



## Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario

*JWIO President June Alton will be featured in every issue of Home & Country from now on. Her column will update JWIO members and FWIO members on the activities of her organization. So far, a name for the column has not been devised. Anyone with an idea, may submit it to Home & Country editor Carol Stewart-Kirkby for consideration.*



Summer is upon us and for many, Junior Women's Institute activities take a back seat to family vacations or just the hectic schedule of life on the farm or at home.

Some of us however, are still busy finalizing plans for the Annual Fall Conference hosted by Jean Scott, Riverside and West End Junior Women's Institute branches at Guelph on Oct. 21, 22 and 23. Please make sure you have those dates on your calendar now, so you can attend. It promises to be a most informative time as well as a great chance to renew old acquaintances as well as make new friends. Your own personal invitation will be out in late summer so keep an eye on your mailbox.

The theme chosen is "Consider Yourself..." I think this is an excellent topic for our conference because all too often, what with the demands of a husband and family and work, we often put our own "mental health" on the back burner

and tend to neglect ourselves. This is a great opportunity to take a weekend or just a day to pamper ourselves.

The spring meetings this year have been most successful and I hope they will become an annual event. I have attended two meetings already and the planning and preparation as well as the response by you, the members, has been great. It certainly shows there is a lot of interest and enthusiasm amongst Junior Women's Institute members.

Some members have criticized this new format as taking away from the annual fall conference, but I have to disagree. The spring meeting is to promote unity, fellowship and fun between branches in a certain area. It also allows members who are unable to attend the annual conference each year a chance to experience Junior Women's Institute activities on a larger perspective than just the local branch level.

The annual convention is a time at which we must conduct business and make decisions affecting our whole organization for the next year. It is not all work however, and we always have an interesting speaker, workshop or tour planned. I hope that you will not let me down and still attend the fall conference.

As your branch should already be aware, we are striving to increase our membership and number of branches in the next year. The provincial executive will offer an incentive to the branch which increases its own membership or helps organize the most new branches by May 1, 1984. It takes all of us working together to increase awareness and understanding of our organization's goals and aims. We all need to work together, because you have the contacts in the local areas which are most important, and you cannot just rely on the provincial executive.

This matter is especially important now with the recent media coverage on the Women's Institute not always meeting the needs of the young women in the community. I feel in some instances the Junior Women's Institute may be able to fill some of this need. By working together it will

benefit both organizations in the long run.

Sometimes our meeting structure or topics may be just what your neighbour or friend is looking for. We give each branch the opportunity to choose topics that are of interest to the members. These topics are a great learning experience which helps us grow and often motivates our members to a greater concern and awareness of other women in the community.

You must always remember that Junior Women's Institute is your organization. You will get out of it what you put into it!

*June E. Alton.*

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## Consider Yourself!

### Notice to all Junior Women's Institutes:

Plan now to "consider yourself..." at your provincial fall conference on Oct. 21, 22 and 23 in Guelph. Mark your calendars now.

Your hostesses for this conference will be Jean Scott, Riverside and West End J.W.I.O. The conference will be held at the Arboretum Centre, University of Guelph and The Cutten Club, Guelph, Ontario.

Come to be informed and entertained. Each member will receive her personal registration form in late summer.

We "consider ourselves..." the 1983 J.W.I.O. Conference Committee.

Please consider us!