



HOME & COUNTRY is published quarterly by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). *HOME & COUNTRY* 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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Gardeners Beware!

"...One should be wary of any garden catalogue that promises that a plant will grow vigorously in any kind of soil, in sun or in shade, with no assistance from the gardener. There is another word for a plant like that: weed."

Cass Peterson, *The New York Times*, Nov. 29, 1992.



Letters

Dear Ms. Roelens-Grant:

I have listened to many Women's Institute members at Branch, District and Area level open their meetings with the reading of the Mary Stewart Collect. This is a beautiful prayer and a guide for all of us. However, many of our members are unfamiliar with the title word "collect" and mispronounce it as if it were the word meaning to gather or fetch. My *Oxford American Dictionary* gives the definition of these words with the accented syllable in bold type:

- collect (**kol** ekt) n. a short prayer, usually to be read on a certain day
- collect (ko **lekt**) v. to bring together; to ask for payment; to fetch, etc.

I am familiar with the correct pronunciation, the accent being on the first syllable, because my Victorian mother often read to me from her book of prayers and collects. If our members knew the meaning of this word I believe they would be more comfortable saying it. And I would not cringe each time I heard it pronounced!

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Clements, Hillier WI, Prince Edward District

Dear Editor:

I am a member of the Massie Women's Institute. Our Branch has a Pen Pal, Bettina Cohn, who lives near Bath in England. On a return trip from visiting my son who works in Saudi Arabia, my granddaughter and I had a few days to spend in England. I telephoned Bettina from the airport. She told us to take a train to Bath where she would meet us.

Bettina Cohn is 79 years old, lives in the small village of Bishop Sutton and belongs to Stowey and Bishop Sutton WI. She welcomed us into her home and for two days drove us around the area. We visited WI House in Keynsham, the office of the Avon Federation of Women's Institutes. We drove through the Cheddar Gap where cheddar cheese was first made. We saw where the Romans mined lead and where Clark shoes were first made. We saw the Roman Baths, Wells Cathedral and the ruins of Glastenbury Abbey. ... Bettina arranged for us to stay at the home of a WI member, so we could be near the airport before our flight home. Since coming home Bettina sent me a page from the Chew Valley Gazette listing accounts of 15 monthly meetings of WI Branches.

Women's Institute is alive and well in England!

Dona Norton

President, Massie WI, Grey North

"Welcoming the New Millennium"

Millennium! A thousand years of great expectations for mankind.

Imagine the tremendous happenings that await us as knowledge increases.

Life will lighten with each advancement, and there will be many.

Ladies, let's leave the "good old days" behind, and look to the future.

Embrace the challenge of adventure, discovery and change.

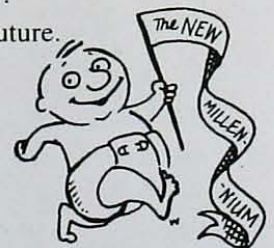
Nothing is impossible to achievers, and that is what we are.

Never doubt your worth to our organization.

Ignore any discouraging remarks that would instill doubt.

Understand yourself - to better understand others.

Manage each day, mindful that "one day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day."



This acrostic written by Cathcart WI members in the Brant District was awarded first prize at the Burford Fall Fair in 1999 and contributed to the Branch winning first prize for their exhibit entitled "Welcoming the New Millennium."