

## Between the lines



*Mrs. Keith Hiepleh  
President  
Federated  
Women's Institutes of  
Ontario*

**D**ear WI Members:  
Happy New Year to each of you! May peace, good health and happiness be yours in 1983.

It is a pleasure to be able to inform you that during my annual visit to the fourteen Area Conventions last fall, each Area reported an increase in new members for the current year within many of the local branches. The new members are women of various ages. One branch reported ten new members in ten months — this is a tremendous record of achievement! The younger members are being encouraged to present their fresh, new ideas for consideration and implementation.

Greater flexibility in the time of holding monthly meetings is now permitting more women to attend well planned and informative meetings. Public Relations Officers are encouraging conveners to inform them of the coming monthly meeting, so that their press and radio releases will inform the general public and the Women's Institute members that an interesting programme has been arranged for all women in the community.

This year Women's Institute Week will be observed in February, during the week that contains the 19th. As you celebrate within your

branches the 86th Anniversary of the founding of the first Women's Institute in the world, at Stoney Creek, Ontario, February 19, 1897, invite your friends, neighbours and potential new members to share this special day with you.

Our twin province Manitoba shares a very unique garden with the state of North Dakota. This garden is the International Peace Garden. It is situated midway between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean and near the geographical centre of our continent. The province of Manitoba donated 1451 acres and North Dakota donated 880 acres. The vast area encompassed by the International Peace Garden is mainly a wooded and lake region. The formal area composed of pools, shrubs and flowers harmonizes with the natural setting.

Throughout the wooded area of the International Peace Garden are picnic sites. Manitoba Women's Institute has its own Women's Institute Picnic Nook, complete with running water, rest rooms and an electrical outlet. Visitors enjoy the beauty of nature, nature walks, hiking and cross country skiing. This very special Garden was dedicated 50 years ago to peace between Canada and the United States of America. It is a very special Garden belonging to two countries, whose people have lived in peace for many years.

Plans are nearing completion to warmly welcome society delegates, life and contributing members, and husbands accompanying their wives to the 17th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World, hosted by the Area of Canada at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 19-29, 1983. It is expected that many hundreds of women, some accompanied by their husbands, will be visiting Canada for the very first time.

It is hoped that many of these visitors will be able to spend a few days in Ontario. The diversification of our province's agriculture is most noteworthy. A visit to the Erland Lee (Museum) Home at Stoney Creek and to the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead at St. George will be long remembered highlights of their visit to Ontario.

As you know the time period between 1981-1990 has been designated

"International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade." Much of the suffering in the world is caused by lack of water and poor sanitation. One of the most pressing problems in the world to-day is getting an adequate supply of fresh, clean water that is safe for drinking, cooking and washing.

Water covers three-quarters of the earth's surface and most of this is salt water found in the oceans. Only a very small part of the fresh water is accessible and much of this is underground.

Depending on the various regions around the globe, some have too much rainfall and other regions have too little. The result is either flood or drought situations in many places.

Reliable water supplies and adequate sanitation are taken for granted in most parts of the developed world. However, in the developing countries, less than one-fifth of the rural population and less than seventy-five per cent of the urban areas have access to safe drinking water. It is estimated that water-related diseases kill nearly ten million people yearly and half that number are infants under one year of age.

People who suffer from lack of water, recognize what a precious resource safe water is. When pipes or wells are installed in a village, a bonus is that gardens can be watered. Children can enjoy a better diet — thus improvement in nutrition is a benefit from water projects. Women and children are also freed from the endless hours spent in collecting water miles from their homes.

A.C.C.W. recognizes the needs of the world's underprivileged and Project UCA 71 covering Water and Sanitation, sponsored by UNESCO and ACWW, needs your support.

The future remains bright for our organization. The opportunities for our Women's Institute members to work together on various projects is always stimulating.

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to the new branch, Sunnybrooke in Lambton Centre District.

*Janet D Hiepleh*