

Giday, Giday from the Valley

By Christine Reaburn



What a wonderful experience I had last spring visiting with Districts for their annual meetings. My outstanding impression is of members offering a gracious welcome and friendship. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to bring information about FWIO and to hear about the programs, projects and aspirations of members.

Sharing and enjoying the excitement of a 100th District Annual Anniversary and two District amalgamations were highlights. What an accomplishment to have given a century of service and leadership to a community. Numerous Districts have amalgamated, while others are contemplating uniting. This is a challenge and an opportunity to rekindle enthusiasm, to gain strength and to march confidently into the 21st century.

What are you doing for World Rural Women's Day on October 15? You could plan a program or sponsor a community workshop with a panel of local women

who have contributed to the success of their rural communities. Or maybe you would like to organize an exhibition on the contribution of women to your rural community. You could create an award for an exceptional woman or woman's group for outstanding rural leadership. And invite the press or put it on the internet. The Board would love to hear about your activities.

I need your help. What did you do to support and promote the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) triennium from 1998 to 2001 (i.e. projects, fundraising, World Rural Women's Day, ACWW Day, etc.)? Could you let me know by November 1, 2000?

Are you looking for a project? If so, the following may be of interest to you. A competition could be held in your community for "Story Sacks." This involves making toys and accessories to illustrate the story in a child's book. Everything is placed in a strong sack, and after

judging, donate the sacks to your local library, school or playgroup.

Maybe your Branch or District is celebrating a special anniversary. You could present a basket of "goodies" to the first baby born in your local hospital on the date closest to your anniversary.

Have you had your water tested for E. coli and other contaminants, such as lead and heavy metals? The safety of our drinking water and the well-being of our families should be of prime importance.

November's municipal elections begin a new direction, era or phase in local governance. Would you consider sponsoring an All Candidates Meeting? With new guidelines, directives and responsibilities, municipal councillors will be making a wider range of decisions. These decisions are the ones which have the biggest impact on how our communities function.

Area Conventions are almost upon us and I look forward to visiting with you and learning how Women's Institutes make a difference in communities across Ontario.

'Til next time!

Christine Reaburn is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at RR 1, Westmeath ON K0J 2L0, Phone: 613-582-3569, Fax: 613-582-3550, Email: christinereaburn@hotmail.com

Eastern Area Branches Knit One and Crochet Too!



May Dickson (left), member of the Lorne-Sutherland WI, presented Dawn Bradbury (right), representative of the Grove Nursing Home, with seven hand knit bears and four lap afghans. May has also donated three bears to the Harvey House Nursing Home.

Submitted by Joyce Hendrick, PRO, Lorne-Sutherland WI, Carleton West.



Castleton WI members (from left to right) Joyce Murray, Shirley McComb, Beth May and Margaret McMichael display knee warmers they have created for a local nursing home.

Submitted by Ruth Harren, PRO, Castleton WI, Northumberland East.