

The Director Writes...

As I write, Christmas is rapidly approaching. By the time you receive this issue of Home and Country, the festive season will be over. I hope that 1980 is a prosperous year for you and your family.

This year, I was happy to attend seven of the area conventions across the province and appreciated the very warm welcome I received from all of the convention committees. I also attended the provincial board meetings daily, from November 20th to 24th.

1980 – THE YEAR OF THE W. I.

Your provincial president has emulated the United Nations and declared 1980 The Year of the W. I. in Ontario. When you devote part of your program to a discussion of the theme, it is my sincere wish that you will remember a very favorite expression of your co-founder, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless: "WOMEN MUST LEARN NOT TO WASTE TIME ON NON-ESSENTIALS". An examination of the ways in which some of your operational procedures might be streamlined appears to be of prime importance. I am certain many of you have some excellent suggestions to make in order to reduce the amount of paperwork you do and procedures you carry out, just to maintain the organization. I would like to suggest that you spend one meeting during the year thinking of ways to lighten the load of all office holders and then let your district and area presidents and provincial board directors know your views. The constitution committee will meet in 1980 to revise the handbook. Its members, I know, will be delighted to receive your suggestions. Now is an opportune time to make changes as you enter a new decade. Perhaps you could present some of the best ideas for change in the form of resolutions?

It is well-known within FWIO that many of the really worthwhile, humane and maybe even exciting things, happen at branch level. These are the events that make an organization strong and progressive. Unfortunately, only too often, they remain at the branch level. Therefore, I would ask you all to consider ways in which the wonderful work done at branch level could be consolidated into meaningful provincial programs.

Needless to say, it is essential to maintain and even increase your membership in the years ahead and draw younger women into your circle. According to the 1978 census figures, there are almost one million women between the ages of 25 and 49 years living outside the metropolitan areas of Ontario. How many of this number have you recruited to your branch recently? To encourage new members to join your branch, 1980 – the Year of the W. I., has surely opened the door for a great revival of your organization. Please renew your efforts, all of you, to speak with

authority and enthusiasm about the W. I. so you will ensure that Mrs. Hoodless' wish comes to greater fruition in the 1980's: "To develop to the fullest extent the two great social forces, education and organization, so as to secure for each individual the highest degree of advancement". If you can achieve this, the well-being of rural families and communities will be assured in the 1980's.

FIRST 4-H HOMEMAKING CLUB LEADERS' CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 13-15, 1979.

From November 13-15, the Home Economics Branch hosted the first 4-H Homemaking Club Leaders' Conference at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Toronto. It was most gratifying to meet with the 233 enthusiastic volunteer leaders from every county and district of the province. Participants indicated, on the evaluation forms, that they found the conference most interesting and consider it to be a big success. Thanks must go to the three regional supervisors who helped organize the conference; Lorraine Holding, Guelph, Joyce Canning, London, and Carol Crerar, Kingston; to Barbara McNabb and Mary Campbell, from head office, for handling the administrative details; to the specialists for their excellent displays, and to the staff of the Extension Branch, the Information Branch and the Programs Coordination Secretariat for their wonderful assistance. We were especially happy that the Honourable Lorne C. Henderson, Minister of Agriculture and Food, and Mrs. Henderson attended the luncheon.

MRS. HELEN ARMSTRONG

It was with regret I received the resignation of Mrs. Armstrong, effective December 31, 1979. Mrs. Armstrong joined the Home Economics Branch staff on January 2, 1963. Since that time, she has been secretary to the FWIO office, where she has served members of the W. I. with dedication and devotion. I know that she will be greatly missed. We wish Mrs. Armstrong and her husband, who has recently retired, much happiness and good health in the years ahead.

Miss Mary Campbell of the head office staff will take over Mrs. Armstrong's duties in the new year. A native of Tiverton, she has been a 4-H Homemaking Club member and comes from a W. I. family. She already has a good knowledge of W. I. work and I know that she will serve you well.

In conclusion, the Home Economics Branch looks forward to another year of cooperation with FWIO, as we work together to improve the quality of life in Ontario.

Molly McQueen

DERRY WEST W I, PEEL SOUTH DISTRICT celebrated their 50th Anniversary with sixty-five members and former members gathered together with charter members, Mrs. Tom Graham, Mrs. Geo. Graham, Mrs. Grace Gray Anderson and Mrs. J. R. McCracken. The theme for the day – The Three R's, Recognition of the Living Remembrance and Response to the needs of the Community, its people and its Resources.

COMMUNITY DONATION
SOUTH LOBO W I, MIDDLESEX NORTH DISTRICT raised funds by catering to banquets in order to donate to the local volunteer firemen.

The President, Mrs. Wm. Babinsky presented a cheque from the Branch to the fire department for special fire training equipment.