

Towards ACWW 2001

By Mary Janes

The Summer issue of *Home & Country* listed several ways in which Women's Institute members may prepare for the 23rd Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World.

- Have you started collecting stamps to send to Sales & Displays?
- Have you set aside money to cover a year's ACWW membership so that you may attend the full conference in Hamilton? Conference registration forms will be printed in the January and April, 2000 issues of *The Countrywoman*.
- Has your name been placed on the special FWIO Home Hospitality list so that you may host some of the delegates from beyond Ontario?
- Is your group planning a meeting about ACWW? There are several slide sets that may be borrowed from ACWW's slide library (at the address below), including Mali's development project for women and the Sahel, India and Uganda projects, as well as a set on aspects of ACWW work worldwide.
- The triennial theme is coordinated with the United Nations International Year of Volunteers being celebrated in 2001. Please note the correct conference theme is "Volunteers Make Visions a Reality." In keeping with the theme, ACWW's newsletter *The Countrywoman* is asking members to send in any interesting stories about their experiences of voluntary work. The address is ACWW, Clutha House, 10 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AY, England.
- Look for information about Ontario Day festivities, day visitor registration forms, conference tours, workshops, speakers and opportunities for members to get involved in this special event in future issues of *Home & Country*.

Recently the Public Relations Director received a surprise call from Irene Varty, of the Bridgevale WI in Durban, South Africa. She called while visiting her daughter in Vancouver, BC. The message from her and another Bridgevale WI member, Bubbles O'Byrne who has several Canadian WI pen pals, is "All the South African WIs say hello to their WI friends in Canada and wish them well on the ACWW 2001 proceedings."

Mary Janes is the Public Relations Director for the Ontario Conference Committee planning ACWW Conference 2001. She is a member of the Warwick WI, Lambton North.

Watercolour Draw

Rosella Clancy, a member of the River Valley WI, a life member of ACWW and your FWIO Tweedsmuir Coordinator, has donated this framed watercolour, "Springtime in Ontario," to help raise funds for ACWW Conference 2001.

Women's Institute members are challenged to make the Watercolour Draw a success. Tickets will be sold at Area Conventions and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, and at other suitable opportunities.

Tickets are also available from your Provincial Advisory Councillor (PAC) and from Donna Russett, Chair of the Displays and Sales Committee for



Conference 2001. Donna can be reached at RR 3, Stirling ON K0K 3E0, Phone/Fax: 613-395-4305.

Profile

WI - A Great Opportunity to Meet New People



By Norma Steven

I was born in the Village of Camlachie at my grandparents home and I grew up on a farm in Sarnia Township, Lambton County. After finishing school, I worked in a bank in Sarnia. I belonged to and held various offices in the Sarnia Township Junior Institute and Junior Farmers. I met my husband Elton at a Junior Farmers Field Day. After marriage we moved to a farm in Plympton Township where we had two sons, Wayne and Brian.

Upon invitation from my husband's aunt, I joined the Uttoxeter WI in April 1968. That fall I started helping with 4-H Clubs and continued to lead or assist in 25 Clubs. I learned just as much or more from the Clubs as the girls did. I also helped with the short courses organized through the WI and now I attend workshops organized through our District Education Committee.

At the 80th anniversary of our Branch I was proud to receive a Life Membership. I have held various offices at the Branch and District level, including Convenorships, Secretary-Treasurer and President. Currently, I am the Branch Treasurer and Tweedsmuir History Curator and District Secretary-Treasurer. At the Area level I have just completed 4 years as Treasurer and Alternate Board Director. I also have had the opportunity to be a part of the Workshop Planning Committee for Conference '96 in Ridgetown.

Besides Institute work, I have volunteered with the Dairy Educator Program in Lambton County, the Forest & District Agricultural Society and the Uttoxeter United Church Women. I help cater and prepare meals for all three groups and we are known for our homemade pies.

In my spare time I love to sew, including bride and bridesmaid dresses. As well, I enjoy cake decorating, knitting, embroidery, cross stitching and quilting. In the spring, I help make maple syrup on the farm and I am an occasional tractor driver if needed.

Women's Institute has given me the opportunity to make many friends at the various levels. I get new ideas from meeting new people. And with this new restructuring of the WI, we are all learning.

Norma Steven is a member of the Uttoxeter WI, Lambton North.