



HOME & COUNTRY is published quarterly by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). This newsletter has two objectives:

1. To provide educational material which cultivates more knowledgeable and responsible citizens and promotes good family life skills, leadership development and community action.
2. To provide a "communications link" among all members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and other related organizations.

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It's easy to tell when you got a bargain — it doesn't fit.



## Letters



## A Quilt Story

In mid-September 2001 while on a business trip, Rosemary Moran (a Maple View WI member in Northumberland District) lost her MacPhee Workshop and fabric store in Stockdale, Ontario, to fire. Among the loss was a \$1400 quilt she had bought while attending the ACWW Conference 2001 in Hamilton. The quilt was one of the numerous created for the International Quilt Block Competition and was made from blocks submitted from members from around the world.

At the urging of Donna Russett (a Wellman's WI member, Hastings North), Rose's daughter Julie salvaged the remains of the quilt. Some of the 30 blocks were completely gone, some were partially burned and others were not even singed. The key that told who made each block was also intact. Donna cut the quilt apart and put each block or partial block into a separate bag. Then, she picked the quilting stitches from the good blocks and carefully hand washed and dried them. Luckily a block from India that contained exquisite hand embroidery was not touched.

Donna contacted some of the ladies who made the original blocks and asked them to recreate another. An envelope was passed around at the Trent Valley Area Convention last fall for donations toward purchasing new quilt batting, backing and sashing. Donna then invited some expert WI quilters to her home to begin recreating

some of the other blocks. From left to right in the photo are Trent Valley Area WI members all from different Districts - Joy Forge, Cecilia Maines, Donna Russett, Rosella Clancy and myself; we are working on the final stages of reconstructing the quilt.

Using the burned remnants as templates and patterns and looking at an enlarged photo of the quilt, we proceeded to try to duplicate the blocks and match the colours and patterns as close as possible. On one block I was able to use a button that was attached to the original and on another I was able to build from the original centre fabrics. From one quarter of an appliquéd block, Rosella was able to sketch a complete block. It was a great feeling each time we recreated a block.

By late January 2002, Donna had received the last of the blocks from various women she had contacted. Because two of the original blocks were almost identical, we were able to make one block from the two. For the final block, Donna pieced a heart using materials from each of our stashes. At last, we were able to sew them back in their original order. We presented the quilt to Rosemary in July at a potluck supper. Rosemary was overwhelmed with the group's thoughtfulness and caring. And Donna, well she continues to have quilting parties in her home, almost every week!

*Evelyn Peck*

Eastern Regional Board Director  
and a member of the Rednersville WI, Prince Edward County