

Between the Lines

Are you still using pounds and ounces, inches and yards, or miles and gallons? Then, you are not alone. We all resist change, even if it is in our own best interest. And so it is with our organization. But, we have also made changes within our organization — changes to address new policies and issues that impact on us.

One such change stemmed from the conference in Kingston. One of the goals of that conference was to initiate 100 new waste management and recycling projects across Ontario within a three year period. We are still getting reports on the projects, and please keep them coming. Conference '90, to be held in Ottawa in June, will continue our focus on the environment. However, the theme — "Women and Their Environment — An International Challenge" — will provide an international perspective in which global issues can be discussed. We hope workshops will provide new ideas for programs and projects. There will be time for fellowship, so don't miss the opportunity to meet new people and share their concerns, hopes and dreams.

We are very proud of the involvement of our members in so many different

Margaret Munro



ways in the area of recycling. Many of you have ongoing projects. And, as I have visited with you at your conventions, your innovative ideas and projects never cease to amaze me. The Recycling Council is pleased with our efforts. The Women's Institutes uphold their belief that if you contribute to the problem, you should be a part of the solution. WI members are showing the way, and I would like to thank everyone who has helped make our commitment to recycling a success.

Our 90th anniversary celebration in North Bay was one of the highlights of my term as your President. I know that those who attended returned home with different views about other parts of the province, renewed enthusiasm, and new ideas and friendships. Attending the FWIC and ACWW conferences has had the same effect. And, it is at these meetings we realize the full impact of

the strength of organizations united.

Attending the conventions has been a privilege for me. I always leave them with a feeling of pride, and at the same time feeling very humble. At the last convention in November, each area reported new members. And I was pleased to see members wearing 30, 40, 50, and even 60 year pins. If such women have been members for so many years, then we are still fulfilling a need in their lives.

I have attended many functions on your behalf. And I have tried to maintain the high standards set by my predecessors. I would like to thank the Board of Directors, those who served on the Executive and other committees, and all those who undertook extra commitments. Also, I would like to thank my own area members who have shown their support in so many ways, such as having a rally in my honour. It was a surprise for me, and the best kept secret around. Special thanks to Anna, our Secretary. We learned from each other in breaking new ground. As well, special thanks to Charlotte, as an advisor, and to Peggy, for her encouragement.

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National Women's Network Formalized

At the Fourth National Farm Women's Conference held last November in Saint John, New Brunswick, farm women from across Canada gathered to discuss the future of the Canadian Farm Women's Network (CFWN). Farm women's organizations in Ontario, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and British Columbia voted to formalize the CFWN into a national umbrella group. Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta declined.

Caroline Young, Provincial Co-ordinator for Newfoundland and Labrador, stated, "That it is not the intention of the CFWN to cut itself off from other agricultural groups, but that women have been the hidden half in agricultural labor and management too long, and that they must start exerting their presence."

The farm women's groups involved believe that their success in formalizing

the CFWN will hasten change and the achievement of their goals. The goals of the CFWN as outlined briefly by Young include:

- encouraging education and communication among members
- exploring sources of funding
- raising CFWN's profile as a decision-making advocacy group
- planning for the next National Farm Women's Conference
- establishing a constitution to be voted on at the next national conference

Rennie Feddema, Ontario Co-ordinator of the CFWN and a delegate to the conference, said, "The national network was an idea whose time had come." She explained that politicians have been waiting for a "finalized structure," such as the CFWN, so that contact and communications with farm women's groups can be easily established. She calls the

formation of the the national network "an historic moment in Canadian agriculture."

Conference Co-ordinator, Frances B. Frazee, reported that in addition to the 10 voting members from each province, about 130 observers sat in on the discussions. And, aside from the debates on the network question, delegates heard an update on each province's progress with Agriculture in the Classroom projects, GATT and Canada's role in the trade negotiations, presentations on stress management, and some specific advice on retirement planning for farm women.

The Fifth National Farm Women's Conference will be held in Ontario, who has agreed to be host.

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