
FWIO President's Perspectives

The following analogy is taken from an address given by President Peggy Knapp at a 1991 District Annual, in which she compared CHANGE to a woman.

"She came up behind me, really, and stopped suddenly before me. She was very tall, and fully dressed in black: suit, stockings, shoes - and a very natty little hat with a black veil that hid her features.

'Who are you?', I wondered. 'Why am I just a little bit afraid of you? Why did you come up to me so stealthily? Who are you?'

But there she was, her hand outstretched, her head tilted to one side, as if she is challenging me.

'How shall I react?'

Shall I mumble a polite greeting, look at her awkwardly, wait for her to make things easier for me (which she does not), and then walk away to join old familiar friends whom I know and am comfortable with?

Will I freeze into inaction, lose my tongue, gape at her waiting for my

frozen tongue to loose itself and say something? I try; I can't cope. She would turn and walk away, and I would have lost an opportunity to get to know her.

She looks formidable. Awesome. I don't like her; I don't trust her; and I'm intimidated by her. Indeed, I'm afraid of her and I think I will flee from this situation.

But no, there is something very intriguing about her. My curiosity is piqued. Maybe I don't like her, but I think I'd like to see what is behind that veil! She might lead me into trouble, or excitement, or take me to new places. She might even destroy me. But I have to get to know her. She is a challenge.

And then she turns her face towards me and I take the time to really look at her. 'Is that a smile on her lips? A light in her eye?' There is an energy and an excitement about her. There's something interesting in the way she holds her head. 'Is she beckoning to me?'

There is something very familiar about her. 'Have we met before? Why

am I so attracted to her and yet afraid to get too close?'

Then I hear a sigh, followed by a soft peal of her laughter. She reaches up and pulls the veil aside, just a little.

Of course she's familiar! I've met her before - many times - in my life! Sometimes she's been cruel and I've been hurt and angry and upset. But I grew, thanks to her!

Sometimes she has taken me to exciting places, into dangerous waters, into situations filled with problems, challenges, opportunities, joys and satisfactions. Why, I have even lived with her. She is part of me; part of life; part of progress and discovery. Without her, neither you nor I, nor the Women's Institutes can move forward.

I reach out to her. I welcome her. I embrace her. I link arms with her and go forward with her to meet the future.

She is CHANGE."

*Peggy Knapp
President, FWIO*

Butler Project promotes Agri-CULTURE

In the early 1930s, Ross Butler - an enthusiastic, young artist - approached the Ontario Department of Education with the idea of creating a series of paintings of Canada's major domestic breeds of farm animals. He wanted reproductions of his paintings to be used as teaching aids in classrooms across the country.

Butler had completed 22 paintings of various breeds, when the government cancelled his contract at the start of World War II. This initial collection of prints formed the basis of an agricultural education kit used in schools for more than half a century.

In 1987 the Oxford North and South District Women's Institute initiated and sponsored a campaign to reprint and redistribute these animal pictures. Recently, the project has been completed.

Known as Agri-CULTURAL Connections, the Butler Resource Kit is now available in schools across the province. The resource kit consists of a series of prints from the original work of Ross Butler.

A bilingual teacher's handbook accompanies the illustrations, providing background information on the various breeds of animals. The handbook is interdisciplinary, and outlines suggestions on how the material can be used at various levels within the existing curricula.

Ross Butler has been a farmer, a pioneer in artificial insemination, a Jersey and poultry breeder, a song writer, a poet, a sculptor and a painter. But he views "the proliferation of his art in the schools one of his greatest accomplishments."

Check with the schools in your area, if they have not yet received a Butler

Resource Kit, please contact the appropriate Board of Education Office.

Personal Growth and Renewal

Seize this great opportunity to be a part of the Ontario Women's Institute's new venture. Come to the Crieff Hills Retreat near Guelph and take one of two Personal Growth and Renewal (PG & R) courses offered: More Pleasure in Music or Battenburg Lace. The dates of the courses are to be announced early in 1992.

*For more information contact:
Jane Croft - (416)854-2789 or
Donna Russett - (613)395-3643.*