

What 4-H has meant to me

Many 4-H members across Ontario receive Women's Institute scholarships. The following is an essay by Nancy Burnham, winner of the Simcoe County scholarship.

My first recollection of 4-H takes me back to my sixth year. My aunt had made her own bedspread, all by herself! I was very impressed and could hardly wait until I was old enough to become a member of this organization which taught such incredible skills. As my twelfth birthday approached, 4-H sounded even more appealing. My neighbor was hired at a restaurant because of her 4-H experience. I was aware that 4-H was a highly recognized, and respected organization, and I was eager to become a part of it.

I have now completed 18 clubs and have been a leader for one club, and benefited from each. I have been exposed to the fine art of bread making, acquired delicious recipes, gained cake decorating skills, learned wonderful hints for the great outdoors, rules of etiquette, how to quilt, run a successful meeting, grow a vegetable garden, and even all about fifth generation computers. The manuals are preserved as valuable sources of reference. My Personal Finance manual will be especially helpful in the near future with its information on housing and financial planning. 4-H really has so much to offer and I intend to continue my 4-H career while at university.

Through 4-H I have become aware that different styles of leadership are more effective for different groups. The leadership skills I have developed have been valuable to me. 4-H has taught me the responsibilities associated with holding an office, as a member to help other members, and to give the leaders who are sharing their time with us, my best.

Being a 4-H leader gave me a different perspective of 4-H. Attending leaders' workshops, and organizing meeting schedules and materials for the members, gave me a greater appreciation for my past leaders. Evaluating the work of the club members improved my ability to assess my own club work. On completion of my first club as leader, I had

Nancy
Burnham



a real sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.

The trips and conferences 4-H offers are great. I am honoured to have attended both 4-H Leadership Camp and 4-H Homemaking Conference. The main ideas I received from these,

were that we all need to have goals in life, that we must face every challenge, and that life has a lot to offer, but it's up to each of us to make the most of each opportunity we are greeted with.

4-H has given me the opportunity to get to know younger and older members of my community, and people from all parts of the province. I value highly the lasting friendships I have made through 4-H.

4-H means much more than I could have imagined at six years of age.

Emergency resolution passed

The following emergency resolution was sustained at the April 1986 board meeting of FWIO.

WHEREAS under present laws, water pollution has reached world wide catastrophic proportion; and

WHEREAS the Great Lakes Basin is recognized as the most seriously contaminated in North America;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario urge Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to give the highest priority to the problem of ground and surface water pollution by toxic chemicals; specifically, to improve the funding for monitoring toxic chemicals in the environment, and to develop more effective abatement measures.

Resolutions...

continued from page 14

driving, including more aggressive enforcement practices and rigorous penalties for drinking and driving offences. I believe that specific measures directed at alcohol-related problems, such as those used by the Attorney General, are more effective means of dealing with these problems than limitations on the number of outlets.

In accordance with the Premier's statement to the legislature of July 2, 1985, I have been consulting with various interested parties, including retail food, beer, wine, and distilling industries, labour unions, and a number of social and health organizations. Based on these discussions, I have put forward for the consideration of cabinet, what I feel to be a reasoned and responsible proposal."

Another's

Point

of

View

Dorothy Dobbie
Birr WI

You have to walk in someone's shoes
To know just how they feel.
For things to you seem foolish
But to them they're very real.
If you had lived their life-time,
And shared what they went through
Perhaps you'd act the same as them
In little things they do.
So, never judge another
When you hear about their news,
You could be quite mistaken
Unless you wear their shoes.