

Canadian elected ACWW president

Canada's Dr. Ellen McLean was elected ACWW president in Vancouver - the first ACWW president to be elected on her own home soil!

Dr. McLean defeated Mrs. Phyllis Howard and Mrs. Fayola Muchow, both of the United States, in the presidential race.

She is a farm wife and mother of three, from Eureka, Nova Scotia and was born in Winnipeg of Danish parents. Dr. McLean became a WI member in 1953 and was Nova Scotia's president from 1963 to '65. From 1973 to '76, Ellen was president of FWIC and later became Area Vice President for ACWW for Canada in 1977.

Currently Dr. McLean is chairman of the Nova Scotia Advisory Council on the Status of Women, vice-chairman of the Nova Scotia Royal

Commission on Pensions, vice-president of the Atlantic Ecumenical Council and has served as weekly hostess for a WI radio program since 1966.

In 1976, Ellen was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish. In 1981, she was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada.

Dr. McLean also finds time for her community where she is a church worker, a 4-H leader for the past 19 years, has served as a municipal councillor and a school board trustee.

Her job as ACWW president will extend for a three-year term, until the 1986 ACWW conference, which is to be held in Northern Ireland.

Marion Timmins



Dr. McLean

Members are life blood, says outgoing president

Mrs. Westebring-Muller, the world president of ACWW, in her opening address, expressed pleasure and considered it an honour to be welcomed by the hostesses in Canada.

"Many delegates have been looking forward to this event for three years with the triennial conference of ACWW to be a highlight in their lives," said Mrs. Muller. "Life and contributing members have come to meet again and to visit as our American friends say, with each other, to take home personal impressions, ideas, experiences and lessons for the future. All of these life and contributing members are the public relations officers of ACWW, and each of them is contacting the ones at home who are the grass roots of the organization. What would we do without its members at the grass roots. They are the life blood of an organization. It is through them that ACWW receives information that can be used as guidelines. Resolutions, and recommendations give an organization instructions to implement or instruct the top councils of the world in such a way that these desires cannot be ignored. In the past ACWW worked on its own but now it is cooperating with other non-

governmental organizations to send in our mutual voice on specific items, and it gives our actions more weight."

Mrs. Muller thanked all the Canadian members for their financial contributions which made the conference possible.

May Brown

Constitution changes squelched

Prior to the Plenary Session at which the ACWW Constitution and Amendments were to be dealt with, the FWIO Delegates together with some of the accredited visitors met to consider all aspects of the proposals which were to be put forward, and to agree on the course to be taken. At the Plenary Session, 232 amendments to the proposed new Constitution were considered with approximately one-third being carried. However, when put to the vote the amended proposed Constitution failed to receive the two-thirds majority necessary for its adoption and so the present Constitution will stand for the next Triennium. It is to be hoped that from the very open discussions which took place at this Session a new Constitution will eventually result.

At a later meeting of the Con-

ference Constitution Committee chaired by Senator Martha Beilish, a more successful result was obtained when the delegates (one from each Constituent Society) considered a request from the Presidential Area, which has been in existence for forty years and consists of countries in South America and the Carribean, that they be allowed complete Area Status with the right to nominate and elect a Vice-President. A unanimous solution acceptable under the Constitution was reached and a recommendation made that the World President appoint a Co-ordinator for Area No. 9 at present classified as a Presidential Area, pending redesignation and the necessary procedure to nominate and elect an Area Vice-President at the next Triennial Conference.

Iris Coyne