

An Organization with a Heart

Women's Institute members are a caring, sharing group of women within their communities!

In the 85th Anniversary year, this volunteer organization must have been doing many things right to have lasted all these years.

One of the District Annuals recently had a marvelous theme at their 80th meeting, "Reflection and Renewal." It seems so easy to "Reflect" and bask in the pride of accomplishments. However, the "Renewal" is not so simple. The world seems so fast-moving, the choices so varied, that it is difficult to just make a simple decision as to which direction the W.I. should take.

In this special year, "Renewal" should take priority at one meeting of every Branch in Ontario, allowing every member time to talk about their role, and if we should be attempting to take on a new direction and a new profile.

I'm certain by now, through my editorials you realize I feel there should be some changes within the Women's Institute organization, however, I also recognize the tremendous potential.

"Renewal" in this W.I. year means something special to me as well. At the end of June 1 shall be leaving you as Editor of Home and Country.

You have given me strong support over the twenty years I have worked at Provincial level and for this I want to say "thank you" most sincerely.

The friendships made have come about because of the work in the W.I. and mean much not only to me but to our entire family.

It's been the working together — sometimes hard work, sometimes fun and laughter, sharing in one another's joys and sorrows, and yet never losing sight of an important ingredient, "people". This kaleidoscope of events has brought a special meaning into my days as Editor.

If we will all think of "Renewal" as continuing to respect the needs of women and their families, working toward a higher profile in a society that often gives more meaning to "things", we will have made this 85th Anniversary year a tribute to every charter member in every Branch in Ontario.

Margaret Zoelker

