

# Learning is Lifelong

By Joan King

**W**hat have you learned recently? I'm sure that every one of us would say the thing that comes to mind is the 3 R's. By this I don't mean 'readin,' 'ritin' and 'rithmetic.' Nor am I thinking of the 3 R's that go hand-in-hand with recycling. These days it is next to impossible to pick up a newspaper or magazine, or watch the news on television, without hearing about **restructuring**, financial **restraints** or **reducing** costs.

I attended a recent FWIO Board Meeting in Guelph, and with regret it was decided that it was necessary to do some restructuring of the **PHONEBUSTERS** program sponsored by FWIO in cooperation with the Ontario Provincial Police. Those Branches, Districts and Areas who were privileged to have a presentation by Constable Barry Elliott were impressed with his message to "hang up" or say "no" to doing business on the phone. However, the cost of implementing **PHONEBUSTERS** during the first nine months has resulted in some restructuring by Board to the time and monetary commitment to this project.

With this in mind, a package has been put together for District and Area Institutes who feel they would like to offer **PHONEBUSTERS** to their members. Please keep the following criteria in mind:

- The initial contact with **PHONEBUSTERS** will be made through myself and a presentation date will be arranged.
- Constable Barry Elliott is coming from North Bay and would appreciate an audience of approximately 50 people.

- The information package you receive includes a list of expectations and requirements for the program, a fill-in-the-blank set of possible advertisements to use if you wish, and a biography of Constable Elliott.

The FWIO Board and I have the utmost confidence in the Women's Institute to continue with the **PHONEBUSTERS** program following these criteria. However, if a District or Area feel unable to guarantee an attendance of approximately 50 people, individual Branches may contact their local Community Officer of the Ontario Provincial Police and receive a similar **PHONEBUSTERS** program. In fact, some Branches have already done this.

If you have already participated in the **PHONEBUSTERS** program, or are planning to do so in the future, please send a short report to me, including

- the date and location of the presentation,
- the number in attendance, and
- the number of volunteer hours committed to the presentation.

Women's Institutes have a lot on their plates at this point in time. Branch and District Annual Meetings have just taken place, and programs for the upcoming year are being planned and implemented. On behalf of the FWIO Board, I would like to take this opportunity to mention on-going projects in addition to **PHONEBUSTERS**:

- Programs to celebrate "The New Millennium" will be held in the year 2000.
- The ROSE Health Program has been set in motion with the Test Training Session in the Guelph Area on March 30. Information Packages including the new brochure were mailed to each Branch in April. Registration packages for the Leadership Training Sessions will be mailed at least two months prior to the Area approved session date.

And, FWIO is already thinking ahead to programming ideas for the year 2001 to 2002.

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## CAP

CAP stands for Community Access Program. It is a joint project by Industry Canada, the Ontario Library Association and many local library systems in Ontario, which was created to develop an internet presence in your communities.

All CAP sites provide free internet training to the general public and businesses. The internet is the radio of "The New Millennium."

It is easy and fun and free at your local CAP center. Once you learn the basics of the internet, you'll be surfing the web and emailing family and friends in no time at all!

And, if the world wide web or emailing doesn't interest you, and you are just starting to use a computer, then CAP assistants will teach word processing, the use of graphics in your documents and general computer use. If you are more advanced and have a computer in your home, you can learn about a variety of other programs available on the CAP computer.

WI members are encouraged to take a lesson or two from CAP assistants, who are high school students from your own communities. They know how to help you at whatever level you might be at, and they make it fun!

Help your Branch become a part of the "Now Generation." Get wired! Show others that WI can also stand for "Women Involved" – in all aspects of the world around us!

Call your local library for details and book an exploratory lesson today! These young people are looking for you!