

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Russel Harrison, Convener



Mrs. Russel Harrison (Roma Moorhead) grew up in rural Ontario near Mount Albert, in York County. Roma was educated at Franklin Public School and Mount Albert Continuation School. Her mother, Mrs. Carl Moorhead and her grandmother, the late Mrs. John Moorhead, were both long time members of Mount Albert

Women's Institute.

A member of Mount Albert Junior Women's Institute, she later became President of the Branch from 1937-39, as well as County President in 1939-40. "Roma" married the President of the Mount Albert Junior Farmers, Russel Harrison, in 1940 and they have two sons.

After marriage she joined the Mount Albert Women's Institute and has held the position of first Vice-President, as well as a Convener. In York North District she was Secretary-Treasurer for six years and Federation Representative. She also was Secretary-Treasurer for two years at County level.

She has been active in many ways in the community. Community projects have been more successful because of Mrs. Harrison's influence.

IT IS A CHALLENGE for every Convener at any level to do the best possible job, both in communicating with one another and providing assistance. To report all the activities at each level is the only way provincially we can determine what is being accomplished.

There are good guidelines for programme topics in the Handbook, which give a wide scope for meetings.

In September, the school bus regulations were changed to have traffic stop both ways, regardless of the speed limit, when flashing lights appear, allowing students to disembark from the bus. It has been said, many motorists are not stopping, let's not have WI members among that group.

Try to promote adult education programmes. There are courses available at community colleges and high schools for people from 16 to 60.

It will snow in millimetres this winter. Are you ready for the metric system? If you need assistance, booklets are available.

Not only is travel an extremely pleasant way to meet other people and enjoy new scenery but a great learning experience. If you find you are not able to travel, libraries provide hours of enjoyment. Books such as Nova Scotia Window of the Sea and Maritime Experiences are both entertaining and worth your while to read. If you are a bird lover, Birds of Ontario and Quebec is good.

For the Cultural part of the Convener'ship there are some Canadian books which might provide programme ideas. The Canadians 1867-1967; Laura Secord; Alexander Graham Bell; Sam McLaughlin; The Furniture of Old Ontario by Philip Shackleton.

Don't forget to write to the Loan Library when planning a programme.

RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. H. L. Noblitt, Convener



The disposition of the 1974 resolutions which were sustained at the Semi-Annual Board meeting is now quite complete and the Area Conveners informed of the results.

You are all to be commended for the type of resolutions you sent in and for the research you did at all levels and passed on to the next. The replies from the various departments of government indicated that they valued our submissions to them and they thanked us for our awareness and our concern. One said, "Communications from concerned groups such as yours are vital to our task."

Perhaps now the time has come for an analysis and assessment of all the resolutions. For this purpose, and just to have some criteria by which to assess them, I have divided them into three categories: (1) new requests, (2) repeat requests and (3) local issues.

Roughly, 10 fell into the first category, 16 into the second, and 5 into the third. Of the 10 in the first category, there is as yet no reply to 3; 4 replies indicated there is work being done on the issue now; with one, the government felt its present policy was adequate; with one they felt our request should be handled locally; and with the last they felt our idea would not be feasible.

Those in category (2) dealt with issues that have been concerns for sometime. Seven related to issues upon which legislation had already been made; with 2 of them the government felt its present policy adequate and one resolution asked for legislation on imported goods over which our government has no control.

Recommendations:

1. When considering the formulation of a resolution, check first with your local council, member of Parliament, police or such knowledgeable persons who can advise you as to whether your idea is feasible, is already law, or is presently under consideration by the authorities concerned.
2. Check back in our resolutions of previous years (Board Director or back issues of Home and Country) to see if FWIO has, at least within the last three years, sustained a similar resolution and then question if it is worthy of repetition.
3. Deal with local issues at local levels with local authorities. See the Handbook page 70.
4. If you do research on a proposed resolution, whether you finally formulate it and send it on to the next level or deal with it locally, DO report it when making your resolutions report.
5. Keep making resolutions for they are our way of expressing concerns. In looking over last year's resolutions I see three which no doubt had some influence on recent legislation, namely: the one asking for traffic to stop both ways for school buses, better bicycle legislation and equipping trains to reduce accidents at crossings.