

FWIC Convention

Seven hundred and seventy-two WI members, nearly one-third of them from Ontario, gathered at Memorial University in St John's to share ideas on the conference theme, "Shaping our Tomorrows Today."

Mrs. Sylvia Gold, President of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, discussed "Women's Future Today". She summarized the role she sees for women in three key words: innovation, vigilance and courage. Innovation must come from women who can, through redefinition of the real needs of people, propose solutions to many of Canada's problems for the betterment of all.

Vigilance is needed to recognize new threats to the social, economic and legal status of women; and vigilance in ensuring a climate of fairness in society. For example; being vigilant on the issue of violence against women.

The third key word is courage - innovation and vigilance require courage. Courage to move ahead despite setbacks; courage to suggest new ways of doing things. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the mastery of it.

—as reported by Marion Thompson

In her address to the Business Session, FWIC President Mrs. Beatrice Reeves observed that often we are asked "What is WI and what do we do?", and that our reply should point to the issues and concerns being addressed by our members both nationally and provincially. We have become more visible at public events and we have produced a national cookbook. Through greater visibility we are letting our programs, our resolutions and our actions tell what we're all about.

—as reported by Myrtle Stone

In a panel discussion on the future of Women in the Community, Dr. Sherry Bethune, an assistant medical professor with a family practice, used

a "hands-on" demonstration to show the forces pulling and pushing the working mother. Aging parents, working husband, growing family, responsibilities of home and/or career and time for herself all drew on her energies.

—submitted by Velda Thompson

Dr. Ellen McLean, President of A.C.W.W., also addressed the delegates. An organization representing 9 1/2 million women in nearly 70 countries, it is responsible for projects in almost 30 underdeveloped countries, funded in part through the WI Pennies for Friendship donations. (Last year's donation from Canada was \$49,175.) Dr. McLean compared the organization to a family unit. "We pull together although we don't always agree. However, we will accomplish

more with loyalty, devotion and generosity. Commitment brings results," she said. A.C.W.W. is pressing the United Nations for an "International Year of the Family."

—submitted by Wilma Cleghorn

Congratulations to Mrs. Gladys Coxon, Desboro, Ont., for second place in the Handicraft competition; to Mrs. Wilma Cleghorn, Ariss, Ont., for second place in the Cultural project, "A Children's Story", and to Mrs. Jeanetta Van Sickle, Brantford, Ont., for third in the history project, "Looking at My Locality." Mrs. Mary Belchamber, Morriston, Ont., was posthumously awarded first place in the Senator Cairine Wilson Competition, the Citizenship Project, "A Family Tree". Submissions were judged at the FWIC Convention.

Teaching Teachers About Agriculture

On April 14 and 15, the Middlesex Women for the Support of Agriculture co-ordinated a professional development day program, "Life Science in Action", for the London-Middlesex Roman Catholic Separate School teachers. Following a dynamic presentation by Ross Daily, agricultural commentator for CFPL-TV, the teachers took part in round table workshops involving key areas of agriculture: Red Meats, Feather Industry, Dairy, Fruits and Vegetables, and Farm Machinery. At each centre, farm women were on hand to assist with the discussion on each topic. Marjorie McIntyre, OMAF Education Specialist, and Grace Whittington, Rural Organizations Specialist, outlined materials available from OMAF to help teachers with special classroom studies on agriculture. Hands on activities, led by teacher Beverly Panis, provided further resources. Organizers Diane O'Shea, WSA Co-ordinator for the event, and Mike Johnson, Environmental Studies Co-ordinator for the



Mike Johnson with school kits.

separate schools, both agreed that the day had met their objectives; to create an awareness and appreciation of Ontario agriculture so that, with knowledge and resources, teachers may transfer agriculturally related information into everyday classroom use.

—submitted by Marion Keith,
President, Middlesex WSA