

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES IN STORMONT

Stormont have 10 WI's in operation, namely Avonmore, Berwick, Cornwall Centre, Finch, Ingleside, Long Sault, Lunenburg, Moose Creek, Newington, Osnabruck Centre, all situated throughout the County. Approximately 280 branch members working together during the year in their own communities provide a variety of needs and services both to the members and the community.

This year's District Annual will bring together the branch members and next Fall, Stormont District representing one of the Districts in Subdivision 1 will join Subdivisions two and three, bringing together thirteen Districts in all at the Eastern Ontario Convention.

All Stormont Branch Presidents were asked to comment about their programs, activities and projects, also, what they look for in a member and expect from the individual. There was a common thread running through the comments, so in some cases in order to avoid repetition branches may find some omissions.

Mrs. Orland Kyle, President of Avomore branch said they are looking for would-be members that are willing to participate, and are friendly and outgoing.

The projects revolve around community interests and needs, from assisting fire victims to donating funds toward a community pool and community centre. Funds are raised through rummage sales, bake sales and euchre parties to donate to Women's Institute projects and other charitable organizations.

Berwick President, Mrs. Clement Ruskford stated from the policy of the Women's Institute that membership is not barred according to race, color or creed, so all women are welcome.

In the beginning WI was to assist women to have a better understanding of nutrition and home-making practices. Today, after 84 years, the Home Economics Branch, OMAF, still continue to develop the talents of the members through a wide variety of courses.

Our Branch sponsor 4-H Homemaking Clubs, and leaders and delegates to events where Berwick should be represented. We are out to make the community a better place to live in.

The President of the Cornwall Centre Women's Institute, Mrs. Basil Alguire, said they are looking for a member who is willing to learn.

Their main thrust as an organization is participating in short courses taught by the local Home Economist from courses prepared by the Home Economics Branch.

The sponsorship of 4-H Homemaking Clubs for all persons from 12-26 years is another large part of the work of the Cornwall Centre group. In addition they sponsor Boy Scouts and have showers for members' daughters when being married.

The President of Osnabruck Centre WI, Mrs. Annie Ferguson said "we are looking for somebody that's going to do things when asked, somebody to take office, basically an active person who will become an active member".

Their activities consist of catering, looking after Pleasant Valley Cemetery, donating to the Erland Lee Home, catering and going on bus trips.

Mrs. Corry Dingemans, President of Finch WI said: "we want an active member, one that takes part, comes to the meetings, and will take office after having been there for awhile." Also, **Mrs. Leitha Casselman,** member of Finch WI and Stormont District President said their members learn new and improved methods of homemaking skills with a strong accent on leadership training.

This WI emphasized that members attempt to identify community problems and needs and the members also take another step and attempt to solve situations and act on them. An example, is donating toward sidewalks for the new hall in Finch.

Monthly meetings planned under the standing convener-ships keep members not only up to date but aware of current concerns.

At Long Sault WI, Mrs. Denzil Coughlin said, they would welcome anyone from 18 to a senior citizen as a new member. Most in this branch are seniors; probably four that are younger. Our branch does so much for "Home and Country", which really means within the home and the global community. "Really any woman that's interested can become a member."

This is a small Branch so every member holds a position either in the executive or as a convener. A community coffee hour is organized and local women are invited. There are quilt fairs, bus trips, support provided to local charities and many speakers come to speak on a variety of subjects.

The President of the Lunenburg WI, Mrs. Alfred Shorey said, they are looking for members who are pleasant and willing to work and help with Women's Institute work.

Mrs. Shorey felt the mottos and roll calls were an important part of the meeting. In addition remembering the sick and shut-ins and elderly and promoting good-will is all a part of the work of the WI.

Ingleside's Mrs. Edward Canough said their branch was looking for any woman interested in community work "the younger the better."

Ingleside WI provide two scholarships for students at the Secondary School level, take part in the Remembrance Day program in the community, crochet afghans for the local hospital. Overseas needs are met through the sponsorship of a child in Africa and the branch provided the incentive for additional leadership by sending a delegate to the annual Officers' Conference.

Moose Creek's President, Mrs. Elmer McDermid said they were looking for members who are young, bright, alert and ready to go.

Moose Creek WI is an integral part of community life and providing funds for the local Fair, Santa Claus Parade, Recreation Club and Firemen keep them busy. They are involved in quilt-making and selling them, this provides additional funds for their treasury.

Newington's Mrs. Charles Tait, Vice President, said they are looking for younger members.

Part of their work is helping with things in the village, catering for small groups, canvassing for the Cancer Society and donating to the local Fair. The Branch is rural and is comprised of farm people, so 4-H is important to them.