

By Anne Dyas

The FWIO Provincial Board passed the following resolutions at their November 2001 meeting:

- That the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) strongly urge the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to request a thorough study and implement limits as to the amount of brine solution allowed in meat products, and further that labeling regulations be implemented indicating the percentage of brine solution injected into the product.
- That the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) strongly urge the Federal Government to enact legislation to bar the bulk export of fresh water from Canadian lakes, rivers, streams or groundwater and disallow the diversion of rivers and streams for profit.

The Resolutions Committee returned two resolutions to the submitting parties. One of the resolutions the Committee

turned down was that Life Members should no longer be required to pay fees. The Committee suggested that some other form of recognition be used to honour the service of Life Members. This position has received support from two Branches to date.

The second resolution returned requested the elimination of all genetically engineered (GE) foods. We suggested to the submitting District that they request the following: (i) a simple symbol on the label of foods and food products containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs); (ii) that thorough research be undertaken into the long-term effects of the ingestion of foods containing GMOs and complete disclosure of the results to the public.

Letters were written on behalf of the membership concerning the plight of our sisters in Zimbabwe. They were sent to Canadian Ambassador to the UN Robert Fowler, Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley and the leaders of the Opposition. The only response to date is from Stockwell Day who writes in part: "The Canadian Alliance be-

lieves Canada can and should play a major role in fostering and protecting human rights. We will continue to speak out... Canadian Alliance has urged Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley to ensure that protecting human rights is a priority in dealing with foreign governments."

There was no response to our resolutions on Rabies, Genome ownership and ground water safety (Regulation 903, Wells). so further letters have been written to the appropriate Ministers and Ministries. Recent information from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) dated 12 October 2001 states that funding is now available to improve wells and/or decommission abandoned wells. Certain conditions apply. Applications are available from OFA Member Service Representatives or from the OFA Office at 40 Eglinton Ave. E., Fifth Floor, Toronto ON M4P 3A2, Contact: Neil Currie, OFA General Manager. Phone: 416-485-3333, Ext. 243, Fax: 416-485-9027, Email: www.ofa.on.ca

Anne Dyas is the outgoing Lobbying Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

WI Hall at Country Heritage Park Gets a Facelift

Each weekend throughout the summer volunteers staffed the Women's Institute Hall at the Country Heritage Park in Milton. Visitors from all over the world stopped in with an interesting story to tell. The hall, of course, was full to overflowing on Ontario Day during the Associated Country Women of the World Conference (ACWW) in Hamilton in June. There were two reasons for this – first, the ACWW World President Hilda Stewart planted a tree near the Hall, and second, the music by Fran Fotheringham and the Saints was great!

Thanks need to be expressed to many people for various donations – Putzler Nursery in Hornby for two trees to plant, Creative Memorials in Milton for the signs for the trees, Harvey Pettit from Rockwood for the stands for the signs, Halton 4-H Club for painting the hall and the fence, the Halton District WI for purchasing the paint, Wellington Centre District WI for providing the clothes for the display, and Wellington Centre and South and Halton District WIs for preparing the flowerbeds and providing and planting the flowers.

Thanks also to the many volunteers from the Guelph Area WI and those who helped from the Peel Area to staff the Hall. Plans for 2002 include



Guelph Area WI member Donalda Switzer is shown in the clothing exhibit at the WI Hall.

setting up an easel with signage to tell visitors the Hall is open and what is going on inside. As well, it is our hope to have a hooked rug for visitors to try their hand at if they wish. All help and ideas are appreciated. Please contact Glenna Smith at 519-824-0217 if you are interested.

Submitted by Glenna Smith, Guelph Area WI.