

Try new hospitality exchange

By Helen I. Young

Have you ever been a guinea pig for a new scheme?

My husband, Doug, and I, along with Beryl and Bill Boaler, our visitors from Zimbabwe, Africa were among the first to try out the new Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Hospitality Exchange on our holiday together from Oct. 14 to 20.

Beryl is a WI member in Zimbabwe and had just been a delegate at ACWW in Kansas City. She and Bill were travelling on a limited budget, so we decided the FWIO Hospitality Exchange would be a wonderful opportunity for them to see more of our province.

We chose a section to visit where Doug and I had not been before, and made arrangements through our local FWIO board director some time in advance.

We travelled north from Port Dover On Lake Erie to Tobermory and across to Manitoulin Island on the last sailing for the season of the Chi-Cheemaun on a very foggy day. Sunday dinner for 10 in the dining room of Bernadette and Floyd Walker followed at Gore Bay, where we first learned of warm northern hospitality, even though the temperatures dipped to freezing outside.

Doris Bell gave us a conducted tour of Manitoulin Island next day and we visited every nook and cranny right to Meldrum Bay. The Gordon WI of which both Bernadette and Doris are members, invited us as special guests to a pot luck dinner that evening and they showed us slides of the island, recalling many spots we had visited earlier that day. We spent the two nights in the Walker farmhouse.

Next day we drove from Gore Bay to Whitefish, just west of Sudbury. Our dinner hosts were Gillian and Bob Catto whose home is nearly at the end of the world, along the beautiful Penage River.

Our hostess for the next two nights was Maila Ojampera whose home is on a peninsula on Penage Lake. We had a day at Science North in Sudbury, playing with all the exhibits like school children.

That evening we enjoyed a pot luck supper as guests of the Penage Road WI. Our husbands were taken to a local Lions/Lioness meeting while Beryl was guest speaker at the WI meeting.



FWIO hostess Maila Ojampera (left) greets travellers Beryl Boaler (centre) and Helen Young.

Thursday morning we started heading south, stopping at the Wye Marsh Conservation Area, near Midland. Our hospitality that night was at the home of Irma and Al Shortt in Meaford.

Not only did we enjoy excellent hospitality, but we made many new friends.

To find out more about the new FWIO Exchange Program, read the story on this page, and contact the provincial board director in your subdivision.

Helen I. Young is President of Lynnville WI.

See Ontario, the FWIO way

By Gillian Catto

Do you know there is a long list of Women's Institute members willing to offer hospitality to other WI members and their spouses?

This list is gradually being expanded to cover the whole province and it will soon be possible to have a wonderful holiday for very little cost.

To cover the hostess' costs, the FWIO Board has set a \$10 per person per night donation. This will also remove any embarrassment about asking for accommodation.

This list is updated yearly and is available from your board director. Eventually I hope there will be a copy in every district.

Please think to use this list when planning your trips as it is a wonderful way to

meet other WI members.

Gillian Catto is an FWIO Board Director and coordinates the list on her home computer.

