



Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario

Meet your new president

With each spring, new life seems to develop, things begin to brighten up, buds and blossoms are popping up all over and here, even in Junior Women's Institute, there is a new slate of executive just anxious to bring new life to your branches and hopefully your branches will blossom and expand as a result of some new spring enthusiasm by each of us.

Hi! I am your new provincial president and this is my first opportunity to come to you through the Home and Country magazine. I am very honored and pleased to be your provincial president and, expect, along with the membership, to learn more about Women's Institute and to promote our organization because of this learning.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank the JWI's in the Belleville area for The Flavours of Quinte, a job well done at the 1984 Conference held in October. It was a very pleasant stay, we had some very interesting and fun speakers, met some new friends and rekindled some old friendships, had lots to eat and lots of long business but, our accomplishments were greater. We have re-written the Constitution and By-laws for JWI and you will be able to again review these and present amendments as you feel necessary. This is a long process, but well worth it in the end.

While we are at it, we will have to seriously look at where our roots are to be planted and who we should belong to. It has been assumed by several of the JWI members and FWI members, that we belong to FWIO and FWIC, but do we really? We don't pay a portion of our membership to belong to either of these groups. JWI has become a constituent of ACWW but there again, if you aren't a contributing member, you are not a voting member. Let's put some thought into these things and as an organization, along with FWIO and the Rural Organizations

and Services Branch we should come up with some constructive and concrete ideas. We are pleased to have a member on the CWIF Committee (Concerns of Women's Institutes of the Future).

I recently attended a meeting with Ken Knox of R.O.S. and several other rural organization presidents. I was very pleased to hear that each of us had in some way promoted the other and we were able to familiarize ourselves with the purpose of each organization. Do you recognize these groups? Federated Women's Institute of Ontario — FWIO — "Are our roots here?"; Ontario Horticulture Association — OHA — "Is there a community garden in your area?"; Ontario Plowmen's Association — OPA — "Conduct International Plowing Match"; Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies — OAAS — "Fall Fairs"; Ontario Vacation Farm Association — OVA — "Take a farm vacation, school tour, rent a farmhouse or farm, or take advantage of bed and breakfast accommodations"; Junior Farmers — "participate in international, national and inter-provincial rural youth exchanges to gain knowledge and learn ideas on the farm"; 4-H Leaders' Committee — "Have you sponsored a 4-H program lately?"; Want to know any more about any of these groups, write the ROS Branch, Guelph Agriculture Centre, Box 1020, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6N1.



Marion Koepke

1985 is International Youth Year and it is very important, to us and to our youth, that we do some small thing in recognition of this. Don't forget, you are to report to fall conference what you have done. I guarantee the results of help you give will be rewarding.

Well, enough business and a bit about myself. I live in the scenic City of Owen Sound with my husband and two sons aged 15 and 12. I have a full time job with the municipality of Owen Sound in the clerk's office which I enjoy. I have belonged to JWI for about 10 years now and I have held a variety of office on both provincial and branch levels. I have done some very rewarding volunteer work in my time and enjoy some of the slower sports such as volleyball, slow-pitch, curling and roller skating. I have never been directly associated with "the farm" but am learning from my rural institute friends.

Hope you keep things blooming for spring and let's get more members and more branches. How often we let them miss an opportunity with JWI for Home and Country.

Marion Koepke
Provincial President

Branch News

North Grey

North Grey JWI celebrated its 10th anniversary in November by holding a dinner. Past members, special guests and eight out of 14 charter members were present. During the rest of last year, members toured Participation Lodge, a home for the handicapped; they learned about candy-making and paper tolling; they made a quilt which was auctioned and the proceeds were donated to Participation House; and an award was established at each local secondary school.