

# Three WI branches join forces to offer pollution solution night

By Lynne Bamford

"Using blue boxes is good, but there are many other ways to help the environment."

This was the objective of an information night organized by Binbrook, Woodburn and Maggie Johnson Women's Institutes, held at the local arena last fall. The evening was supported by the township and attracted 133 residents.

The doors opened to the public at 7 p.m. allowing time to browse around the 12 displays provided by groups like the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Conservers' Society of Hamilton, Zehrs (Green Products); Safers Products; the Hamilton Environmental Action Team.

The first speaker of the night was a local councillor who discussed safety precautions at the landfill site and recycling projects in area schools. She was followed by the owner/operator of the company which collects blue boxes in the municipality. He encouraged everyone to continue using blue boxes. He noted Glanbrook is third in recycling in the region. Composting was explained. Currently over 1,000 tons of organic material goes unnecessarily to land fill.

A representative of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment emphasized everyone should take a role in working against pollution because everyone contributes to pollution. He explained waste does not disappear, it just changes form. In 1985, for example, a regulation was approved which requires industry to keep track of all waste by registering it and following it from production to disposal. The ministry is planning to introduce legislation to ensure industrial water protection and clean air programs in the future. The ministry's goal is 25 per cent of our garbage will be saved from landfill sites by 1992, and 50 per cent by 2000.

Our next speaker, from the Ontario Waste Management Corporation, talked about household hazardous waste. She said advertising has made us fanatical about being clean and having clean homes. We use strong chemicals to rid our homes of dirt and germs. About 86,000 tons of hazardous waste is dumped every year, of which only three per cent is disposed of

correctly. In many instances, baking soda and vinegar can adequately replace hazardous cleaners.

The representative from the Ontario Public Interest Research Group encouraged those in attendance to become more political, citing the fact that 50 per cent of the wealth in Canada is controlled by 10 per cent of the people. He said big industry encourages waste, claiming there is an endless supply. He said any society which says you must choose between jobs and the environment is a sick society.

The last person to speak represented the Windstar--Ontario Connection. She talked about the holes in the ozone layer and the

effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill. She suggested we be tolerant of dandelions and their right to exist, but not tolerate garbage.

At the end of the evening, questions came from the floor. Guest speakers answered them honestly. Before people went home, they enjoyed refreshments, served in washable cups, and home baking.

The opportunity to informally voice our concerns and to receive pertinent information made the evening a success.

*Lynne Bamford is the public relations officer for Wentworth South WI.*

## Skit is unique every time

By Doris Chant

When the local village was celebrating the centennial of becoming an incorporated village, the ladies of the Athens Women's Institute decided to find their own way to mark the centennial.

The result was a one act play, complete with period costumes. The characters talk about affairs of the day, their children, and some of the new innovations of a century ago. The production is unique because it is totally ad libbed and the dialogue is never exactly the same.

This, at first, seems impossible to produce. But in actuality, it comes across realistically with fewer practices than

would usually be necessary. First, an outline of events to be discussed is made. Each participant takes some topic, or topics, to study. At the practice, the women discuss events as though the events happened only yesterday.

The result is an easily produced play. Humor is added to the historic details, to provide interest.

Because the skit is never the same twice, the Athens WI has been invited to perform the play at three other local functions this year.

*Doris Chant is the press reporter for Athens Women's Institute.*



The "actors", from left to right are Beulah Livingstone, Margaret Godkin, Susan Schapelhouman, Lammy Schapelhouman, Freda Schaafsma, Ina Young, Hennie Jansseens, and Doris Chant.