

FWIO Provincial Conference 2002

By Lucy Konkin

Approximately 250 members “came forth to the north” to attend the Federated Women’s Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Provincial Conference held at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie from June 14 to 16, 2002. The Conference theme was “Communications - from Pony Express to Email Address,” and members experienced this theme throughout the weekend’s workshops, presentations and displays.

Friday, June 14

The evening opened with the Parade of Flags and the singing of O’Canada, followed by the FWIO Provincial President Dianne Orr’s opening remarks. Sault Ste. Marie MPP Tony Wildman, Algoma MPP Mike Brown and City Council representative Pat Mick brought greetings and welcomed the WI to the Sault. Following dinner, Jody Wildman, a Municipal Councillor with expertise in mediation, alternative dispute resolution and group facilitation spoke about and provided some unique solutions to “Conflict Resolution.”

Saturday, June 15

Professional speaker Kathy Lemieux started the day by involving the audience in her dynamic presentation on “Public Speaking.” The day’s workshops included a variety of topics, including:

- Public Speaking
- Computer Beginner
- Computer Intermediate
- Basket Making
- Swedish Weaving
- Creative Memories
- Garden Stone Demonstration
- Alternative Medicine

- Massage Therapy
- Financial Planning

While Conference participants were busy with their chosen workshop, their companions were on a Waterfront Tour, visiting the Bush Plane Museum and riding a Lock Tour Boat.

Provincial Competitions were organized with judging in May of 2001 at the District Annuals and in September and October at the Area Conventions. The Conference 2002 Competition Winners are as follows:

Poem on Communications

- 1st – Joanne Camelon
- 2nd – Agnes Foster
- 3rd – Mary Lou Ross

Child’s Knitted Sweater

- 1st – Margaret Asbury
- 2nd – Ingrid Schmidt
- 3rd – Anne Dyas

Cross Stitched Picture Ready to Hang

- 1st – Allison Kubiseski
- 2nd – Helen Anderson
- 3rd – Donna Russett

Appliqued Quilted Wall Hanging

- 1st – Myrtle Reid
- 2nd – Gail Murdock

Pieced Quilted Wall Hanging

- 1st – Lila Smiley
- 2nd – Joyce Nelson
- 3rd – Marie Cartwright

The keynote speaker at the Saturday evening banquet was Jim Cronin, an award-winning public relations professional and Director of Communications with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation. Cronin spoke about “Marketing the Women’s Institute” and provided numerous tips on how to get the media interested in covering your event. This was followed by a hilarious comedy show performed by the Goulais River Shovel Band.

Sunday, June 16

The Interfaith Service led by Verna Lapish featured well-known inspirational speaker and writer Heather Ingram. FWIO President Dianne Orr, Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada (FWIC) President Faye Mayberry and Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Canada Area President Elizabeth Rushton updated the audience on their respective level of the organization. Hearing about the various levels makes members aware of the scope of the organization and how they are making a difference in the lives of women and families worldwide.

Lucy Konkin was the Public Relations Officer for FWIO Conference 2002.



In Good Hands

FWIO Board Director Ruth Crump (left) is trying her hand at massage therapy on the shoulders of the FWIO Interim Health Coordinator Gail Murdock. Anna Morrison (right), registered therapist at Sault College, also lent a hand.

Photo courtesy of Keith Stephen, The Sault S...