

# Officers' Conference

Mrs. Elmer Duffield, newly elected Secretary-Treasurer made her initial appearance at the Officers' Conference. "Helen's" initiation into her new position resulted in working closely with Mrs. Hiepleh, Provincial President and the University of Waterloo staff to put together a successful Conference.

The Thirty-fourth annual Conference was for PRO's at all levels and Members-at-Large. Over 550 delegates came from across the Province to participate in discussion groups and plenary sessions. A break-down indicated PRO's numbering 283 from Branches, 66 District and 7 Area delegates, along with 203 Members-at-Large assisted by 20 staff, were on hand during the three days at Waterloo.

The Conference Discussion Group activities were under the direction of the Provincial Public Relations Officer, Mrs. John Brown assisted by various members from around the Province.



**MRS. ELMER DUFFIELD, SECRETARY TREASURER OF OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.**

Mrs. Duffield joined the Speedside WI, Wellington Centre District in 1959 and has worked constantly on behalf of the Branch ever since. She has served as Secretary-Treasurer twice and just completed six years as District Secretary-Treasurer.

An ardent worker in the Barrie Hill United Church, she has served there as Treasurer since 1975.

For 24 years they operated a Gas and Grocery Store at Oustic, but sold their business in 1974.

Helen says their District have gained the reputation as the travelling District, she recently arranged a bus tour to Eastern Canada and will stop at the FWIC Convention as day visitors.

It was my District that suggested my name for Officers' Conference and Helen says, "After this Conference is over, I know I am going to thoroughly enjoy the work and it is my dream that I can bring some new ideas to this job, since Women's Institute need this at all levels to survive."

"The friendships I have already made and the assistance received have been absolutely super," says Mrs. Duffield.

This lady with an outgoing personality will certainly promote an interesting approach to Officers' Conference.

Helen Duffield and husband Elmer have three sons, the two older boys, both graduates from Wilfred Laurier University and a third still in Secondary School.

## F.W.I.O. PRESIDENT

Mrs. Keith Hiepleh, referred to the Conference theme "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe," suggesting if we share our knowledge, hopes, dreams, we can develop a good public image and continue as a forward-thinking organization.

Reference was made to the ACWW Conference in 1983 and that FWIO have chosen voting delegates, although application forms are not available. If anyone is a contributing member and wished to attend, they are to write to the ACWW office in London requesting a form. FWIO office are not involved in this Conference, so please send requests to the International Office.

Mrs. Hiepleh spoke about the theme to be used at the 85th Anniversary - "From a Flicker to a Flame", asking all to consider, is your Branch a flicker or a flame in your community? Assess current needs, face challenges of the 80's, recognizing we must meet the needs of all ages.

## UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

The delegates were welcomed to the University of Waterloo campus by Vice-President Academic, Dr. Tom Brzustowski who had gone through Women's Institute files back to 1957 and touched on WI events over the years. Also referring to a few anniversaries coming up this year such as, City of Waterloo's 125th, Women's Institute's 85th and the University of Waterloo's 25th, saying an anniversary is a special time, one to be treasured, with a renewal of challenges that will face all in the 80's.

He reminded all that the rare book room on campus is open to the public and referred to information on Judge Emily Murphy and the 1929 constitution decision on the person's case. Another reference was made to the History of Women and in particular Lady Aberdeen.



**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION TEAM FROM BLOOMINGDALE WI, WATERLOO NORTH DISTRICT CHECK IN DELEGATES.**

## PLENARY SESSIONS

All delegates attended one of the three plenary sessions where an open forum was held with many questions being asked and answers given. As a result of the discussion group workshops, the delegates were able to clarify their thinking about the previous day's discussion.

Questionnaires, a quiz and evaluation sheets were distributed in an effort to involve all delegates and allow delegates some input into next year's Conference.