

For Your Information

Provincial Calendar of Events, 2004

Apr. 13 - Handbook Committee
Apr. 14-16 - FWIO Board Meeting
June 7 - Board Teleconference
Aug. 16-19 - FWIO Board Meeting
Aug. 20-21 - "Roses are Blooming" Forum
Nov. 22-24 - FWIO Board Meeting

FWIO Provincial Conference

Theme – "Learn More in 2004"
When – Fri., June 11 to Sun., June 13
Where – Durham College, Oshawa
Registration Forms – Ask your Branch Secretary for a copy. Districts or Areas can call the Provincial Office for a Form.
Registration Options – Numerous options available
Registration Deadline – Mar. 31
Agenda includes:
• Several Workshops (pre, post and during conference)
• Addresses by the Provincial, National and ACWW Area Presidents
Host – Central Ontario Area
Sign up today!

Erland Lee (Museum) Home

Mar. 15-20 – March Break Activities
Stoney Creek and the Iron Horse – Model train display of Stoney Creek's H.G. & B.R. (circa 1910) opens with new historical buildings.
Apr. 3 – Annual Pancake & Sausage Breakfast
For more information about Lee events, contact Curator Michael Gemmell at 552 Ridge Rd., Stoney Creek ON L8J 2Y6, Phone: 905-662-2691. Or check out the website at www.fwio.on.ca/fwio/events.html

International Exchange

Would you like to be selected as an Exchange participant to visit the Michigan Association for Family and Consumer Education (MAFCE)? This International Exchange began in 1999; one year an Ontario Institute member visits Michigan and the next year a Michigan member visits Ontario. If you are interested in participating, watch for the information and application form in your Branch mailing. Ask your Branch Secretary about it.

Changes re: *Home & Country* – Members Take Note

At Area Conventions last fall, FWIO President Dianne Orr announced several changes. One of these changes was the reduction in the number of *Home & Country* newsletters printed each year. This, of course, impacts on the content. Consequently, the FWIO Board passed the following recommendations at their November 2003 meeting in regard to the *Home & Country* and its content.

- That three issues of the *Home & Country* newsletter be produced each year, with approximate distribution times of late January, May and September (a distribution every 4 months).
- That Coordinator's columns per say be eliminated from the newsletter, and be replaced with more succinct news from the provincial level, with the exception of the two-page spread of programming ideas in the Winter issue.
- That reports from Coordinators, the FWIO Executive Officer to FWIC and the International Coordinator be distributed via Branch mailings (to begin in the 2004-2005 fiscal year) or as inserts in the *Home & Country*, with the cost of an insert being billed to their budgets.
- That 100th anniversary reports only be listed in the Congratulations Column and members be encouraged to promote these momentous occasions in their local papers.
- That the *Home & Country* increase the number of pages filled with Branch, District and Area activity reports to approximately 60 to 70 per cent, with the remaining space being given to provincial level news and reports.

Re: the change in the distribution:

The reasoning behind the distribution of the newsletters every 4 months is as follows. The January issue could still cover the two-page spread of Branch programming ideas and still arrive in time for Branch planning; the May issue would arrive in time with provincial level news that would reach members prior to the summer holidays when many Branches do not meet; and the September issue would arrive when Branches are beginning their new year of programs.

Re: the change in the content:

Obviously something has to go in terms of content. With four issues, there was always carry over from one issue to the next in terms of Branch, District and Area activity reports; this will be compounded with only three newsletters being produced.

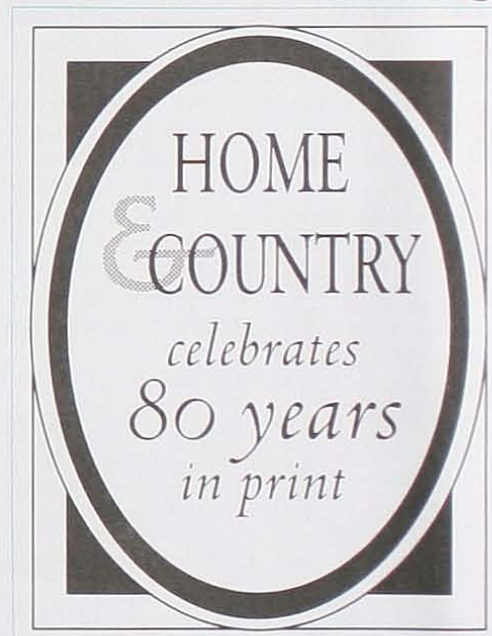
The *Home & Country* is the primary communications tool between the provincial and Branch level of the organization. So, it is critical to maintain articles that reflect this, or at the very least change the format of this information so it better fits the space. Consequently, with respect to provincial level news, the following items will be maintained in the newsletter in a synthesized format:

- the President's Message
- the ROSE Program Manager's Column
- information re: membership recruitment
- information re: current resolutions
- information from Board

Beginning with the 2004-2005 fiscal year, there will be four Branch mailings each year. Much of the information being removed from the *Home & Country* will be distributed via the Branch mailings beginning with the new fiscal year October 1, 2004.

So the information will still get down to the Branch level, it will just be a different mode of delivery!

Janine Roelens-Grant
Editor, *Home & Country*



Canada Post Publications Mail
Reg. No. 1685341

Return undeliverable copies to:
FWIO
7382 Wellington Rd. 30, RR 5
Guelph, ON N1H 6J2