

# WI today: Women Involved!

We have unlimited potential to face future challenges

## FWIO Report

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Women's Institutes are alive in '85. This was evident when approximately 800 members and visitors from across Canada arrived at the University of Western Ontario in London to attend the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Tenth Triennial Convention from June 16-20.

The theme for the Triennium, "Women — Unlimited Potential," has been used in all provinces to help develop an increased confidence in our members, that they *do* have the potential and ability to take prominent places in the development of their communities, their provinces and our nation.

FWIC President Bernice Noblitt enlarged upon this theme in her address.

"We have a responsibility to adapt to meet the multitude of changes today. We have the potential. We can help to find solutions to problems; we can help to bring unity to our troubled world by building avenues of understanding that channel emotions and feelings into constructive pathways; we can play our part in responding to governments who are seeking our input into legislation; we can help to maintain integrity in our society if we keep alert to the many ways it is being eroded today through petty breaches of faith, dishonesty and moral degradation. If we have the courage to practice integrity and honesty and uphold good moral standards ourselves. We can do something about the social problems which confront us for the potential for action is within us.

Let us not forget that Women's Institutes is a people organization and not only an issue organization. One of our objectives is to develop our members and to help people in our communities. We have unlimited potential to face all challenges if we



*This trio, who are obviously proud of their affiliation with the Junior Women's Institutes (JWI), consists of (l. to rt.) Carol Hyde, Past JWI board director; Mary Hall, Howick JWI, and Marion Koepke, Provincial JWI president.*

remember this quotation. Use the talents you possess for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the very best."

Dr. Ellen McLean, President of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) was enthusiastic, positive and motivating when she addressed the delegates at the convention. ACWW stresses the grass roots approach to development and the branches are the grass roots — ACWW is something bigger but not more important.

Consumers do not understand what is happening to agriculture. Things are changing very rapidly and we must promote agricultural awareness suggested Dr. McLean.

ACWW is a joint movement for peace — by means of education, war against poverty and promoting better world understanding. We see the need of women around the world as we practice compassion, loving action and practical help through ACWW projects.

Dr. McLean concluded her address with the words of the South African representative.

"I beseech thee ladies to march forward with mouths shut and eyes open. The world needs women of

healthy minds and bodies. ACWW is an exciting organization. Shine where you are."

The clean water for all project came to an end at the 1985 FWIC Convention and donations were presented to ACWW. A total of \$68,573.20 was raised easily beating the projected target of \$50,000 for Canada. Ontario's donation came to \$40,468.63.

Delegates attended a wide variety of workshops one afternoon and the following day summaries of the workshops were presented. The workshops included the following topics: Protection for Women, Planning a Wardrobe, Child Care, Family Violence, Pornography, Technology for Women, Health Education, Financial Management, Effective Speaking and Quality of Life for Seniors.

Eight out of nine resolutions were sustained by the work voting delegates. They covered the reduction of beer advertising on prime T.V. spots; the retention of federal jurisdiction over divorce, as well as the expansion of current federal law to include enforcement of custody and maintenance orders; a national referendum on

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