
ACWW — “Partners in Progress”

The Associated Country Women of the World held their 19th Triennial Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, from September 21 to October 1, 1989. Several hundred members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada attended.

The FWIO's official voting delegation included Margaret Munro from the Ottawa Area, Peggy Knapp from the Guelph Area, Marion Morey from the Trent Valley Area, and Irma Bennett and Christine Raeburn from Eastern Ontario. Gillian Catto from the North Central Area also attended as a non-voting delegate. The Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario were granted “Constituent Society” status at this Conference.

World wide the ACWW represents over nine million rural women in seventy countries. The primary aims of this organization are in harmony with those of the Women's Institutes: to work together to promote the training and development of rural women, and improve conditions for their families and communities.

The nine workshops offered at the ACWW conference covered the following topics: Changing Family Structures; Progress in Family Health; Agricultural Interdependence and Its Impact on Society; and, Energy for Living. And, a re-enactment of the beginnings of the ACWW was produced by the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia for their Diamond Jubilee Celebration.

During the business session at the ACWW conference, recommendations on aids, artificial procreation and experiments on human embryos, trade in endangered species, and environment and development awareness campaigns were carried. Other resolutions dealing with a variety of topics were sustained — trade in dangerous waste, women in agriculture, water pollution and quality, and forced sterilization, abortion and infanticide.

The new World President of the ACWW is Valerie Fisher of Australia. Yolande Calvé from Quebec has been elected for her second term as Area President for Canada. Other Canadian representatives on ACWW committees include: Margaret Munro of Ontario and Aileen Kritzinger of Alberta, on the Finance Committee; and, Geneva King of Prince Edward Island, on the UN Committee.

Learn more about ACWW and its work throughout the world. Subscribe to their quarterly newsletter, the *Countrywoman*. Now, you do not have to become a member of ACWW to

subscribe. For more information contact: The General Secretary, Associated Countrywomen of the World, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2NB, England.



Valerie Fisher of Australia, newly elected President of the ACWW, is pictured above (centre) with Past President Dr. Ellen MacLean of Nova Scotia (right) and Margaret Munro (left), President of the FWIO at that time.

Joint Celebration Planned

This year is the 75th anniversary year of the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) in England and Wales; and a joint celebration with the FWIO is planned in England between July 11 and 22.

Mrs. Alfred (Madge) Watt, founder of the NFWI during World War I in England, was born in Collingwood, Ontario, in 1867. After marrying, Mrs. Watt moved to British Columbia with her husband where she was instrumental in organizing Women's Institute groups. And later, when she moved to England, her experiences in Canada provided the background needed to establish Women's Institutes there.

The 75th anniversary of Women's Institutes in Britain, founded by a Canadian woman, and the fact that WI's originated in Ontario, is the reasoning behind the joint celebration planned between the NFWI and the FWIO.

The FWIO President, Peggy Knapp, has finalized an itinerary to include:

- an orientation tour of Central London
- a reception with NFWI executive members at Ontario Government House in London
- a more in-depth tour of London's tourist attractions
- attending a performance at the Adelphi Theatre
- the trip to Denman College via the Cotswold District
- participating in a 4-day programme prepared by Denman College for WI members
- touring the Wiltshire District
- a day with WI hostesses in Surrey, including a visit to a WI market

This joint celebration in recognition of the founding of the NFWI in England and Wales, is indeed a unique opportunity for participating FWIO members.