

“From a Flicker to a Flame”

The Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Honourable Dennis R. Timbrell spoke at what was his first official meeting with members. His links with the Women's Institutes reach back to his grandmother and great-grandmother's days in Frontenac County. He congratulated members on being the guardians of history in their communities through the Tweedsmuir histories, for their relevant resolutions for their work with the 4-H clubs, and their fine record of community service and interest in the family. Members saw the need for commitment, growth and change.

Today, said Mr. Timbrell, life is changing so rapidly that no one can afford to fall behind by standing still.



Gift Presentation

Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, left, receives a gift presented by Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, anniversary celebration chairman, on behalf of the 1800 members and guests in attendance.

Members must remain involved in community-related activities and ensure that interesting programs are drawn up in order to attract younger members to the Women's Institutes, thus guaranteeing a sufficient number of volunteer workers in the local communities in the years ahead. He concluded by assuring members that the ministry's home economists would

“continue to prepare and deliver programs of benefit to all residents of rural communities.”

Keynote speaker at the luncheon was Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, World President of A.C.W.W. who offered special greetings from the four Dutch societies. She reminded her audience that a nation cannot rise above the level of its homes. Consequently, the work of the co-founders of the first Women's Institute, Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless and Mr. Erland Lee, had a profound effect on family, community and national life in over sixty countries throughout the world. Mrs. Alfred Watt had carried the torch to England and through her tenacious efforts for twenty years, had helped form the world wide movement, A.C.W.W., in Stockholm in 1933.

Today, family life, education for rural women and strong local communities in every corner of the world are of prime importance. They form the foundation upon which all countries can develop their agriculture and food industries, vital for the survival of mankind. Although total world food production increased by 29% during the

years 1970-79, world hunger remains a grave problem as world population outstrips food production.

A.C.W.W. must work unrelentlessly in support of the United Nations International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, 1981-1990. Half of the world's population, three-fifths of this number living in the developing countries, is still denied access to a safe and adequate supply of drinking water. The World Health Organization estimates that 80% of disease in the world today is associated with infected water and a lack of proper sanitation. Women and children are deprived of valuable time to pursue family life and educational projects when they must fetch water many miles from their homes.

Mrs. Westebring-Muller challenged all members present to support the U.N.'s goal of fresh water for all by 1990. The A.C.W.W. Council has just endorsed a new project under UNESCO's co-operative Action Program in support of the Clean Water for all by 1990. Unless an adequate supply of safe water is provided so

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Candle-Lighting Ceremony

Mrs. Nita Roderick, member of the Stoney Creek WI Charter Branch, lights the candle on the 85th Anniversary cake. She is assisted by three associated presidents. They are, left to right, Mrs. Bernice Noblitt, FWIC; Mrs. Ziny Westebring-Muller, ACWW; and Mrs. Janet Hiepleh, FWIO.