

By Ruth Kennedy

In response to our resolution dealing with the recommendations of the inquest jury of Gillian and Ralph Hedley, the Office of the Chief Coroner reported that of the 57 recommendations, 43 have been or will be implemented, 8 have alternates that will be implemented, 2 are under consideration and 2 were rejected. Three did not receive a reply from the appropriate ministry. Bill C-15A, July 13, 2002, increased the penalty for criminal harassment or stalking from five to ten years.

A reply to the exoneration of Steven Truscott from the Hon. Martin Cauchon indicated that the appeal was in the hands of the Hon. Fred Kaufman, who had been appointed to examine the case and "advise the Minister whether a remedy is appropriate in the circumstances of Mr. Truscott's case."

### From the Virgil WI, Lincoln, Hamilton Area

- That FWIO ask the Federal Government for the release of information in the 1906 Census. This information is necessary for students doing research on a wide variety of topics, as well as individuals investigating genealogy.

- That FWIO request that the various levels of government work to stop the desecration of our cemeteries and to update the legislation to make it illegal to redevelop these areas.

Part of the reasoning behind this resolution was the excavation and removal of human remains from part of the land owned by St. James Cathedral in Toronto.

### From the Russell District WI, Eastern Area

- That FWIO request that the Ministry of the Attorney General enact legislation to make the Justice system more efficient and more accountable, so that justice is equally attainable by all individuals regardless of their financial position.

Legal Aid lawyers are not paid as much as Crown Attorneys, and not all who need the services of legal aid can get it.

### From the North Central Area WI

- That FWIO ask several ministries to work together to ban the use of plastic grocery bags in stages: a limit of two new bags per customer in 2005, and a complete ban in 2006.

Several countries have already passed this law and others are in the process. A good fundraising project might be to make sturdy canvas or cloth bags to be used in place of the plastic ones.

Any additional lobbying by the members on these topics is helpful. If you need more information on any of them, let me know. Keep those resolutions coming!

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## Winner of the Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award



Sharon Douglas was awarded the "Woman of Excellence in Agriculture" Award at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair last November. The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) sponsor the annual Award, which was presented to Douglas at the President's Luncheon at the Royal Winter Fair.

Sharon Douglas has always been involved with farming and is active on the family farm near Belmore, Ontario, where they raise pigs and beef cattle. For 15 years, Sharon has been promoting Ontario



*FWIO President-Elect Elsie Stephenson (left) presented Sharon Douglas (right) with a framed 2003 poster from the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.*

pork to the urban public through educational displays at the Royal Winter Fair. With the help of her husband Ron, Sharon coordinates a display including live animals - two sows and their litters, along with various breeds and sizes of swine. In recent years, their display incorporated a "Pig Mobile," a trailer where the animals can be seen behind glass.

On a school day at the Royal, about 4,000 urban students pass by the display. Sharon

works tirelessly disseminating information to them and the general public about the pork industry. Issues surrounding the pork industry in relation to animal care, the environment, by-products and agricultural concerns are addressed in the display.

While Sharon and Ron are away promoting Ontario pork at the Royal and events across Ontario, their children look after the farm. And their grandchildren now accompany them to help with their efforts to teach others about the importance of agriculture. The pork display goes to the Canadian National Exhibition, the International Plowing Match, the Belmore Maple Syrup Festival, and numerous other exhibitions and fall fairs.

Sharon spends approximately 100 to 115 days a year promoting agriculture. Each year she is asked to return to these events, indicative of the tremendous amount of respect she has earned for the educational displays she helped to coordinate.

For more information about the "Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award," contact the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Provincial Office at 519-836-3078.