

# On Your Behalf

by Dianne Orr



The autumn weather was astounding around the province of Ontario as I traveled to the 14 Area Conventions during September and October. Provincial Membership Coordinator Cindy Lockhart traveled with me to five Conventions to present her Membership Workshop. It was an exciting time to visit so many members in such a short span of time. I have learned a great deal from your programs, which included educational sessions, crafts, fellowship, fun and, of course, good food! Thank you to all who opened their homes during my travels.

During the Conventions, I was presented with token cheques for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Operating Fund. On behalf of the Provincial Board of Directors, a very big thank

you for your generous response in the first year of the "Focus High for WI" initiative. The next phase of this project is aimed at assisting the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, which is owned by the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC).

The "Restore the Roof" shingle campaign for the Erland Lee (Museum) Home is well underway. Many members have already responded with voluntary donations. It is our hope to begin the restoration of the roof with historically accurate cedar shingles by early summer in 2003.

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) was a great success this year for FWIO. The public showed much interest in FWIO's smaller booth at a corner location. People were particularly interested in the organization's website which was on display for everyone to view. It was a great honour to attend the RAWF President's Luncheon on November 11, and to present the Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award to Josie Wintersinger.

Josie has worked at the Royal for 18

years organizing the display of the Christmas Tree Growers of Ontario. She also coordinates the annual Christmas Tree Competition at the Royal, and two years ago she founded the Natural Wreath Competition and established its judging criteria. With numerous other credits to her name in the field of agriculture, we know that Josie was truly deserving of the Excellence in Agriculture Award.

The Holiday Season and the beginning of a new year is a time to be with our loved ones and share a time of fellowship. For those members who were unable to be with their families at this time of year, know that you are in our hearts; especially when we recite the following line of the Mary Stewart Collect - "And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all."

On your behalf,

Dianne Orr

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## Views of the Future



Could you put your view of the future into 250 words on paper in good handwriting and with correct grammar, paragraphing and punctuation? Burnstown WI felt that a child's ability to do this was a step in the right direction to a successful future. They challenged 218 Grade 4 students in ten local schools to write a brief essay about their view of the future. The essay was optional, but 54 students rose to the challenge. Four judges spent an afternoon reading and grading these writings and were amazed at the literary talent displayed. The students active imaginations' and creative styles made it difficult to choose seven winners.

Entrants received an admission pass to the Renfrew Fair where their essays were exhibited for all to read. The seven winners were invited to dinner as guests of the Burnstown WI where they read their prize-winning submissions.

*Marie Ingram, Burnstown's newest member, poses with five of the winners of this literary competition. First prize went to Malcolm Cairnie (front left) - Central Public School. Left of him is best presentation prize winner Amber Stufko of Queen Elizabeth School, and in the back row left to right are most original story authors Stacey Bates - St. Thomas the Apostle School, third place winner Caitlyn Dougherty and second place winner Sarah Dougherty - Horton Public School.*

Extracted from an article written for The Renfrew Mercury by Eileen Brydges, PRO, Burnstown WI, Renfrew South.

Photo courtesy of The Renfrew Mercury.