

# HOME and COUNTRY

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## WAR WORK REPORTS

Semi-annual reports received from 1,059 Women's Institutes for the period from April 1, 1942 to September 30, 1942, show that excellent work continues to be carried on. But, please note that reports have been received from only 83 per cent of the Institutes. Again we ask every Institute to return the forms promptly so that the record of Institute work in Ontario may be more nearly complete.

Of the Institutes reporting 835 are co-operating with the Ontario Division, Red Cross Society; of these 442 are carrying on all their war work through the Red Cross.

Money Raised .....	\$49,374.18
Expenditures—	
Wool and sewing supplies	9,485.32
Jam, honey or sugar fund	9,499.37
Central Fund, F.W.I.C.....	1,385.50
Red Cross .....	8,716.48
Navy League .....	3,054.82
Salvation Army .....	1,378.04
British War Victims' Funds .....	2,273.40
Milk For Britain Fund .....	425.85
Other Funds .....	4,274.72
War Savings .....	2,527.35
Gifts to local enlisted men	8,199.12

Knitting .....	31,663 articles
Sewing .....	40,212 articles
Maple Sugar, lbs. (approx.)	410

You will note that less work is reported for the period covered by this report, than for the preceding six months reported in the Summer 1942 Home and Country. This situation occurs every year because, as is to be expected, more work is done during the winter months than in the busy summer season.

However, comparing this report with the same period for the previous year (see Home and Country, Winter 1941-42), there is a noticeable decrease in knitted articles and a slight decrease in sewing. Is this because less work has been done or because reports have not been so complete? Last year 1,118 reports were received, compared with 1,059 this year.

### Middlesex Mobile Kitchen.

The Women's Institutes of Middlesex Co. with the Junior Farmers and Junior Girls are raising money for the purchase of one mobile kitchen for emergency use in vulnerable areas of Canada. This kitchen will be similar to the one purchased by the Central Fund, F.W.I.O.

## GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED

The following letter addressed to the Women's Institutes will tell you just how much your gifts of sewing are appreciated. It is from Wembley, Middlesex, England:

"Dear Ladies—I wish to thank you for a pair of trousers, with your address tacked in, which were in a parcel from the S.S. and A.F.A. which was gratefully received by me. The trousers are really beautifully made and I love the natty piece of elastic in the back. They fit my middle boy of six years; the other boy is thirteen and I have a daughter of three. If only you could see the faces of those who receive your gifts you would feel how worthwhile is your labour. Donald feels inches taller because he is so proud to know his trousers have come from Canada.

"God bless you all and your labour. 'It's too late to wish you all a Happy Xmas, but not for a Happy New Year.'"

## WELCOME F.W.I.O. PRESIDENT



MRS. C. HOLMES

Mrs. Holmes, who before her marriage was a school teacher, now lives at "Justamere", a dairy farm near Belleville. When you have the opportunity to chat with her you may find out that she is enthusiastic about interior decorating. She has dramatic ability, too, for just last fall she took part in the lively play presented by the Bay of Quinte Women's Institute at the Belleville convention.

To her position Mrs. Holmes brings a great variety of interests, a pleasing personality, a fine understanding of rural life, an appreciation of the part which women can play in the world today and a sincere devotion to the ideals of the Women's Institutes.

Institute members look forward to meeting their newly elected President in person soon, but in the meantime, members everywhere extend to Mrs. Clarence Holmes congratulations, a sincere welcome, and assurance of co-operation.

Mrs. Holmes has been a member of the Bay of Quinte Institute for seventeen years. In addition to the responsibilities of office in her own Institute and in the District of Hastings West she has been chairman of the Belleville Convention and convener of the committee on Agriculture and Canadian Industries for that Area. Mrs. Holmes was elected to the Provincial Board in 1940 representing Subdivision 4. Always, Mrs. Holmes has been keenly interested in Junior activities.

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Women Institute Members of Ontario:

### "GREETINGS"

In assuming leadership of such an outstanding organization as ours, I solicit your co-operation and united support for the attainment of the ideals expressed in our motto, "For Home and Country".

I wish to pay tribute to the splendid leadership given us by our retiring president, Mrs. Ernest Duke, and I can only hope for continued advancement in all Institute activities during my term of office.

### Support War Work

The Central War Charities Fund merits your hearty and continued support. Response was good last year. Make your objective this year a contribution from every Women's Institute member throughout the province.

Salvage is a vital necessity in this war. Continue your efforts to collect scrap, particularly fats and bones. Canada today faces a serious shortage of fats and oils for war industries. We have learned to make use of discarded material—a lesson we must not forget in the future.

With additional rationing ahead, let us co-operate with the government by buying only necessities. Luxury buying must go for the duration. Are your liaison officers keeping your members informed of the new rulings of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board? Let us be alert to new regulations which concern the welfare of our homes and families.

### Rural Opportunities

Rural women have done a magnificent job this past year assisting with farm work for higher egg, bacon, cheese and milk production. There seems no end to the tasks women are doing today to release men for active service and the heaviest jobs in war industries. It is as essential that a soldier have food in his stomach as that he have a gun in his hand. Guard your health well, for strenuous days

lie ahead, and to efficiently engage in the campaign for Greater Food Production, one must be physically fit.

At all times let us remember, and instil into the minds of our boys and girls that there is dignity in labour; he who produces food from the earth is of the highest type of mankind.

Let us continue our fight against tuberculosis, a post war disease; let us continue the study of mental diseases; let us plan to assist the war widow to arrange her future and plan to receive and accept New Canadians. Would you consider lending a hand to the hospital in your own or the nearest town, where there is such a dearth of help? Is there a need in your community to help meet the housing situation?

### Home Is Important

The New Year is at hand—The New Year is typical of a new era. Institute members, you are the women, who, with your broad outlook on life and varied experiences, must take the initiative in planning for this new world. We must think clearly today and plan wisely. Our children must be trained to have clean hands, unselfish minds and stout hearts. We may plan for the future, but it is they who will carry on.

I appeal to you even when wartime activities are foremost in your minds, not to forget your home life. Live as normal a life as possible and keep alive a good community fellowship where wholesome recreation may be enjoyed near home. We must keep up the home morale. We must fight our fears, never indulging in depressing talk. Remember it is as much our patriotic duty to be cheerful as to knit socks for soldiers.

So in this new year of 1943 let us resolve that we, the Women's Institutes of Ontario, will continue our march forward giving leadership in all activities for the cultural betterment of our "Home and Country".

Signed: N. PEARL HOLMES.

## SALUTE TO MEMBERS

EMMA M. DUKE

All soldiers are not wearing the uniform of the Navy, the Army or the Air Force,—this or similar statements we hear on our radios, or read in magazines and in our daily papers.

Having recently concluded my official visits to the area conventions, also my third and final term as Provincial President of Ontario Women's Institutes, I feel I can speak authoritatively when I say, "There are no better soldiers than the women who are holding the home front. They do not have any identifying uniform but Ontario Women's Institute members are truly "Soldiers of the King".

### Salute For Courage

There were very few homes represented at the conventions but had given of their man power—be it husband, son or brother. In some cases loved ones would never return. "My son was the first boy killed from our village and I have two more boys in the services". "I have not heard from my son for months, he is in the Navy". "My son is a prisoner of war". These and many other statements met me at every turn. You could sense the hidden heartache under the pride in the voice and eyes. My salute to you.

Some women would tell me, apologetically, that they could not give as much time to knitting and sewing as they would like, or as others were able to do. They had more hens this year; they were milking more cows; and with labour so short they were doing the bulk of these chores. Then there was an extra litter of pigs to attend to and they had helped with the harvest and the seeding. Do these women realize how fortunate they are to be able to do this—this, the most vital war work of all? No other women can claim the credit or satisfaction which is that of the women who are able to make this contribution. Food is the greatest weapon. No factory can turn out milk for cheese; no war plant can produce eggs for dehydration; no machinery or plant can raise hogs which will reach our soldiers in the form of bacon. Stand at attention and take the salute.

Every woman is making her contribution where she is, in the way which is open to her. The knitting, the sewing, the jam making, the boxes sent to the loved ones, the hospitality extended when possible. Oh, in many, many ways our women soldiers are serving.

### Salute For Ideals

Why are we all doing this?

It is for your Home and your Country, is it not? It is to help uphold the principles of democracy and to uphold, too, the ideals which you cherish. The price of an ideal is high. Will we pay the price? Yes, we will.

The medium of exchange is not money. It is untiring vigilance, work, sacrifice and responsibility,—all we have, all we are, all we hope for in years to come. To few is given the opportunity of seeing the full fruits of their work. Nevertheless we must be loyal to our ideals and never lose sight of them. They will be the guiding star which will lead us, out of the chaos in which we find ourselves at present, to a true and lasting peace. They will lead us to the light in our blind groping for a new world. They will make it possible for us to bear the sorrows and sacrifices which we will be called upon to make and bear.

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