

HOMES & COUNTRY

SPRING 2000

On the Air with Studio 2

Like most things, it all started with an idea! An idea that Pat Salter, Board Director for the Western Region, had one evening while watching the TV Ontario programs *Gregg & Company* and *Studio 2*.

Pat's idea was that *Gregg & Company* host Allan Gregg could interview Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of *For Home and Country*, during the month of February. She felt that the award-winning book deserved the recognition, and it was another way to celebrate and publicize the anniversary month of the Women's Institutes. As well, Pat wondered if *Studio 2* hosts Steve Paiken and Paula Todd would interview Dr. Ambrose. So, she sent a copy of the history book and outlined her intent in a fax to the TVO hosts.

A few days later, Pat was ecstatic to receive a call from *Studio 2* Producer Zeelaf Majeed. She said they talked at length about the Women's Institute; an organization Majeed had heard of for the first time. After reviewing the history book and speaking with Pat, the *Studio 2* Producer was in awe of what Women's Institutes have done. And, she was interested in filming, the following week, what happens at a Branch meeting.

Pat suggested the Coningsby Branch in Wellington Centre District, who were meeting the next week on February 3. The Branch had organized a craft meeting in the morning to teach members how to make 3-D flowers for quilts. A joint meeting with the Hillsburgh Auxiliary WI in the afternoon followed. And *Studio 2* was there!



The TVO crew, from left to right, are Producer Zeelaf Majeed, and technicians Rod and Jon.

The 12-minute clip aired on *Studio 2* on February 15. In addition to Pat Salter, Coningsby WI President Marjorie Gillespie, long-time Hillsburgh Auxiliary member Kay Baldwin and Area Past President for Canada Peggy Knapp were interviewed.

It is an all too frequently asked question: "What is the Women's Institute?" WI members have always gone about their community work, quietly, because they are "doers, and not talkers." Thanks to Pat Salter and *Studio 2*, Ontarions are now a little better informed about the work of the Women's Institute.

Pat is anticipating a call from Allan Gregg, any time now!

Left: Coningsby WI member Myrtle Reid and her granddaughter Lesley Squibb demonstrated 3-D quilting techniques.

Centre: Coningsby WI members, from left to right, Doris Burt, Mildred Lang and Gail Burrows watch the demonstration.

*Right: Long-time Hillsburgh Auxiliary member Kay Baldwin (right) with *Studio 2* Producer Zeelaf Majeed.*

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