

HOME & Country

A Magazine for Rural Women

Home & Country is a publication for rural women's groups in Ontario. It is published by the Rural Organizations and Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. **Home & Country** has two objectives:

1. To provide a communication link between rural women's groups in Ontario.
2. To provide educational material relating to organizational and individual leadership development.

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Front Cover

The front cover of this last issue published by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food is a collage of Home & Country covers from previous decades. Read more about the history of the Home & Country magazine on pages 4 and 5.

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Roots and Wings

By Jack Hagarty

Roots and wings... The words conjure up images of strength, freedom, tradition and new horizons. Some would argue that the two don't belong together at all. But I think they do; in fact, I think of these words at times of transition. It started when our first son was leaving home, and I saw a poster that said: "a good parent provides their children with both roots and wings." I've believed that ever since.

In writing this final editorial, I'd like to acknowledge the wide readership Home & Country has gained since first being published by Ontario's former Department of Agriculture. The co-operation among women's groups encouraged by the magazine has led to some significant changes in the way people perceive rural women. For this, I thank you. Your support and participation in the magazine has been valued and appreciated by all concerned.

My comments, however, are addressed primarily to members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario - the organization which has given the magazine its soul for these many years.

Yours is an organization with a long, proud tradition. Soon you'll celebrate the start of your second century. Organizations don't flourish for that long without good, committed people and the willingness to change to meet the future.

Publishing Home & Country yourselves, independent of the government, is but one of the ways you can help guarantee a bright future for the FWIO. For many years this magazine has been part of your roots. Now, the challenge is to let it be your wings. In the 1990s, only well-organized and flexible groups will succeed - groups with a firm knowledge of current realities, a clear vision of the future and the ability to communicate the creative approaches needed to fill the gap between the two. I have no doubt that you'll rise to the challenge and use Home & Country to its full potential.

This year, OMAF's agreement with FWIO expires, opening a vast field of opportunity for your organization. As we work toward a new agreement, it's important for you to become even stronger by continuing to change with the times - for the good of "home and country."

Lest you think you're being abandoned, I assure you, you're not. In fact, FWIO isn't even the first group to face such a change. Evolving relationships between OMAF and organizations across Ontario have allowed many groups to take control of different aspects of their programs, with outstanding results. Taking charge of Home & Country puts FWIO in a position to help guarantee its own future - to help it better serve and work with women's groups across Ontario. After all, your motto "For Home and Country" belongs to you. Shouldn't Home & Country too? I think so.

On behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, I wish the FWIO and Home & Country all the best for a bright future. May your roots grow deep and your wings grow strong.

Jack Hagarty is the Director of the Rural Organizations and Services Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Guelph.