



## *After the March Winds?*

You've made it through the winter blaas?

March came in like a lamb and we'll probably have more storms and rough days, but the warm sunshine lets us daydream a little.

March, suddenly turns soft dreaming sunlight into eleven hours of brightness and joy. The sun streams through the east window at breakfast-time and we know the pussy willows and lilac bushes will soon burst forth. The tapping of the sugar maples has begun and we know it is the season for inspiration and hope for renewed life.

This is the year many will be planning to attend the FWIC Convention. Meeting new friends, seeing another province, and most importantly, learning more about the programs and projects implemented by other WI's across the Dominion. Delegates will return, anxious to promote different ideas for all those members at Branch level here in Ontario, who were not fortunate enough to attend.

Members will be a part of the discussions and decision-making. Each of you attending the Convention, will be charged with the responsibility of playing your part in urging the Convention to instigate immediately, at least one project for the next triennial that we can "get our teeth into" right away. A higher profile should be our objective.

Everyone is looking forward to August and celebrating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the first WI. What will you be celebrating — the accomplishments of the past, or the hopes for the future?

Like the rays of the March sun, will it turn the dreams of members of a traditional organization into realities, designed to stimulate innovative programs, appropriate to the 80's?

Just as we are experiencing March winds, there's a fresh wind rising in the world of volunteer organizations — a gentle breeze at the moment, that has all the signs of growing into a strong, stable force. You will have attended Branch Annuals, and had a chance to make decisions. Each member must accept the responsibility as to what happens. Women's Institutes have the vehicle to grasp the opportunity to integrate their objectives, which provide its members with the focus needed to carry on successfully in the future.

WI's may help to initiate social changes in their own communities. As families experience more and more stress from our fast-paced and ever-changing world, it will become necessary for members and their families to face the fact, that this is a concern which needs our immediate attention.

After the March winds have ceased to blow and WI's have started new community projects, if each member is enthusiastic, enthusiasm will be catching. Women's Institute projects should grow in all the local areas, especially when the community can see concrete results, from smart thinking, planning, organizing, and sweat and blisters.

*Margaret Zoeller*