

# Help OMAF to celebrate!

One hundred years ago, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF) was formed. Back then it was called the Department of Agriculture and by 1890 it employed 35 people, considerably fewer than the 1,700 employed today. By 1893, the department had offices at Queen's Park and by the early 1900's many new branches, including the Livestock Branch, the Fruit Branch, the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Branch, were formed.

The Women's Institute Branch was formed in 1921 and in the next issue of **Home & Country**, look for an article tracing the historical relationship of the ministry and WI in Ontario.

In 1988, OMAF is celebrating its centennial by incorporating the birthday theme in some ongoing activities as well as some special events. On our back cover, you will notice details of a photography contest as well as information on 100 special awards which the ministry will be giving to Ontarians who have made outstanding contributions to agriculture. I encourage you, or your organization, to participate in both of these programs. Also, look out for information on an essay competition, open to students and adults.

On this page you will see the logo designed for the centennial. You are likely to see it on many other OMAF publications this year.

Please take the opportunity to celebrate with us in 1988.

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On to some **Home & Country** housekeeping matters.

You will notice that this magazine is the February, March issue, rather than the January, February, March issue. At a meeting of the magazine's editorial committee last fall, it was decided to change the months of publication of **Home & Country** to avoid the summer, when most organizations are not meeting. There will still be four magazines

## Editorial

Carol  
Stewart-Kirkby



per year, but instead of appearing regularly, every quarter, they will be published as follows.

February, March  
April, May  
October, November  
December, January

A common complaint about **Home & Country** is that the news is stale. I found because groups don't meet in the summer, the old July, August, September issue was often a couple of months getting into the hands of the readers. Hence, the decision to change the months of issue. Of course, this is on a trial basis, and if unsuccessful, the former months of issue could be reinstated. You will notice the new deadlines on page two.

In the last two issues of **Home & Country** there has not been a listing of FWIO Board members on page two. A complete list of FWIO officers, as at the November annual



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meeting, appears on page two of this edition. Please keep this copy of your **Home & Country** handy as this information will not be appearing in every issue. Or photocopy page two and post the list on your bulletin board or next to your phone.

The interest in agriculture in the classroom type activities and programs has certainly grown in the last two or three years. It is an interest and perhaps even a concern that is common to all rural women's groups in Ontario. I would like to start a regular feature in **Home & Country** highlighting the many different ideas for programs and activities there are in Ontario. Please send me your written reports (they don't have to be lengthy) and/or photos soon.

## Congratulations...

Several Women's Institute branches have celebrated, or are about to celebrate, anniversaries. Congratulations to the following:

- Cathcart WI*, Brant South — 85 years
- Chesterville WI*, Dundas — 85 years
- Nelles Corners WI*, Haldimand East — 80 years
- Stormont District WI* — 75 years
- Oakland WI*, Brant South — 75 years
- Burritts Rapids WI*, Grenville North — 75 years
- Rideout WI*, Kenora — 60 years

*Colchester North WI*, Essex South — 25 years

Congratulations also to the following individuals:

- Ruth Clark* of Nelles Corners WI — life membership
- Lina Brown* of Lookout Bay WI — life membership
- Betty Dick* of Beechwood WI — life membership
- Edith Purcell* of West Fort William WI — honored for 50 years as a WI member (FWIO President 1950-53)