

# Nipissing welcomes conference delegates

Welcome to Nipissing District. The 90th Anniversary Conference of Women's Institutes is being held in this district, at North Bay.

North Bay and Nipissing District are located north of Toronto — about a four-hour drive or a 40-minute flight. North Bay is known as the Gateway to the North. It is a beautiful city with walking trails, public beaches, and a scenic waterfront development. If you're lucky you'll see a squadron of jets flying overhead on their way to the Canadian Forces Base located here. Up at the base is the underground regional operational control center which receives radar data from across Canada. All military air space in Canada is controlled from 600 feet under the Cambrian Shield right here in North Bay.

North Bay's earliest history involves Samuel de Champlain travelling from Mattawa up the Mattawa River to North Bay, and then portaging to Lake Nipissing, continuing across to the French River and on to the Great Lakes. If you enjoy canoeing then you should consider retracing Champlain's route which is now the scene of the annual North Bay-Mattawa canoe race. If you enjoy fishing, Lake Nipissing is famous for pickerel. And if you enjoy relaxing then a trip on the Chief Commanda, a stroll along the lakefront development or Canadore trails, or just sitting on a beach is very soothing and rejuvenating.

To the west of North Bay is Lake Nipissing. Nipissing District extends from Warren at the west end of Lake Nipissing, 80 miles east to Mattawa on the Ottawa River. There are WI branches from one end to the other. Although all branches sponsor 4-H clubs, support Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food courses, and maintain Tweedsmuir Histories, it is amazing the difference in emphasis and how the WI reflects the community it represents.

## MATTAWA

This branch is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. Marjorie Wall, president, says, "The group has always had an interest in local community affairs." During the war years the WI was the Red Cross, knitting for soldiers, rolling bandages and

## Janet Parsons



sending out packages. After World War I, Mattawa purchased a cenotaph and established a park which they still support today. The Mattawa Branch was especially proud when the Algonquin Nursing Home opened its doors in 1975. You see, it was two WI members who accompanied the mayor on a visit to the premier to request the home.

## CALVIN

This branch has been focussing on helping people in the community through various activities since 1910. Shirley Dimmick, secretary, adds the members give strong support to the local community center. For example, this year they purchased a microwave and donated it to the center.

## RUTHERGLEN

Velda Thompson, the newly elected board director for Subdivision 27 calls this branch home. Rutherglen submitted a resolution in 1985 which was sustained by FWIO. It dealt with restricting the use of firearms along county roads in built-up areas.

## PHELPS

The members of Phelps WI are the movers and shakers of Phelps Township. "If there is a job to be done then the Phelps WI will be working to make it happen," says Carol Johnston. In the early years they obtained Blue Cross Hospitalization, petitioned Ontario Hydro to bring electric power to the township, purchased land for a memorial park and built a community hall, lobbied for telephone service, the straightening of Highway 63, and passed a resolution resulting

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*Here are members of Phelps WI, helping to brick the front of the firehall. From left to right they are Marilyn Hummel, Phelps President; Terry Thompson and Marlene Pedersen.*



*Three years ago Veuve River WI organized the Northern Ontario Rural Women's Seminar. Pictured above is Linda Schaber of Cache Bay (right) at the seminar having her copy of the book *The Farmer Takes A Wife* signed by author Giselle Ireland (left) and Kristina Maus, illustrator.*