrane, for our 1991 District Annual Meeting.

For more information about a Women's Institute Branch near you, call Elna Blackburn, 272-6304.

Anne Dyas  
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Public Relations Officer