



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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Every Privilege Carries a Responsibility

Dear Editor:

I looked up the words privilege and responsibility in the dictionary. Some of the definitions of privilege included: a basic civil right, advantage, favour or immunity specially granted. Under responsibility the following was written: able to distinguish between right and wrong, and to think and act rationally, and hence be accountable for one's behaviour, to be answerable.

Privilege goes back to our earliest years. As we learned to crawl, we soon learned it was a privilege to have free rein, but it was our responsibility to not touch certain things, like hot stoves, plants and knick-knacks. When we were old enough to go to school it was a privilege. Our responsibility was to learn, do our homework, pass each year, respect our teachers and go on in life and use our education. In our teenage years, our privileges and responsibilities became even more intense.

Many of us have had the privilege of having a home, a job, a husband and a family. All of these privileges carry enormous responsibility. We are also privileged to live in Canada. And that car-

ries responsibilities too. We are expected to show allegiance to our flag and our country. While we gripe and complain about this, that and the other thing, we are still expected to be responsible citizens and set the best examples we can for our children. In this country, we have the privilege of attending the church of our choice. In our daily living, it is our responsibility to show what we believe.

It is a privilege to belong to the Women's Institute. However, just paying the dues and attending the meetings isn't enough. We have to accept responsibility for the rules and regulations of the organization, not just at the Branch level, but at the provincial, national and worldwide level as well. Then, we have to contribute what we can, the best we can.

I consider it a privilege to have each of you as a friend. Some of you are casual friends, while others are closer. My responsibility is to return that friendship. Privilege and responsibility are a two-way street. You have to be a friend to have friends. My aim is to live up to the responsibility that goes along with the privilege.

Alda Kaufman

Louise WI, Grey Centre

Provincial Office Notes:

A Day in the Life of My Mom

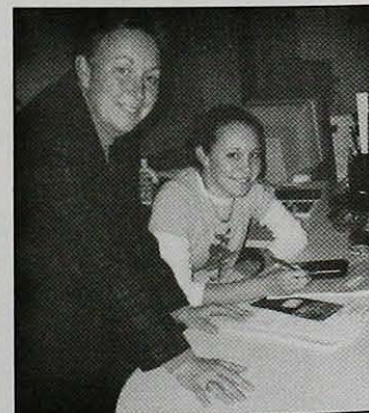
Thanks to the FWIO for letting me be a part of their workplace while I was participating in the provincial Grade 9 "Take Your Kids to Work Day." All day the phones were ringing, the fax machine was chugging and everyone was really friendly and open.

I found out a lot about the organization and the Health Program. I also helped to sort the incoming mail and package and stamp the outgoing mail. It was cool to learn how to work a postage meter! My mother, Mary Poodry, the part-time bookkeeper for the FWIO, gave me the job of writing receipts. When that was finished, I helped her prepare a bank deposit. She even trusted me enough to let me use her computer to type a fax. I learned a lot, but what I liked best about the FWIO Office was that everyone there was friends.

Now I have a taste of the working world in an office setting. And I know what it's like to spend "a day in the life of my mom." Special thanks to Lynn and the other Women's Institute employees who made me feel so welcome and special. All in all, I had a great time and I'll always remember this experience.

Jamie Poodry

Grade 9 Student, Centre Wellington District High School



A person needs only 2 tools: WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use WD-40. If it moves and it shouldn't, use the duct tape.

