

Between The Lines



Dear W.I. Members:

Excitement mounted throughout the gymnasium at the University of British Columbia, June 24, 1983, as hundreds of delegates from around the world attending the 17th Triennial Conference of Associated Country Women of the World, waited anxiously for the announcement of the newly elected President of ACWW. Finally the announcement was given. Dr. Ellen McLean (OC), Eureka, Nova Scotia, Canada, had been elected President of ACWW for a three year term on the first ballot, defeating two other candidates, both from the U.S.A. What a proud moment for Canada!

In her acceptance speech, Dr. McLean thanked her supporters and pledged to do all she could in the interests of ACWW. I have sent a message from Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to Dr. McLean expressing congratulations and best wishes on her election as President of ACWW.

Twinning arrangements are now underway with Women's Institute members in the seaside province of New Brunswick. The floral emblem of New Brunswick is the purple violet. It was chosen in 1936 at the request of New Brunswick Women's Institute. Thirty-three hundred Women's Institute Members live in "Canada's Picture Province". New Brunswick has more than 200 branches and included in this number are several French branches. For the benefit of all its readers, the 20-page bi-monthly magazine, "Home and Country", features articles in both English and French.

Many Ontario Women's Institute members are fortunate to already have first hand knowledge of their new twin, having visited New

Brunswick during the last National Convention, and experiencing the generous hospitality of the New Brunswick Women's Institute members. The opportunity for friendships to blossom and grow is available through the twinning programme.

There is a great deal to learn about our new twin. Did you know that plans are being finalized in New Brunswick for that province to celebrate its bicentennial in 1984?

It was in June 1784 that New Brunswick became a province as a result of the great influx of United Empire Loyalists who had migrated north during the American Revolution. Many years previously Samuel de Champlain explored New Brunswick in 1604 and claimed the land for France. However, it was ceded by the French in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and in 1763 became a permanent British possession. Today one-third of the population are French-speaking.

A dedicated Committee of New Brunswick Women's Institute members is busy organizing a mammoth quilt competition and display for their province's bicentennial. This competition is open to any one living in New Brunswick and either groups or individuals may enter a quilt made since 1980. Quilts can be entered under one of four categories - bicentennial quilt, pieced, appliqued or embroidered. Winning quilts from four centres will be taken to Fredericton for final judging. These quilts will then be exhibited from mid June to mid July 1984 at the National Exhibition Centre, Fredericton. In addition one antique quilt selected from each of the four centres by popular vote of the viewers will be on display.

Each New Brunswick branch has also been encouraged to write its history as a bicentennial project. With 200th anniversary celebrations taking place in both Ontario and New Brunswick in 1984, Women's Institute Members in each province will have much to share with their twin. A feeling of pride in our beautiful provinces and our magnificent country will be fostered in each of us on this happy occasion.

Are you aware that 88 per cent of New Brunswick is covered by forests, but in many parts of the world there is global concern for deforestation? Yearly the creeping desert sands in

Africa cover more of the countryside. In poor areas of the world electricity is either not available or cannot be afforded. As a result the people in these areas use firewood for heating and cooking, thus contributing to the depletion of this already scarce product.

To focus public awareness on the world-wide problem of deforestation a Tree Project is to be launched in 1985. The United Nations has designated 1985 International Youth Year. In their home communities around the world, the youth will implement the Tree Project. The intent of this Tree Project is for youth to plant one billion trees, one for every youth in the world.

Although the Tree Project is to be a co-operative effort of youth, there is a need for participation of non-governmental organizations, industry and forestry experts to provide financial, organizational and technical support to stimulate efforts at the local level. Good forward planning is required for this global project to be successful.

Women's Institute members are encouraged to support this global undertaking of tree planting. Even now to take part in this project by planting a tree or trees on your property you will show in a positive way your approval. Urban and rural areas will benefit by having well-placed plantings. Trees will improve the appearance of property and aid in reducing traffic noise. Farm property lacking wind breaks will benefit from tree planting and valuable topsoil will be protected. Matching field trees in the forests with young trees will insure a continuation of our wooded areas. By carefully considering the needs in your specific area, positive steps can be taken to reverse deforestation.

It is a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to our newest Women's Institute Branch organized in Simcoe South District. Congratulations and best wishes to the sixteen Charter Women's Institute Members in the Trillium Branch!

As you gather with your families for the observance of Christmas this year, may it be a time of joy for everyone, and, may Peace, Good Health and Happiness be yours in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Keith Hiepleh