



BETWEEN THE LINES

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President
Federated
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Ontario*

Dear WI Members:

Attending meetings in the winter months is often a challenge. With several centimetres of snow arriving weekly and ground-drifting taking place in open areas, highways and particularly less travelled roads can become impassable very quickly. Similarly, driveways leading to our homes become clogged with snow repeatedly. Foresight is therefore necessary to ensure that one arrives on time for meetings scheduled a great distance from home.

February 8th, I was invited to attend the official opening of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada 85th Anniversary Exhibition, "For Home and Country" 1897-1982, in the foyer of Ottawa City Hall. Upon arising very early that morning, I discovered a metre high snow drift in front of the garage door and another larger drift in the driveway. It was impossible to get the car out of the garage until the snow was removed. Anticipating a possible problem, my husband, the previous evening, had placed the truck in the driveway near the road and I was able to use it for transportation. Fortunately there was no delay at the airport and I arrived in Ottawa on time.

The opening ceremonies took place in spacious Whitton Hall, Ottawa City Hall. Approximately one hundred and fifty guests consisting of Women's Institute members from several provinces, government officials, ambassadors' wives and numerous other people were graciously welcomed by Mrs. Emmie Oddie, President FWIC, the only national rural women's organization in Canada.

Greetings were extended from the Associated Country Women of the World by the Honourable Martha P. Bielish, L.L.D. Vice President (Canada) ACWW. The guest speaker, The Honourable Eugene Whelan, M.P. Minister of Agriculture, praised the initiative and hard work of the Women's Institute members in promoting the dialogue on "Producer - Consumer Relations". The latest statistics reveal that women living on a farm spend on an average thirty hours weekly in the barn and fifty-three hours in the home attending to various chores; women who accept positions do make sacrifices.

Her Worship, Mayor Marion Dewar, proclaimed February 7-13 as WI Week in Ottawa. This proclamation was followed by words of praise to the Women's Institute organization in adapting to change by The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, C.C., L.L.D., former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who officially opened the 85th Anniversary Exhibition.

The Exhibition was divided into three sections, Founding and History, Work and Projects and thirdly, Awards, Hon-

ors and Achievements. Some of the interesting items loaned for exhibit included a copy in oils, painted by Toronto artist Miss Marion Long, of the original portrait of Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, a black and white portrait of Erland Lee, several Handbooks — the oldest Handbook displayed dated 1907, Educational Committees pamphlets; Provincial WI publications; photographs; documents; books; afghans; oil paintings; A House Log and a large wall hanging illustrating straw weaving made by a WI member in Saskatchewan for the 60th Anniversary of FWIC.

Following a tour of the Exhibit, several Ontario and Quebec Branches served a sandwich lunch to the guests. Credit for co-ordinating the display was given to Mrs. Janet Morgan, Public Relations Officer for FWIC. The exhibition clearly illustrated the commitment of Women's Institute members to seek a better life for rural women through homemaking, health and educational knowledge.

Two days later, Mrs. Helen Duffield, Officers' Conference Secretary-Treasurer and I met with the University of Waterloo conference co-ordinator and his secretary at the University to finalize arrangements for the 34th Annual Officers' Conference. Public Relations Officers and Branch Members-at-large will be attending this year's special training forum to develop their leadership qualities and become better informed WI members.

Later that same day, I had the pleasure of presenting several awards at the College of Family and Consumer Studies, University of Guelph. The winners and guests were welcomed to the Awards reception by Dr. Janet Wardlaw, Dean of the College.

Nineteen students were selected for the 1981 FWIC Macdonald Awards and eighteen winners were present to receive their cheques and certificates. Ms. Joyce Canning, Regional Supervisor, Home Economics Branch, assisted with the presentations. It is the interest from the Adelaide Hoodless Scholarship, established at the time of the 50th Anniversary of the first Women's Institute, that has made the Macdonald Awards possible. All students from Ontario admitted to the first semester of the degree program at the College of Family and Consumer Studies may procure an application form for the Macdonald Awards from the Assistant registrar, after the beginning of the semester.

An added highlight at this year's Awards reception was the presentation of the Helen M. McKercher Scholarship certificates to Anne-Marie McHugh and Ms. Joyce Canning. The winners are enrolled at the University of Guelph. Miss McHugh, majoring in Consumer Studies/Clothing, is expected to receive her Masters of Science degree in August 1982. Ms. Canning is enrolled in a Masters program in Extension Education with time of completion not yet established.

This past winter as I have travelled in a heated vehicle great distances to various meetings, I have often thought of Mrs. Hoodless and Mr. Erland Lee, co-founders of the WI and the 101 women who braved that stormy night of February 19, 1897 to attend the memorable meeting at Squire's Hall, Stoney Creek, Ontario, when the first formal organization of a Women's Institute took place. Let us ever be mindful of the first Women's Institute pioneers who paved the way for the promotion of better living. Harmonizing home and community life is still to-day's aim for Women's Institutes.

Janet D. Hiepleh