

Community involvement is key for Perth North

District Diary is a new feature for Home & Country. It will appear in every issue from now on, focussing on one FWIO district each time. Our first District Diary takes a close look at Perth North.

Perth County is located in south-western Ontario. It is bounded by Waterloo Region, Huron, Middlesex, Oxford and Wellington counties. The county is divided into three FWIO districts; Perth North, Perth Centre and Perth South.

Perth North was formed in 1914. Fifteen branches and two Junior Women's Institutes are in Perth North. The district belongs to the Guelph Area and Subdivision 11. District President Marion Elliot, describes Perth North as a largely farming community with emphasis on dairy and swine production across the whole county. Industry is dotted across the district with Spinrite Dyers and Yarns Ltd. and Andrew Malcolm Furniture Ltd. in the district's largest centre, Listowel, and cheese factories in Millbank and Atwood. Highways 86, 23 and 19 are the major thoroughfares in Perth North. The district itself is bounded by Gowanstown in the north, Monkton in the south, Millbank in the east and Molesworth in the west.

Mrs. Elliot says her district is a very active one. Out of the 351 members, about 150 attend the annual district meeting. For the past four years the district has been involved in a fund raising scheme, selling WI related items, like a blue ball-point pen bearing the WI logo, and using the profits to support district activities.

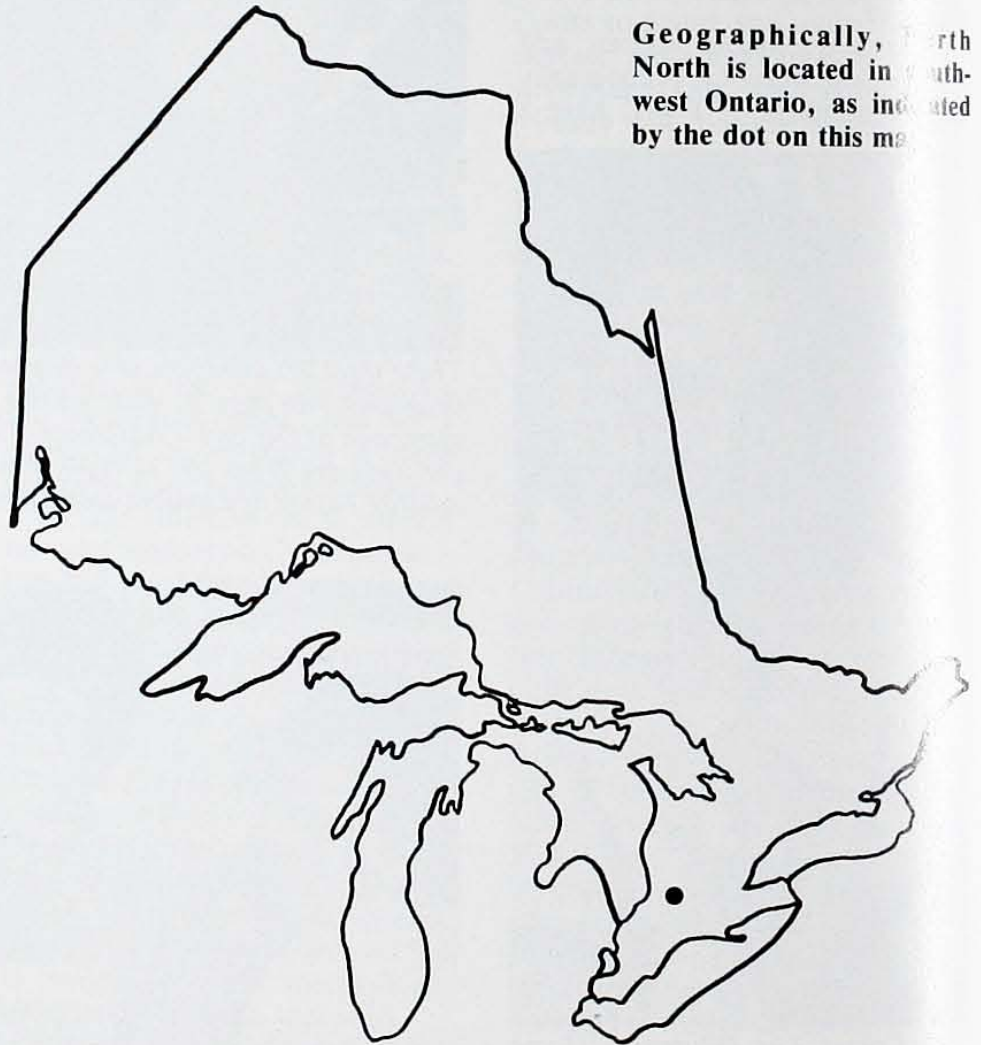
Last year, for the first time, Perth North District held a Variety Night at Listowel District Secondary School. Branches were encouraged to provide a 3 minute segment of entertainment.

Skits, dances and music blended together for a very successful evening which was repeated this year.

Perth North has always been involved in helping to celebrate special events. Floats were prepared for the 125th anniversary of nearby Stratford, the Listowel Fall Fair Parade, the Canada Day Parade at Atwood, the Santa Claus Parade,

also in Stratford and next year the 125th anniversary of Wallace Township.

Later this year, Millbank Branch will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in a special way and a workshop is planned for officers at the beginning of November. The workshop will inform officers about the organization of Women's



Geographically, Perth North is located in south-west Ontario, as indicated by the dot on this map.