

Learning is Lifelong

By Joan King

Hello everyone! This is my first column for the *Home & Country* newsletter. As the new Education Coordinator for FWIO, I am just "getting my feet wet." There has hardly been time since the Provincial annual meeting, Christmas and our welcoming of the new millennium to take a breath! I trust that all members in the Women's Institute across this province are ready to step out into this new century and tell everyone about our great organization.

When I was a child I can remember my grandmother saying, "You should learn something new every day!" That is why I have chosen "Learning is Lifelong" for the title of this column and for my personal slogan. It is my belief that by supplying exciting and stimulating programs, we all gain. Our enthusiasm will be invigorated and renewed. In turn, this enthusiasm will spread to members of the community, and the WI will gain new members.

The winter edition of *Home & Country* had a wealth of ideas for "The New Millennium" theme, thanks to Jane Cooper and the Program/Project Preparation Committee. The Provincial Board and the Education Coordinator are working to develop future themes and programs that benefit the entire membership.

I am sure that some of you have ideas that are unique to your community or part of the province. I would appreciate a note about these programs so that I might share them with other members. We all benefit by sharing ideas. So please, pass these ideas along to me at the address below.

Projects like *PHONEBUSTERS* are ongoing in the province. Southern and Northern areas will be hearing more about this program in the near future. The previous Education Coordinator, Mary Lou Norton, was instrumental in the organization of this program in the Eastern and Western part of the province. I trust those members and communities who experienced this program found it enlightening and beneficial.

Joan King is the Education Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at 6487 Oil Heritage Rd., Camlachie ON N0N 1E0, Phone: 519-899-2642, Fax: 519-869-8261, Email: kingj@xcelco.on.ca

Ladies — Meet the Llamas



Members of the Coldsprings Women's Institute enjoyed a Mystery Tour, including a Fall Colours Tour and a visit to a Llama Farm. Seymour WI members from Northumberland East District joined them en route for lunch.

Submitted by Orma Budreau, PRO, Coldsprings WI, Northumberland West.

Profile

Joan King, FWIO Education Coordinator



Joan King, your newly elected Education Coordinator, lives in the small village of Camlachie in Lambton County. She lives on a hog finishing/cash crop farm in Plympton Township with her husband Bill. Their three daughters – Carolyn, Virginia and Vicki – work as a social worker, dietician and Director of Student Recreation and Residence at Ridgetown College, respectively. Their son Don works on the farm and is an accountant at the local feed mill. Since 1972, Joan has worked as Office Manager at the Errol Village School in the Lambton-Kent District School Board.

With 35 years of Institute experience, Joan has actively participated at all levels of the organization. She has held all offices within her Aberarder Branch. She is Past President of the Lambton North District and is their current Resolutions Convenor. Joan is also the county representative to the Lambton Federation of Agriculture. At the provincial level, Joan was a Board Director from 1990 to 1992, Chair of the Agriculture Committee in 1993 and Chair of Conference '96 held at Ridgetown College.

Beyond the Women's Institute Joan's volunteer commitments are varied: 4-H Leader for 25 years; Past President of the Lambton County 4-H Leaders Association; representative on the Board of Health for the Lambton County Health Unit; Chair of the committee to stop Toronto garbage coming to Plympton Township; and, member of the Camlachie United Church Women's Association.

As Education Coordinator for the Women's Institute Joan hopes to relay her enthusiasm for her personal motto – "Learning is Lifelong," hence, the title of her column. Joan emphatically believes the words she often heard her grandmother speak: "You should learn something new every day!"

Joan is an avid gardener, both vegetable and flower; she has sent for her seeds already! Her list of hobbies - knitting, crocheting, sewing, quilting, needlepoint, cross stitch, reading and walking – attest to her personal motto. Joan and Bill have four granddaughters; the newest addition was born on February 1, 2000.