

# Farm women participate in U.S./Canada day

A unique cross-border meeting between the women of Ontario and New York State took place in Seneca Falls, New York on Aug. 9, 1989.

As part of the program of Empire Farm Days, the Ontario Government paid tribute to Seneca Falls as the birthplace of the women's movement by organizing a Women's Day Program.

Charlotte Johnson, past provincial president and international convener, and Janet Parsons, farmer and member of the Farm Debt Review Board attended for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The Ontario Farm Women's Network had five representatives — Linda Millson, Judy O'Connor, Carol Rock, Cory Martens, and Bev Nelson.

The group was hosted at lunch in Seneca Falls on Aug. 9 and were taken on a walking tour of the town. A Women's Rights National Historical Park has been established along with a National Women's Hall of Fame. The home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the organizers of the first women's convention, is being preserved, as well as the site of the Wesleyan Chapel, where the convention was held.

It was there on Aug. 19, 1848 that 300 women met and approved the Declaration of Sentiments which said in part, "Resolved that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure themselves the elective franchise."

The Hall of Fame provides the opportunity to learn more about women who have broken the barriers and created opportunities for other women.

Following the tour, we gathered at the Hall of Fame for a workshop. Here we were joined by women from New York State representing groups such as the New York Farm Bureau, the American Dairy Association Dairy Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the New York Office of Rural Affairs, and Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE).

Judi Aver, Director of the New York State Women's Division, moderated a panel of three.

Sue Bennett, from the Ontario Agricultural Museum, addressed the group on Ontario Rural Women 1830 to 1980's. She outlined the different decades, and the home, farm and community activities of the Ontario rural woman. In particular, she drew attention to the changes in working conditions.

## Charlotte Johnson



Bev Nelson addressed the Aims, Issues and Activities of the Farm Women's Network in Ontario. She noted several of the barriers some farm women still need to overcome, such as breaking the barriers of the "Old Boys Club" in Ontario, getting votes in farm organizations, not having women's income from off-farm work being considered as farm income. She stated farm women burn out, they don't rust out. Child care for farm women and farm partnerships are current issues, and advice in farm management and finance is needed. The Network was organized because of concern among some farm women that the traditional women's organizations were not meeting their needs.

Peg Shultz, Women Involved in Farm Economics, addressed issues and concerns of farm women in New York. Her organization was founded in 1983, and is a commodity organization. They address such concerns as pollution, nutrition education, and Agriculture in

the Classroom. An issue being studied is the law limiting the way calves are raised. Another project is to place milk coolers in schools, in place of the small milk cartons, to ensure children have cold milk to drink.

After the presentations, we proceeded to the People's Park where Ontario hosted a reception. During the course of the program, Charlotte Johnson extended greetings from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She expressed appreciation for including the Institutes in the event. Very briefly she recounted that one of the aims of FWIO is to continue to develop strong rural leadership in Ontario and to continue to cooperate with the Rural Organizations and Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

During the evening, the Seneca Community Players presented All Men and Women are Created Equal. The play depicted events leading up to and including the first women's convention.

We welcomed the opportunity to meet and to share ideas, concerns, and issues affecting women both in New York State and Ontario. We also welcomed the opportunity to make contacts that will eventually work toward benefiting us all in one unifying link across the border.

## Guidelines for photos and reports in H&C

Since *Home & Country* serves as a communication link between rural women's groups in Ontario, it is vital that readers continue to submit photographs and stories for inclusion in the magazine.

Here are some guidelines for you to consider before sending in your material.

### Anniversaries, Life Memberships and Certificates of Merit

Please do not send photographs or lengthy reports on these events. About three years ago, the *Home & Country* Editorial Committee decided not to include detailed accounts or photos of these activities because there are so many going on across the province and they are really more newsworthy on a local basis. Anniversaries, Life Memberships and Certificates of Merit are mentioned in *Home & Country* under the Congratulations column (page 13 in this issue). If you want to include your group or

recipient in the column, send the kind of information you see in the column.

### Photographs

Please continue to send along photos. Colour photos are acceptable as long as they are not polaroids. Pick your best photos to send, ie. focussed, good contrast, clear. Remember, reproducing them in the magazine deteriorates the quality, it does not enhance the quality. Be sure to include information about who is in the picture and what they are doing. Label people left to right. If you want the photo returned, put your name and address on the back of each picture you send in — just in case they get separated.

### Stories

Submit stories either typed or neatly handwritten. Please double space. Include your name and telephone number in case there are questions. Always include the date of the activity you are reporting on.