

Morphy, Vera

Advisory Committee 'Could Do More'

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Vera Morphy retired from the Ontario government's Women's Advisory Committee last week with mixed feelings about the agency and its function in the community.

Mrs. Morphy, who represented this region for a customary appointed term, found her experience with the committee rewarding in several ways.

"One of the most interesting things is meeting women from across the province. Each woman is so uniquely proud of her own area. The members are extremely concerned and active women in their own community."

Like other members of the committee, Mrs. Morphy was appointed largely because of her active role in the community. She conducts the local Ability Fund campaign is a member of the Task Force supervising the nursing school changeover to Loyalist College and is deeply involved in the local Cheshire Home project.

Last year, Mrs. Morphy conducted a day-long women's conference in Belleville. It was, as in other areas, the major activity of the Advisory Committee at the local level.

And like other conferences, a highlight of the conference was a showing of the Eedee Award - winning fashions.

"It's a marvelous chance to see Ontario fashions," Mrs.

Morphy points out, "but there is more to a conference than a fashion show."

"When we held our conference I felt the speakers left their mark," she says, "but I'd like to feel we did more locally."

While Mrs. Morphy stresses the organization "is certainly not a women's liberation-type movement" she would like to see the Committee function more as an educator, parti-

cularly in consumerism.

"At this level, I'd like to see more women involved. The Committee could function quite effectively as a clearinghouse for consumer information and it could handle consumer complaints."

Mrs. Morphy says she would like to see members of the Committee used in their own areas as speakers to disseminate information to women's organizations.

As it is, the Advisory Committee's budget is largely spent on conferences around the province. What the budget is, exactly, however, has never been made known to the members.

"There are questions that haven't been asked — or answered," Mrs. Morphy says.

She stresses the committee does perform good services, but adds, "I don't think it does enough."

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