

Ontario Tweedsmuir winners

Here are the winners of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Tweedsmuir Competitions at the Ontario level. These entries will be sent to national level for judging and winners will be announced at the FWIC Convention in Newfoundland later this year.

Cultural Competition — A Children's Story

Wilma Cleghorn, West End WI, Guelph Area
Elma Sutherland, Greeley Manotick WI, Ottawa Area

Cultural Competition — Community History

Marjorie Durnford, West End WI, Guelph Area
Jeanette Van Sickle, Onondaga WI, Hamilton Area

Cultural Competition — Family History

Mary Belchamber, Morriston WI, Guelph Area
Marilyn Snedden, Ramsay WI, Ottawa Area

Handicraft Competition — Quilted Cushion Top

Gladys Coxon, Desboro WI, Grey-Bruce Area
Debra Drijber, Badenoch WI, Guelph Area

The following women entered the top essays in Ontario in the FWIC Past Presidents' Essay Competition.

Holly Copp, Guelph Area
Anurima Banerji, Guelph Area
Susan Steward, Perth South District

Women in Profile... Maria Van Bommel

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to exchange information and share ideas. At the November conference though, there were 70 resolutions presented by the women. Obviously the women feel very strongly about these issues and want to make a statement. But because they are reluctant to establish a national organization, there is no one to follow-up on the resolutions. Obviously the women are not content just to network,' Maria said.

It would be much easier if there was a national umbrella group which the individual organizations belonged to which did not infringe upon their autonomy, Maria said. But, that is a very difficult thing to achieve.

'Right now, the national set-up is very vague. When the press calls, looking for a comment on an issue, we can't speak on anything because there is no mandate. This system hasn't proven to be very satisfactory at all,' Maria added.

Another hurdle which the national group has to overcome is funding. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food provided money to the Ontario representative, but only two other provinces received financial assistance. It is expensive trying to draw people from across the country for meetings, Maria said.

In Ontario, there is an effort under-

way, headed by Rennie Feddema, to establish a provincial farm women's network. Maria hopes this network will take on more of the responsibilities of liaising with the national network. For instance, Maria edited a national newsletter which went to all farm women's groups from coast to coast. Perhaps a group within the provincial network will be interested in doing this, rather than the responsibility falling onto Rennie.

Where are all the farm women's groups in Ontario heading? Maria acknowledges there are more and more women bypassing the women's organizations and becoming directly involved in commodity groups for instance, but there are still women who need the "staging ground" that women's groups have to offer.

Successful Dufferin Farm Women's Day

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a day just for farm women, and after some research, they decided to plan a day. Their objectives were to provide a one-day seminar for farm women, those who work on the farm and off; to interact with one another; and have an opportunity to listen to speakers addressing some current issues affecting the farm population.

Four topics were covered by the seminar's speakers — Good Relation-

'As well, women are nurturers and are interested in the security and future of their families. If my children want to farm, I am going to do my best to see that they can and that the agriculture industry will be healthy for them. Look at Agriculture in the Classroom. That is a program which is educating our future consumers and therefore benefiting the agriculture industry of the next generation,' Maria explained.

In her "free time", Maria enjoys sewing and spends a lot of time reading. If she had more time, she would like to quilt, play her accordion and refinish antiques.

Maria is kept busy by her five children, 16, 13, 12 and 10 year-old twins. She is also actively involved in her local church.

ships Offer Wellness; Agriculture in the Classroom; Family Law Act — Possible Implications for You; The Role of Women in Agriculture.

About 80 women attended the program for a fee of \$7 if they pre-registered or \$8 for registration at the door. Daycare was provided for a subsidized fee of \$6. Various organizations and agri-businesses sponsored the event in the range of \$325.