

Advocacy Report

By Ruth Kennedy

There have been some responses in the last few months in regard to resolutions submitted to various government bodies and agencies.

Response to Increasing the Print Size and Colour on Consumer Products

The Hon. Carolyn Bennett forwarded my letter to the Minister of Health as requested, as well as responding herself. She wrote: "The Department does not require that a specific font size be used on the label of over-the-counter drugs in order to accommodate different package sizes and formats. In the case where the package label does not have sufficient space to carry the required information, Health Canada permits further instructions to be included on a package insert, provided the package label instructs the consumer to read the package insert for further information. Should you consider that the labelling of any medication is not clearly displayed, you may wish to report it to one of our regional offices for investigation."

The regional office noted was directed to Mr. Jean-Marc Charron, Manager, Ontario Operational Centre, 2301 Midland Avenue, Toronto ON M1P 4R7.

Response to The Steven Truscott Case

The resolution has been sent to the Ontario Court of Appeal even though the Federal Justice Minister acknowledged that Mr. Truscott "likely" suffered a miscarriage of justice. This is disappointing since we had asked for complete exoneration.

Response to Spreading Biosolids on Agricultural Land

The city of Ottawa has once again allowed the spreading of biosolids on agricultural land, again in spite of many requests to the contrary.

I encourage each Branch to write to the appropriate Ministry or other government body or agency. Just think of the impact this could have if each Branch did this on each resolution that they see reported in the *Home & Country*.

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Resolutions Sustained at the November 2004 FWIO Board Meeting

- That FWIO urge the Federal Government to enact legislation to make the labelling of all Genetically Modified Food mandatory.
- That FWIO urge the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to:
 - (a) immediately increase the funding allocation for Raw Food Costs to \$5.75 per resident per day
 - (b) provide an enhanced rate for northern and other remote communities to compensate for increased Raw Food Costs due to transportation costs
 - (c) review funding for food costs on an annual basis to accommodate the cost of living index in Ontario Long Term Care facilities.

FWIO Advocacy Manual

Contact the Provincial Office for a copy of the FWIO Advocacy Manual. They are available for \$6, plus shipping. Make sure your Branch has this useful manual on file.

Gillies Hill WI Join the Blue Hat Challenge!

Members of the Gillies Hill Women's Institute donned new blue hats for their Alzheimer Coffee Break at the home of Wanita Halliday. The group decided to join the "Blue Hat Challenge" as outlined on page 16 of the Fall 2004 *Home & Country*. They agreed that this is one way that the Women's Institute could be seen as a fun organization in order to generate public interest and potential new members. In addition to having fun, members raised \$205 for the Alzheimer Society of Grey-Bruce.

Shown in the back row are Wanita Halliday (left) and Linda Keith (right). In the next row from left to right are Elsie Ball, Ruth Davey, Mary Zeigler and Ruth McCombie. In the second row from left to right are Florence Long, Eleada Thomson, Karen Thomson, Irene McAllister and Joan Bell. In the front row from left to right are Grace Snider, Margaret McDonald, Sherry Manery, Ella Mae Black and Gwen Slater.

Submitted by Lois Wetherall, Secretary, Gillies Hill WI, Bruce County, Grey-Bruce Area.

Photo courtesy of Mary Golem, *The Chesley Enterprise*.

