

National Convention Report

The Provinces

The twinned provinces entertained on Tuesday evening with musicals, a mock wedding, skits and a history of their provinces. Mavis O'Donnell rendered several delightful New Brunswick folk songs and the evening concluded with several violin selections by Mrs. Roma McMillan, Ontario and Mr. Wilfred Brake, Manitoba.

New Brunswick Day Tour

June 16th was a memorable day for the 466 delegates who enjoyed a full day of friendship and hospitality. Although rainy, foggy and cool for most of the day, the friendship and warmth experienced by each person on the tour was unforgettable. WI members welcomed the visitors at each stop, served refreshments and presented gifts and mementos.

Some of the sites visited included the covered bridge at Hartland, New Denmark Museum, quilt display at Lower Jemsgig, King's Landing, and a conducted tour through a portion of the Mactaquac, the largest hydro-electric generating station in the Maritimes.

Producer to Consumer

An interesting panel composed of representatives from government, retailers, consumers, media and producers presented views on bridging the producer-consumer gap.

Agriculture is a very volatile industry. The 1981 consumer spent almost 17% of income on food compared to 24% of income on food in 1950. The consumer needs to change shopping practices — buy home-grown products, eat what is best in your area and practise conservation by doing the best with what you have.

Closing Banquet

A handbell choir from Grace Memorial Baptist Church entertained the guests following the banquet.

The guest speaker, Mr. Les Stoodley, CBC Maritimer complimented FWIC on its efforts to make this a better world to live in. His topic, alcohol and drug dependency, revealed that

one-third of the population suffers from dependency on alcohol and drugs. He suggested Women's Institutes should take a close look at advertising in the media. Ads for alcohol are geared to the 12-year-old and fast food ads are geared to the 3-year-old. These ads suggest an image of happiness when the products are used and condition the viewer to look for good times from these sources.

Courtesies were extended to all who helped make the conference successful. Gifts of appreciation were given to Mrs. Emmie Oddie, Senator Martha Bielish, Mrs. Anna Manzer, and a corsage went to the oldest person present — Mrs. Muriel Bronson, aged 96.

WI members were greeted by Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. George Stanley at the conclusion of the banquet.

FWIC Convention Resolutions

1. Request the provincial and federal governments do everything in their power to bring about arms control and a reduction in nuclear weapons, and seriously engage in a program of disarmament education and research.
2. Commend the efforts of the federal and provincial governments in their attempts to reduce acid-causing emissions in Canada, and urge them to continue research efforts and control strategies and make every effort to press for more strict controls in the U.S.A. and Canada.
3. Urge the federal government to continue to support the Manitoba Government in its efforts to reject the Garrison project as it affects Canada.
4. Urge the Government of Canada to change the Capital Gains Tax as it now exists, to readjust the valuation of farmlands through indexing corresponding to the rate of inflation; this to be applied retroactively so that the valuation of the farmlands is more representative of existing values.
5. All members of FWIC urge federal, provincial and municipal governments to take the necessary steps to:
 - (a) make pornographic material inaccessible to minors (remove it from sight);
 - (b) ban pornographic publications and posters from public display accessible to minors, and prohibit the sale of these publications to minors;
 - (c) require a licence for operation of sex shops and impose severe penalties for admission of minors to such shops;
 - (d) prohibit the dissemination of posted signs or other forms of advertising of a pornographic nature;
 - (e) legislate to prohibit access by minors to all places where public entertainment of a pornographic nature is presented, with severe punishment for violation by offenders and operators of such establishments;
 - (f) further legislate to strictly control access by minors to films classified "18 years and over";
 - (g) establish an advisory committee (to include members from the public) to:
 - (i) define clearly and definitively the word 'pornography',
 - (ii) receive complaints and ensure appropriate follow-up,
 - (iii) report to appropriate authorities all offences against the statutes,
 - (iv) inform the public, and
 - (v) report to the ministries concerned;
 - (h) this resolution be sent to the Minister of Justice for inclusion in Bill C53.
6. That FWIC support the Manitoba Women's Institute in its request that municipal and provincial authorities be required to provide more specific information and advance warning of large scale spraying programs; and that FWIC request the federal government continue to make public funds available for research to produce a vaccine for humans against equine encephalitis; that annual inoculation of horses be encouraged and that any cases of the disease be reported.