

# From Rainbow Country



By Elsie Stephenson

Good day from Rainbow Country! Rainbow Country encompasses Parry Sound, Sudbury and Manitoulin Island. The Pre-Cambrian Shield covers this area, which is dotted with pristine lakes and verdant forests. In Sudbury's pot of gold there is nickel, copper, cobalt and precious metals, such as gold and platinum.

The Country Women's Association of Tasmania hosted the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference. The Conference was held in Hobart, Tasmania, from March 23 to 29, 2004. I attended the pre and post Conference Council and Area Meetings, as well as the Plenary Sessions. On Tasmania Day the delegates went on day-long excursions. Our motor coach toured the Derwent Valley, stopping at a winery and a church in New Norfolk. The Collinsvale CWA hosted a delicious lunch for our group.

At the Conference Welcome Reception, I had the pleasure of presenting ACWW President Hilda Stewart with a cheque for \$9,531.34, the result of FWIO's fundraising project "Focus High for WI." An additional \$3,691.80 was recently forwarded to ACWW. Our members are to be complimented for their generosity.

"Focus High for WI" has been a resounding success with \$31,384.77 donated to the FWIO Operating Fund and \$20,893.76 to FWIC's Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Fund. Monies raised from March 1 to October 31, 2004, are for the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Operating Fund.

At the ACWW Triennial Conference six resolutions were carried and will be worked on by our Provincial Advocacy Coordinator. These resolutions dealt

with productive agriculture, agricultural biotechnology, HIV/AIDS, chemicals and health, women and peace and trafficking of women and children. Five recommendations were also carried and FWIO may choose to work on them. These recommendations concerned developments in farming, peace and education, humanitarian aid, legal immigrant women and children and the environment and animal liberation.

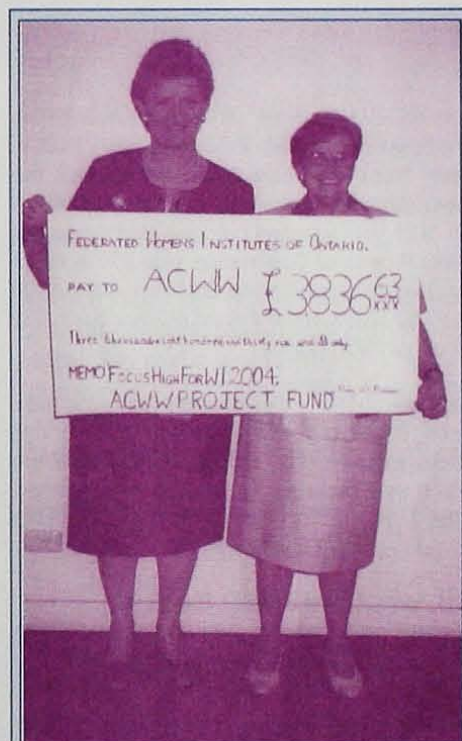
Elizabeth Rushton, ACWW Canada Area President, reported that Canada had contributed so generously to the Lorgot Farmers Group in Kenya that another project – "Gravel Making" among poor rural women in India – was also funded. It was agreed that Canada would fund another ACWW project in the amount of \$7,000, preferably in the Caribbean or South America. There will be an ACWW Canada Area Conference in 2005 and its location is yet to be determined.

The new ACWW officers are as follows: President Ursula Goh from Malaysia, Deputy President Jenny Mitchell from Australia, Secretary Margaret Cadzow from England and Treasurer Louise Nichols from the United States. The Canada Area President is Mildred Keith from New Brunswick.

The ACWW Triennial Conference in 2007 will be held in Turku, Finland. The United States will host the Triennial Conference in 2010.

Provincially, the FWIO *Handbook* Committee has been working on revisions. They meet again in mid-June. A rough draft of the *Handbook* will be going to the Provincial Board during the summer. The Erland Lee (Museum) Home is raffling a quilt with the proceeds going toward the restoration of the Carriage House.

In September 2005, FWIO is hosting a provincial quilt show with the theme of "Quilts, Quills and Bears." Branches received an information package during the winter. Entries to the Quilt Block Competition are to be submitted by June 30, 2004. Refer to page 12 of the Winter 2004 *Home & Country* for more details.



FWIO President Elsie Stephenson (right) presented ACWW President Hilda Stewart (left) with a cheque for the ACWW Projects Fund.

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