

Here's some ideas for community projects

Women's Institutes across Ontario become involved in community improvement projects from time to time. Often it is difficult to think of new ways to help community residents, community groups or just the community itself. Here are some suggestions from around the province which your branch may find useful.

1. Help with a blood donor clinic - recruiting blood donors door to door or through a phone blitz.
2. Arrange a community clean-up - picking up roadside litter, improving public areas, e.g. cemeteries, fairgrounds, parks.
3. Arrange a community party night - Since it's for the whole community it should include something for every age group, e.g. square dancing, playing cards, games for children, a barbecue, etc.
4. Hold a benefit dance - for families with heavy loss through fire, death, sickness.
5. Hold a gateway contest - to encourage community residents to beautify the entrances to their homes and/or farms.
6. Plan a community auction sale - donating any proceeds to a local community effort, e.g. purchasing recreation equipment or facilities.
7. Participate in local fairs and parades - providing an exhibit(s) and/or a float.
8. Provide and/or paint garbage cans for community centres.
9. Organize a harvest bee or planting bee for someone unable to handle their own through sickness, etc.
10. Offer to do minor building repairs for elderly people in the community.
11. Work with the Salvation Army or another local group preparing food and Christmas gift baskets.
12. Build or provide picnic tables for a local park.
13. Plan a community corn or weiner roast and provide the food, facilities and someone to lead a sing-song.
14. Provide entertainment for underprivileged or handicapped people in the community, e.g. entertaining in nursing homes, performing a variety show free of charge, arranging a fun day for children, arranging and sponsoring tours of local sights helping those having difficulty walking.
15. Arrange a bike rodeo in conjunction with the O.P.P. or local police department.
16. Arrange a tractor rodeo for father/son or daughter.
17. Arrange a community slide presentation to be given by someone



who has had travelling opportunities.

18. Arrange for public information nights on the metric system, farm safety or some other local topic of concern. Include practical demonstrations, lunch and some entertainment to help make learning more enjoyable.
19. Work with the local municipal council to establish a park or other recreation facilities in the community, e.g. build a backstop for a baseball diamond or a scoreboard.
20. Identify unmarked local road hazards - sharp corner, steep hill, etc. and arrange with the municipal council to have these marked with signs.
21. Locate junk autos and arrange, with the owner's permission, to dispose of them. This project might be done in cooperation with the municipal council to arrange for the necessary equipment and recycling facilities.
22. Repair and paint mail boxes in your area that are in need of it. Sell name signs for the mail boxes or paint them on yourself.
23. Sell trees to local residents at cost. Arrange for club members to plant trees.
24. Have a garbage drive. Get people in the area to sponsor you for every garbage bag full you can collect along the roadside. Donate the money to a worthy cause.
25. Organize a bottle, paper or tin can drive. Send out a flyer asking people to save whatever you are collecting. State a definite day for pick-up and be sure you are there. Anything that is returnable can be cashed in and everything else can be recycled.
26. Construct and paint signs to mark the concession numbers on your county's roads.