

# President speaks to AALP participants

Women's Institute members in Ontario continue to develop good programs, encourage leadership and study topics relevant to the concerns of the members.

FWIO sponsored the seventh seminar of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program at Geneva Park, Orillia in March. Charlotte Johnson, provincial president, was given the opportunity to address the program participants and their spouses on the theme Challenges of Change. She outlined the beginning of the WI; its growth through the years; the opportunities given to women to develop; our involvements today and finally, where we see ourselves in the future.



FWIO President Charlotte Johnson attended the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program seminar in Barrie this spring. The seminar was sponsored by FWIO. Pictured above is Charlotte making a presentation to AALP participant Garry Balthes and his wife Veronica of Port Burwell.

## Chemicals seminar addresses two questions

The Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association sponsored a "Safe Use of Pesticides" seminar at the University of Guelph on March 26, 1986. I represented the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. The two questions addressed were: "What are we up against?" and "What are we going to do about it?"

It was stated that the farmer needed to use pesticides in order to survive in a competitive agribusiness system, even though he or she had some nagging worries about long-term ill effects. The challenge was to make pesticides more safe by increasing the user's awareness of the risks. The price of error in the use of pesticides could be high in terms of human health and environmental contamination.

To maximize the benefits of proper use of the products, operators, other farm workers, and bystanders must be adequately informed; users must be adequately trained; precautions must become as routine as seat belts and hockey helmets; ground water and surface water contamination must be prevented and no unacceptable residues be on harvested crops.

Ruth Grose



Careless misuse of pesticides must be prevented. Safety information must be made available. It was noted that labels do not contain all the necessary safety information. The safety information must be easily read and interpreted.

Approaches to securing the best result would be through certification of the users, through education and by proper labelling. Certification could be voluntary or mandatory. Education could be provided either by the industry or government, and labelling must communicate adequately the use and dangers.

**Ruth Grose is the provincial convener of Agriculture and Canadian Industries.**

## District Diary...

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well as had it painted and wired.

Mrs. Sarah Powell, a charter and life member who is 90, every year organizes a fun night — proceeds of which are donated to Save the Sight.

Members currently knit mitts for emotionally disturbed children who attend the McHugh School at the Royal Ottawa Hospital.