

Giday, Giday from the Valley

June is WI Month. What a great way to celebrate by hosting the 23rd Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Members from around Ontario, across Canada and from most corners of the world will gather in fellowship, to share and to learn.

Throughout the eight days of the Conference participants will debate resolutions and recommendations, listen to speakers and reports, participate in discussion groups and Ontario Day and enjoy entertainment. The Displays and Sales Room will feature the twelve quilts and nine cushion covers made from the International Quilt Block Competition entries, provide information on ACWW and have a tempting variety of items for sale.

The FWIO Provincial Board sends you their appreciation and thanks for support of the Conference, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and the Headquarters Fund.

The workshop offered to Area Conventions by the Provincial Board is



“Promoting Through Displays.” This is a hands-on workshop on design, set-up, handouts and staffing (etc.). Promoting a positive image of the Women’s Institute goes hand in hand with sustaining and recruiting members. Thank you for answering the questions posed by the FWIO Membership Coordinator. Your input and help is important.

For the Branch who gains the most new members between April 1, 2001, and March 31, 2002, the Provincial Board is offering one paid registration to the Provincial Conference in June 2002 in Sault Ste. Marie. The winning Branch will also receive \$300 in cash, with the runner-up Branch receiving a gift basket of FWIO sales items. The top ten Branches will receive recognition in the *Home & Country* newsletter and on the FWIO website.

Have you planned a program on volunteers or volunteering this year? Volunteers are the lifeblood of communities. “The Year of the Volunteer,” as pronounced by

the United Nations for 2001, has three main aims: to recognize volunteers and the value of volunteering to society; to improve the environment and infrastructure in our communities to make them more “volunteer friendly;” and to increase networking at all levels of society.

The WI has a long history of volunteering by providing workshops, short courses, aid and support in their communities. You have the expertise to enhance your community by sharing your knowledge on food preparation, safety and health issues, technology information and sewing and crafts (etc.). Maybe there are like-minded groups in your locale who would welcome the opportunity to partner with you to offer courses and workshops?

If you have access to the web, there is a list of 101 Ways to Give Recognition to Volunteers and the Ten Commandments for Motivating Volunteers at www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/homeec

Have a good summer! Bye for now!

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York Road WI 's Quilt Creation



Members of the York Road Women's Institute created a beautiful quilt as their millennium project. The quilt was raffled and won by Darla Lowery of Orono. Pictured from left to right are Grace Humfryes, Margaret Whitehouse, Rose Schneider, Sharon French, Marion McIlveen, Marilyn Edmonds, Neyas Clark, Gertrude Miller, Helen Schneider, Ann Evans, Annie MacDonald, Alice McMurdy, Edith Ploegman, Susan Archer, Joyce Robbins and Shirley Young.

Submitted by Shirley Young, Secretary, York Road WI, Northumberland East.

Exchanging Views

Model Women's Institute member Shirley Towers (left) was selected to participate in the Inter-



national Exchange and Study Program with the Michigan Association for Family & Community Education. Marjorie Southworth (right) from Mulliken, Michigan, was twinned with Shirley for the exchange. Last November, Marjorie and her husband Neil came for a weekend to Shirley's home. Local Women's Institute members and their spouses were invited to meet Marjorie and Neil and to share their farm life and other experiences. Both couples enjoyed the exchange visit realizing they had much in common.

Submitted by Shirley Towers, Model WI, Middlesex Northwest.