

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Directors, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, Lambton Hall, University of Guelph

**By Mrs. Harvey Houston, F.W.I.O.
Public Relations Officer.**

Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, president, welcomed 32 Senior Board Directors and two Junior Directors representing the Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario, with the wish that the deliberations of the week would be fruitful and an inspiration for all.

In her address Mrs. Noblitt said, "In the four months that I have been in office, there would ordinarily not be too much to report to you, and yet it has been a thrilling and busy time, filled with exciting activities. First, there were letters — many congratulatory messages and good wishes — others asking direction, to which I had to give some thought before answering.

"The first big event was on February 12, the 75th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Women's Institutes with the World President Mrs. Farquharson as our guest. The anniversary committee, lead by Mrs. Zoeller and assisted by Mrs. Diamond, Mrs. Miller and Miss McKercher, had done a marvellous job. So with the blessing of fine weather and the enthusiasm of the over sixteen hundred members and guests, plus the charm of our guest speaker and the talented entertainers, our "special day" was an unforgettable success.

"I shall ever be grateful for the opportunity to travel with Mrs. Farquharson during the week following the anniversary, to be able to enjoy the many functions that had been planned and to meet so many Ontario Women's Institute members.

"After the Anniversary celebrations we had two delightful days at Miss McKercher's home. During those days we attended a Sunday Morning Church Service, were interviewed by the press and on television at the Kitchener T.V. station, enjoyed dinner parties at the homes of Mrs. Clarence Diamond and Mrs. Austin Zoeller at New Hamburg. We enjoyed an Anniversary celebration with members from the Districts of North and South Waterloo, with the Haysville Branch members as hostesses in New Hamburg. We were overnight guests with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Munro of Embro. Mrs. Munro is president of the London Convention Area and we had the opportunity of meeting the members of her executive at a luncheon. We were guests for

two days with Mrs. George Dixon, Brampton, past president of the Central Convention Area. Mrs. Dixon held open house for us giving us opportunities to meet many more Women's Institute members.

"Mrs. Farquharson, Mrs. Fulton and I were guests of Dr. and Mrs. John Charlton in Paris for two days and our hostess took us to visit the Adelaide Hoodless House where we met members from North and South Brant Districts. At the Adelaide Hoodless House we were guests of the hostess Mrs. Loveless for dinner. On February 19 Dr. and Mrs. Charlton drove us to Stoney Creek for that anniversary celebration and on the way we drove past the Erland Lee home.

"Mrs. William Miller F.W.I.O. Secretary was our hostess for one night, then Mrs. Fulton and I returned to Ottawa and Mrs. Farquharson went to Michigan for another commitment. Later the World President returned to Ottawa to be the honoured guest at the Ottawa 75th Anniversary celebration. Highlights of this visit were attending a regular monthly branch meeting and a luncheon at the home of Dr. Irene Spry attended by several Women's Institute members from Quebec and women with International contacts.

"We had beautiful weather during Mrs. Farquharson's visit until it was time for her to leave. Visibility was nil that day when she was to leave Ottawa for Montreal and in order for her to catch her Overseas flight my husband had to drive her to Montreal.

"During her visit Mrs. Farquharson won the hearts of our Ontario members and she left them richer in their appreciation of the part our organization has played in starting an idea that has spread far beyond our borders and in the great work A.C.W.W. is doing all over the world.

"In addition to the celebrations, I attended with Mrs. Farquharson, I have been to nine 75th Celebrations each time taking to them your greetings and best wishes. In addition there have been several trips to Toronto on regular business, a day at the Safety Council meeting and attendance at the Royal Winter Fair meeting with Mrs. Miller.

"Again, I say thank you, to the Anniversary committee, and also to Miss McKercher, Mrs. Zoeller, Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Miller for their generous aid in helping me to get orientated in my new office."