



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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Forty is the old  
age of youth;  
fifty the youth of  
old age.

-Victor Hugo

TO ME,  
OLD AGE  
IS 15 YEARS  
OLDER  
THAN  
I AM!



## Letters

### A Big Welcome from Down Under

Can you imagine the thrill of meeting total strangers a half a world away and being welcomed into their home? This is possible if you're all members of the Women's Institute.

My husband Doug and I had our dream vacation to New Zealand and Australia in March and April. Prior to our departure, a WI friend told me she had a pen pal in New Zealand. I wrote this lady a letter, but it turned out that our tour didn't include time in her city. However, she emailed a member in Queenstown, who emailed me, and soon a meeting date was arranged.

When we arrived at the hotel where we were staying in Queenstown, a message was waiting for me to telephone Margaret Bunn. At 9:30 the next morning, two ladies came to drive us to Margaret and David Bunn's farm home. Eight members of the Lower Shotover and Queenstown Country Women's Institutes of New Zealand, and three of their husbands, greeted us. Each of them had brought a tray full of goodies for morning tea, and the dialogue was wonderful.

It was special for me to receive a New Zealand Country Women's Institute badge, and I pinned an FWIO badge on Margaret. I had Canadian flag pins for the others and a great deal of literature. Competitions are a big part of their



*I am seated front and centre with my recently acquired Lower Shotover and Queenstown WI friends.*

monthly meetings and I was asked to judge eight of their Branch programs.

After lunch, our adventure continued when the four of us explored the Bunn farm in their land rover. They raise deer for venison... We continued to their daughter's farm to see her worm-raising operation; ... the worms are sold to eat waste. ...Margaret dropped us off at our hotel at 3:30 p.m., where we continued with our tour group.

In six short hours new friendships were created by the tiny thread connecting us through our common membership in the world's largest women's organization. What a marvelous experience!

*Helen Young*

*Secretary, Lynnville WI, Norfolk*

### Behind the Campaign All the Way!

*The Bruce County Women's Institute presented the Inspired by Nature Campaign with a cheque for \$3,500. The Campaign is trying to raise 2.4 million to replace facilities at the Bluewater District School Board's Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies. From left to right are Clive Card - Principal, Outdoor Education Centre, David Inglis - Chair, Inspired by Nature Campaign, Linda Freiburger - President, Bruce County WI, Lois Freiburger - Past President, Bruce County WI, and Pat Calhoun - PRO, Bruce County WI. "Our members are behind the Campaign all the way!," said Bruce County WI President Linda Freiburger.*



Submitted by Linda Freiburger, President, Bruce County WI.