

# Letters to the editor



## Survey could have been better

I am writing in response to your survey in the Winter issue of Home and Country.

As a typically responsible Women's Institute member I am returning a completed survey. I feel obliged, however, to also forward my comments on your questionnaire and its presentation.

### Availability and Presentation

I do compliment you on having initiated a survey which I feel might assist in reflecting current WI member opinions given the changing times. That it was made available in Home and Country was also well thought out. However, to have it on the back cover (who wishes to up apart her Home and Country?) and given a general idea of the average WI membership, to have printed it in such small pitch (a good number of people cannot or have great difficulty in reading it) is difficult for me to understand.

As there was an article indicating

the value of this survey, why not give it the potential value it deserves. I would suggest one of the centre leaves have the questionnaire on a full-size page. Also, an easily identifiable symbol such as a dotted line and scissor symbol should have been used to ensure clarity. The reverse page of this leaf could be lined for additional comments and a title to that effect added. Personal comments provided by survey recipients usually prove invaluable in analyzing survey results.

### Questionnaire

Other than the size, the format was difficult to follow. The age designations were good, i.e., didn't have 30-40, 40-50, where you have a repetitious year. Boxes, however, yield more responses. This could be easily seen in your unnumbered questions as to the members "setting".

Perhaps the book entitled "Mail and Telephone Surveys" by Don A. Dillman would be a useful reference guide in the future.

I hope my comments will be taken in the way they were intended, that is, to ensure a future survey will be better received, that the return percentile will be high, and that the information gathered will be accurate and informative.

I do wish you well in your endeavours and I hope this evaluation will assist in the reorganization of this good organization.

**Vivianne M. James**  
Cumberland Branch

*Editor's note: all comments are appreciated and gratefully accepted. Thank you for taking the time.*

## Change article welcomed

I want to thank you very much for your excellent article, Transitions are Never Easy (Winter 1986). It did much to dispel the turbulence within as the CWIF (Committee for Women's Institutes of the Future) proposals for changes within WI were read and pondered upon.

I believe recommendations two and three are well stated. The slogan Women's Institute: Women Involved is forward looking and has a marching ring to it.

I like the idea of a president elect, but the choice and method of election may pose some problems.

The Winter Home & Country was excellent in all departments. The new format is attractive and most informative. Best wishes in your work.

**Lovilla Gibb**  
Lucasville Branch

## Waste disposal workshop failed

I would like to make a comment on the Eastern Ontario Area Women's Institute workshop on atomic energy and radioactive waste disposal held April 10 in Perth.

If this is the format of future WI work, guest speakers will have to be schooled better. Good leadership could not be obtained from the

morning's presentation. The guest speaker tried to brainwash us with hard sell showmanship. The hand-outs were easier to follow than the speaker. If this literature had been sent to the public relations officers, more WI's would have been covered.

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## WI friends around the world

I am returning the slide set, From Manitoba to Ottawa, which I borrowed for my trip to Zimbabwe.

The women of Zimbabwe are keenly interested in Women's Institutes in Canada and they enjoyed the slides. We shared many ideas, in the hope of improving our branches in Canada and in Zimbabwe.

While there, I made eight presentations to WI groups. I also met a WI member during my 10 hour stopover in London, England. All were total strangers, but because of our common interest, I have gained so many new friends in such faraway places.

I heartily recommend a visit to the

beautiful country of Zimbabwe, ESPECIALLY if you are a WI member.

**Helen Young**

## Changes good

I am in favor of the new changes for the WI except for the motto. I prefer the old one. When someone inquires as to what WI is all about, the old motto, For Home and Country, summed it up perfectly.

We are having problems recruiting  
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