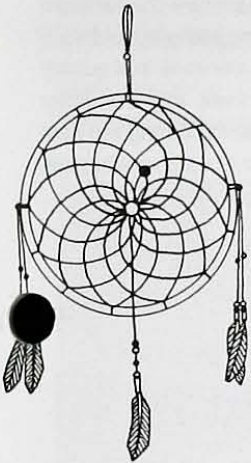


23rd Triennial Conference - June 2001

Volunteers Make Visions a Reality



Dream Catchers

The giant symbols suspended over the stage are based on North American Aboriginal dream catchers. Years ago the patterned web had practical uses as a tool for sorting and sifting and in sports as a target or a goal. The dream catcher, which evolved, acts as a sieve which catches dreams, sifts and sorts. Bad dreams are caught in the cobweb, then burned away by the dawn. Good dreams are filtered into the feathers to be dreamed again.



Opening Remarks - Tuesday, June 12, 2001

What a thrill it is for the 11,000 members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) to host the 23rd Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). For the past three years they have worked toward this night. They have raised funds, sewn vests, assembled favours and gathered treats in support of this conference. Throughout the coming days many will be participating in this conference and they are eagerly looking forward to extending their hand in friendship. They wish to learn about your country and your society. And please ask them to tell you about their Branch, their District, their Area and the role they play in their communities.

Christine Reaburn
Co-Chair, Ontario Coordinating Committee

As the curtain rose for the Opening Ceremony, the entire hall gasped in awe at the sight of dream catchers hanging above the Conference Choir at Hamilton Place. Joan Playle created all 12 oversized dreamcatchers from ABS tubing, wrapped with paper twist and nylon twine, and with styrofoam balls and turkey feathers added.

It is so exciting to realize that women from all parts of the world have come together to discuss issues that affect all people everywhere, women with the same aims and objectives. ... As the conference unfolds over the next few days, I'm sure you will learn new things, gain new ideas, meet new friends and renew old friendships. It is an honour and a privilege to be able to host you and to welcome you. Enjoy the Conference!

Arthana Hecker
Co-Chair, Ontario Coordinating Committee