



The President's Corner

Mrs. Harvey Noblitt, President the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

It is a coincidence that at three of the major events of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario this year someone has said to me, "It makes me feel proud that I am a Women's Institute member."

Coincidence perhaps, but certainly not strange! The first time I heard it was at our Officers' Conference at the University of Waterloo in May. When I asked the speaker what appealed to her, she told me that she appreciated the fact that here, 700 of us, could gather at the University campus and speak freely together. Perhaps we in Canada do not always appreciate our freedom of speech. She spoke of the splendid addresses, their quality and messages; of the dedication of the leaders and the efficient planning of the Conference Committee. The ideas given by the discussion group leaders and those gained from others in the group, all of which would help to implement a program that would better carry out our educational objectives.

The second time I heard the same idea echoed was at the Federated Women's Institute of Canada Convention in Banff. This time a W.I. member from another province, said she was appreciating being able to meet members from every province across the Dominion and through "shop talk" compare W.I. activities and garner new ideas. She admired the quality of the leadership, the educational program and the excellence of handicrafts. The realization that she was part of a still greater organization of 8 million members all over the world — the Associated Country Women of the World. She appreciated that through ACWW she belonged to a non-governmental organization that has consultative status with the highest organization of all, the United Nations. No wonder she felt proud to belong to the Women's Institute!

Then, last August 9, as over four hundred of our Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario members and distinguished visitors gathered in front of our lovely Erland Lee Home, in the shade of the towering pines, for a ceremony recalling some of the history of the Home and the public spirited people who had lived there over the years, one of our members exclaimed, "Today I am proud to be a member of FWIO." Just that, no more. It was truly an emotional summation of all she felt. It was indeed a momentous occasion. We were honouring Erland Lee and his wife

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