



## *The President's Corner*

*Mrs. Herbert K. Maluske  
President the  
Federated  
Women's Institutes of  
Ontario*

Dear W.I. Members:

A new door has been opened before me. There have been many kinds of doors in my life. Several of them have closed behind me. However, once again I have been given the opportunity to step across a threshold to new experiences.

To win the election and become your new President has indeed been a memorable occasion for me. I am very happy and honoured to have been given such acclaim.

I wish first of all to convey my sincerest thanks for your support and for your many congratulatory messages and expressions of meaningful best wishes. I am positively unable to tell you how much your every kindness has meant to me.

To my own Marmion Branch co-workers I am most grateful for the warmth of our friendships and our happy times together. I'm certainly proud, pleased and privileged to have brought honour to Grey Centre District and the beautiful Grey Bruce Area.

Now the door for me has been swung so much wider open that it encompasses all you wonderful people in all the other Areas, Districts and Branches in Ontario. I'm anticipating to the fullest measure the new experiences I shall enjoy in working with all of you in the interests of our great organization.

May I just continue further my little discourse on "doors". I'd like to draw to your attention some doors that we have already opened and many more that each one of us can open this year in our Women's Institute work.

You will recall how we stepped through the door of faith when we made the decision to purchase the Erland Lee Home. Hasn't it been a productive venture? To own the Home and to see in it some of our most cherished possessions is indeed cause for giving thanks every time we visit it. To also see the changes and improvements that have been made year by year makes us all the more anxious to keep sending in our supportive donations. We must never be afraid of venturing forth in faith.

Beside the door of faith, stands the door of hope. We hoped the Erland Lee Home Project would be a success. It was. We continue to hope that the Foundation Fund will soon have reached its pre-established quota so that the interest derived from it will be sufficient to maintain the Home.

We hope you will continue to lend your support to the "Save Sight" Project for we all hope to be able to

educate, through this Nutrition Education Trust Fund, the value of eating the proper foods.

We hope you are circulating the "Penny Jar" at every Women's Institute meeting. Your response to Pennies for Friendship has just been wonderful. The past results show a steady yearly increase in contributions. By this I can see that you are hoping to keep raising your Branch donations each year. Where there is hope, there is life. Let's keep every door swinging open in hopeful expectation along the way and the Women's Institute Organization will be vitally alive.

Everyone loves adventure. Why not open the door to one? Consent to lead a 4-H Homemaking Club or a Senior Project. If you have never done so you have no idea of the wealth of information and enjoyment that awaits you as you step through this door into a whole new realm of adventurous achievements. The girls will thank you for it and think of the training you will be providing to the homemakers of the future and the benefits they'll reap from your contribution of your years of experience as a homemaker.

Besides embarking upon an adventure, you would also be performing a great service. Endless are the opportunities that are afforded us when we step through the door of service. Are you being of service to your Branch, District, County, Area and Community? Are you being of service by accepting an office or a convenership, by preparing a paper, by planning a programme, by helping have 100% reporting, by spreading sunshine to the sick and the shut-ins? The ways of using your talents and your experiences to help and serve others and thereby benefit yourself in the bargain can not be numbered.

Since the Women's Institute is an adult educational organization why not set up a study session for International Women's Year? "What could we study?" you ask. Here are a few suggestions. We could learn the history of the women in our own communities, those who have made contributions in the past and the present time. Or we could study the image of women at various times in history and in different cultures. We could even focus on the history of women's struggle for emancipation.

If you think those doors of knowledge are too hard to push open, here's an easier one to shove ajar. Perhaps we should study the attitudes of women and men toward their respective roles in the family and society or study the responsibilities of both parents in the rearing of children and in family life.

How about doing a study on women's role, past and present, in local, regional, provincial or national affairs? Better still, why not apply that to a study of the women who have served us so well at every level of our great organization through all the seventy-eight years of its existence.

At the beginning of my term as your President I say, "Start opening doors — doors of service — in faith, with hope, and love. Start where you are. Start now.

In International Women's Year!"

*Verna A. Maluske*