

By Anne Dyas

Resolution Passed

The following resolution re: ground water was passed by the FWIO Provincial Board in August:

That FWIO urge the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to protect the ground water of Ontario for future generations by providing more public information and education concerning the importance of ground water and to reinforce Ontario regulations regarding the closure of abandoned wells.

Purity Killings/Honour Killings

A newspaper has recently reported that as many as 50 women accused of prostitution were publicly beheaded by a parliamentary group controlled by a son of President Saddam Hussein. While the reported executions in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities cannot be confirmed, Homa Arjomand of the International Federation of Iranian refugees does not doubt the reports' authenticity. "This kind of activity is called 'honour killing.' It is another example of the war on women."

Amnesty International has issued an appeal for urgent action since there is a concern that scores of women in Iraq could meet the same fate. Concerned Canadians may lodge their protest by writing to: The Minister, Iraqi Embassy, 255 McLeod St., Ottawa ON K2P 1Z8. Phone calls to the Embassy may not be answered.

Disposition of the Resolutions

I wrote to the Ministry of Health in March reminding them of our resolution requesting patient statements for medical services. I did this following a report that Premier Harris had made a similar suggestion.

From Tony Clement, Ontario Minister of Health

"Currently patient statements are only available to Ontario residents who request them ... by contacting their local OHIP office listed in the blue pages of the telephone book. ...

The Ministry has also implemented an initiative in the London and Oshawa OHIP offices that advertises the availability of patient statements to a person attending at the office. Interested persons attending at the London or Oshawa office complete a Request for Patient Statement Form and provide a current address where they wish to take delivery of the statement (an option also exists to pick up the statement at the OHIP office). I am continuing to review options that will enhance accountability and awareness in the health sector."

A letter was also received from the Premier (via Leila Pettigrew) about Ontario's environment. The only resolution I can find refers to the clean up of environmental hazards (1998).

Premier Mike Harris

Writes of recent efforts to improve air quality stating that in an announcement "on March 20 that we will implement stronger new air quality standards – the most stringent in North America."

Carluké WI, Wentworth South



Betty Stewart is such an active volunteer that you can't help wondering if she has discovered a 25-hour day. Winner of this year's Hamilton Municipal Senior of the Year Award, she has been a volunteer all her life, to the immeasurable benefit of over a dozen local and national organizations.

This is not the first time she has been recognized for her long service. An Ancaster resident, she received the Ancaster Citizen of the Year Award in 1995. She was also the recipient of the Joe Fletcher Memorial Award, the Agriculture Service Diploma and a Certificate of Merit from the Women's Institute. This dedicated volunteer is a 60-year member of the Carluké WI in Wentworth South.

Stewart always found time to volunteer, working with the Order of the Eastern Star, the CNIB, the South Wentworth Ploughman's Association, the Carluké Community Association, the Federation of Agriculture and the Wentworth Junior Farmers. When asked how she finds time and energy to devote to volunteer work, Stewart says, "It's my life. What else would I be doing?"

Extracted from an article by Pat Ingraham in *Forever Young*, a supplement to *The Hamilton Spectator*, August 2001.

Bentpath WI, Lambton South



This group is proud of member Helen McGuire, her involvement in Dawn Township is far reaching. While she is best known for her dedication to "Bluebirds for Tomorrow," a bluebird restoration project carried out at local schools and community groups, Helen is a valued volunteer for a number of other projects. This former school teacher plays piano for sing songs at schools, seniors' homes, churches and lodges, canvasses for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and volunteers as a care giver for the Red Cross and Lambton Elderly Outreach. Helen became an Institute member in 1973 when her mother turned 80 years old and could no longer drive herself to meetings. Helen agreed to drive her mom and has been enjoying the Institute ever since, having held several offices at Branch and District level.

Submitted by Jennifer Anderson, Bentpath WI, Lambton South.
Photo courtesy of the *North-Kent Leader*, Dresden.