

## The Director Writes . . .



Miss Molly McGhee, Director  
Home Economics Branch

A glance at the calendar tells me that the first year of the 80's will have ended by the time you receive this issue of Home and Country. I do hope all of our readers had a very enjoyable festive season and that 1981 will bring good health and happiness to each and everyone.

It is my wish that 1981 will be a very successful year for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Personally, I am delighted that I will have the opportunity to get to know your new president, Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, better as we work together in committee and travel to the area conventions in the fall. In her quiet and pleasant way, I feel confident that Mrs. Hiepleh will be a competent and active president, a person whom members will be delighted to have represent them provincially, nationally and internationally. I want to assure members of the Women's Institutes in Ontario that we in the Home Economics Branch are always willing to help the president and the provincial board upon request.

At the beginning of December, I attended the first Farm Women's National Conference in Ottawa, as the official observer for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. It was good to meet several W.I. representatives from across Canada, as well as delegates from the different farm women's organizations. In her opening remarks, the chairperson of the conference, Dianne Harkin of Winchester, Ontario, made two important statements.

She said:

"I believe that farm women are this country's richest untapped resource, a resource that must be utilized. It's time we reached out beyond our own fence lines, to share our talent, ability and knowledge with others. Never before has unity among farmers been more urgent. I believe that this unity will come through the efforts of farm women."

And:

"We provide our fellow Canadians with the lowest prices, greatest variety and highest quality food in the world. Those who scorn farmers, those who are indifferent to the agricultural industry, have forgotten who opened up and built this great country, and made it a prosperous nation . . . . people built this country and those people were farmers."

Ms. Harkin's remarks suggest to me that W.I. members, through their Agriculture and Canadian Industry Conveners at all levels, could do much to improve the status of Ontario agriculture and accurately present the facts to non-farm people. We know that, for the 1980 production year, farm cash receipts will be over \$4 billion, a four per cent increase over 1979. Thus, Ontario is the largest agricultural province by far, in terms of receipts at the farm gate; a fact often not realized by urban people.

An important piece of federal legislation affecting many women is the proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act and the Canada Pension Plan. These amendments, if passed, will enable small family businesses to allocate a salary to the spouse for income tax purposes, and contribution to the Canada Pension Plan will be made in relation to that salary. If the amendments are passed, wives who participate in small family businesses and farms will be able to have Canada Pension Plan protection in their own right. I would suggest that you keep your eyes and ears open to learn if and when this important piece of legislation comes into effect.

In the new year, we will have finalized the number of adult courses and 4-H Homemaking Club projects we will be offering in the fall of 1981. Information will appear in the next issue of Home and Country. The Home Economics Branch does rely heavily on the Women's Institutes to publicize our programs. Please do make an effort to let as many people as you can know about our work.

I wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

*Molly McGhee*

### DIRECTOR HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH



HOME ECONOMICS BRANCH STAFF Front row — Margaret Roberts, Secretary to Miss McGhee; Ruth Marcou, Regional Supervisor; Lorraine Holding, Associate Director; Miss Molly McGhee, Director; Carol Crerar, Regional Supervisor; Joyce Canning, Regional Supervisor. Back row — Margaret Zoeller, Editor, Home and Country; Mary Campbell, FWIO Secretary; Sol Allen, Supervisor Clothing, Crafts, Housing; June Meloche, Supervisor Foods and Nutrition.