

# Board Briefings

November 20-22, 2000

On November 19, 2000, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Board of Directors joined the Erland Lee Committee, along with numerous local Women's Institute members, to unveil a cairn erected at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. A time capsule, including artifacts from the first 100 years of the Women's Institute, was placed in the cairn and sealed until 2047. A three-day meeting of the (FWIO) Board of Directors followed at the Provincial Office from November 20 to 22. The highlights of this meeting included the following items:

## An Evening with Amy Sky

The FWIO Board was thrilled to be a part of the first benefit concert for the organization held the evening of November 20 at the River Run Centre in Guelph. Recording artist Amy Sky appeared on behalf of the organization and the proceeds from the concert and silent auction will benefit the work of the Women's Institute. Listening to and meeting Ms. Sky was indeed a great pleasure! Our hats off to Fundraiser Mike Paquet for the countless hours spent promoting and organizing this fabulous evening.

## Strategic Planning

The FWIO Board of Directors brainstormed as they delved into the topic of Strategic Planning for the period from 2001 to 2005. They identified six strategic aims for which they will develop action plans. The six areas are membership, funding sources, programs, an interactive provincial project, networking and the operation of the organization.

Organizations undergo Strategic Planning, also referred to as "Planned Change," for a number of reasons:

- to understand their surroundings or environment
- to anticipate change and turn it to their collective advantage by responding to it effectively
- ultimately, to change their environment or situation
- to identify local resources previously overlooked or undervalued
- to find innovative ways to achieve their collective goals
- to create productive partnerships

Source: Middlesex Leadership Letter, February 1996.

The FWIO Board will continue with the organization's strategic and business plan.

## Finance Coordinator's Report

The FWIO Board of Directors reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ending September 30, 2000. Along with Lynn Ruigrok, FWIO Finance Coordinator, Linda Bailey, C.A., of Robinson, Lott & Brohman, was on hand to answer questions. The Board noted how pleased they were with this presentation. The work of FWIO Fundraiser Mike Paquet was also outlined; Paquet was commended for his great efforts to date in finding funding and sponsorship, particularly for the ACWW Conference 2001 and the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

## Lobbying Coordinator's Report

Anne Dyas, FWIO Lobbying Coordinator, submitted a written report updating Board on the work of the Resolutions Committee and the status of the resolutions. The following two resolutions were approved by Board:

### From the Oxdrift WI, Kenora

- That FWIO strongly urge the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of National Revenue, the Premier of Ontario and the Ontario Minister of Finance to make changes to the tax laws that will recognize both the economic and social value of stay-at-home parents.
- That the FWIO strongly urge the Government of Canada and the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to enact legislation making it mandatory that all immigrants be examined by a Canadian physician using Canadian equipment before being approved for entry into Canada.

## Membership Recruitment

Provincial Advisory Councillor for Subdivision 12, Cindy Lockhart, has agreed to work on a Membership Recruitment Plan for FWIO. If you have any ideas about membership recruitment contact Cindy Lockhart at Box 20, RR 3, Elmvale ON L0L 1P0, Phone: 705-322-3172, Fax: 705-322-2749, or email: [lockhart@csolve.net](mailto:lockhart@csolve.net)

## ACWW Conference 2001

### Ontario Coordinating Committee (OCC) Update

Arthena Hecker, Co-chair of the OCC, updated the Board on the upcoming ACWW Triennial Conference in June 2001. She reported that audiotapes of parts of the Conference will be for sale. Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario*, will be speaking about Madge Watt and the founding of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Hecker reported that plans are progressing well and they are "anticipating a conference that will be enjoyable to all."

## Wanted – Gift Ideas

The Ontario Coordinating Committee (OCC) has been busy finalizing details for the ACWW Conference 2001 in Hamilton. It has been the custom for the Hostess Society to give gifts to all Conference registrants. Anyone with a possible gift idea or suggestion, please speak to your Board Director as soon as possible. Let's be creative!

## FWIC Update

A written report from Marg Eberle, the FWIO Executive Officer to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC), updated the Board on the latest from the national level. During a Strategic Planning session, FWIC placed revitalization of the Branches across Canada as a priority. The FWIC Convention in 2003 will be held in Lennoxville, Quebec, and in 2006 in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme for this next triennial is "Participation + Communication = Achievement – A Formula for Success."

## Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Project

FWIC is once again requesting that each Branch donate \$1 per member per year to help operate the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Send your donations to the FWIO Provincial Office or directly to FWIC at 606-251 Bank St., Ottawa ON K2P 1X3. FWIC asks that all donations be marked Hoodless Upkeep Project.

## WI Week

The FWIO Board encourages all Branches to celebrate WI Week each year by organizing an event during the week of February 19, the anniversary date of the founding of the Women's Institute. Take this opportunity to invite a neighbour or friend. And who knows?, you may gain a new member in the process! Also invite the media and gain some publicity for the work you do in your community.

Check to see if the "Grandmother's Legacy" story submitted by your oldest member last year has made it into the recently published book *From This Place*. Use a presentation of a book to her or your local library as your photo opportunity with the media. What another great way to celebrate their story!

## Other Items Covered:

For more information on the following items ask your PAC member or Board Director.

- Education Coordinator's Report
- Tweedsmuir Coordinator's Report
- Voting Delegates to ACWW
- FWIC Tweedsmuir Competitions (to be in Spring issue)
- FWIO Website
- FWIO Policies and Procedures
- Donations to ACWW
- Motions