

Letters to the editor



Consider CWIF carefully

I wish to congratulate the Committee on Women's Institutes of the Future for all its work. There has been a great deal of thought and effort put into their work and the members have come up with many innovative ideas.

FWIO will soon be celebrating the 90th year of the founding of Women's Institutes. The constitution that was written then, with a few changes over the years, has stood us in good stead, resulting in our being recognized as one of the staunchest guardians of our families, our health, and our heritage whether it be of the countryside, arts and crafts, traditions, behaviour, democracy, truth, justice, tolerance or fellowship.

Times are changing now, but ours is not the first generation to experience change. Every generation has experienced that and has learned to adapt gradually to those changes and if they were positive, and worthy, to grow in the process. I have always felt that the one very great redeeming feature of our W.I. constitution is that it has been so flexible it could easily be adapted to any change we wished to make. The one weakness of our organization, in my opinion, is that we have not had a good system of communications. We have not made the best use of available resources or modern technology — more newsletters, a radio program of W.I. news, TV programs etc. But that was not because our constitution prevented us from doing so.

Now as we stand on the brink of complete changes in our constitution I think we need to honestly ask ourselves two questions: (1) Are all or even some of these changes going to result in better communications and make our organization more effective and if so (2) should we make the desired changes all at once or slowly, step by step, one by one, until we are **sure** the changes will really be beneficial and that we will all be satisfied with them.

The recommendations of the committee were presented to the annual

FWIO board meeting in November and the board accepted them.

How do you feel about them? It is to be hoped that every branch will conscientiously study and evaluate the proposed changes and make its

views known to the president and the board. You are a member and FWIO is your organization.

Bernice B. Noblitt
Gloucester Glen WI

New name for WI?

I was certainly surprised to read about the new image WI was trying to project.

I joined the Institute close to my suburban home 20 years ago. I was a "modern career girl" as they used to call us, but I always felt at home at my Institute. I learned so much about my district and Canadian life and enjoyed participating in the many special activities.

As the years went on, we said goodbye to many members, even though we were not all 90 years-old, as someone said in **Home & Country!** We did disband, but as Institute members, we knew we must continue to grow, so were warmly welcomed at Alford

and Park Road WI.

Before my retirement, I was activities director at a seniors' residence in Brantford and during that time, I continued to be an active member of my WI. So you see, career people do have a place in Women's Institute.

One thing about WI I could never understand is the name, why Women's INSTITUTE? Even nursing homes avoid using this word. How about Women in National Unison (WINU), or may I suggest a contest for a vibrant name.

Ivy R. Johnson
Alford and Park Road WI

Special calendar available

A calendar featuring pictures of Apsley's early beginnings was published by Apsley WI in 1985. The unusual and practical, perpetual calendar also contains information about the area. The format of the Apsley Area Historical Calendar

helps users keep track of special dates, birthdays, anniversaries, social engagements and business appointments. For more information, contact Mrs. E. M. Reynolds, Box 26, Apsley, Ontario.

In your next

HOME & Country

New hostess

An interview with new Erland Lee (Museum) Home hostess June Coombs. Find out who she is, her background and how she feels about her new job.

Conveners' reports

Get to know what other Women's Institute members are doing across the province by reading the reports from the family and consumer affairs and agriculture and Canadian industries conveners.

Semi-annual meeting

Read about what went on at the FWIO Semi-Annual Board meeting, held in Toronto in April.