

Caring & Sharing

By Arthena Hecker



Isn't that exciting news on the front page of our newsletter? What an opportunity for the Women's Institutes in Ontario.

Get set to hear about this wonderful opportunity for Women's Institutes to bring messages on health issues to our communities. This is what we are about - Personal Growth and Community Action. We will learn and pass information on to our mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and anyone interested in learning.

A great deal of work has yet to be done before we launch this project. Your Provincial Advisory Councillor will be kept informed about how this major undertak-

ing will be implemented throughout the province, and you will be kept informed through the *Home & Country*.

I hope you are as excited and pleased about this project as the Board of Directors. I see it as a means to help revitalize our organization. When the general public knows that the Women's Institute is involved in current health issues, they will want to join us and help. Opportunities for strengthening our families, our communities and our organization are ours for the taking. Let's do it!

FWIO has partnered with PHONEBUSTERS, an arm of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). Many, many people are scammed out of millions of dollars every year. These thieves come into your home through your telephone line. They not only steal your money, but your dignity and your health.

FWIO Education Coordinator Mary Lou Norton and some of her committees are working with PHONEBUSTERS to bring this information to your community. The provincial launch of this project took place on May 18 in Eastern Ontario. It will move to Southwestern Ontario in the Fall; Southern and Northern Ontario will follow.

As PHONEBUSTERS moves throughout the province, take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about this crime. Learn how to stop it from happening to yourself and those we know and love. Educating ourselves is our only defense.

Exciting things are happening in FWIO. We can expand our horizons and help our communities if we get involved. Let's do it!

Arthena Hecker is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at RR 1, Richards Landing ON P0R 1J0, Phone: (705)246-2377, Fax: (705)246-1236, email: Arthena@sympatico.ca

Healthy Outlook ... continued from page 1

women of action and imagination who have built an organization that any woman would enjoy joining.

What Are the First Steps

In the next few months FWIO will be hiring a coordinator and beginning a province-wide communications program. This will include leadership training sessions to help every Branch that is interested hold one or more health education workshops.

Many Branches have already held programs with some of our existing partners, or have plans to do so in the near future. Not every Branch needs help to put on high quality educational programming. Keep up the good work! But for those Branches who want assistance, help is on the way.

Look for more information in the Fall 1999 *Home & Country* newsletter.

Jane Cooper is a Provincial Advisory Councillor for Subdivision 2 and Chair of the Project and Program Preparation Committee. The Health Partnership Proposal was developed as a project of the Safe and Healthy Communities Committee with ideas and help from members across the province.

Stop Phone Fraud! Just Hang Up!

"Canadian Consumers lose approximately 80 million dollars a year to fraudulent telemarketers."

Source: PHONEBUSTERS

Following a Board decision in November, the FWIO is piloting a new educational program in the Eastern WI Region in partnership with PHONEBUSTERS.

Established in 1993, PHONEBUSTERS is dedicated to educating the Canadian public about the dangers of telemarketing, especially seniors who represent about 60 percent of the victims. PHONEBUSTERS have partnered with FWIO because the Women's Institutes have a solid reputation for reaching seniors and other members of their communities.

From mid-May to mid-June representatives of PHONEBUSTERS will be hosted at District Women's Insti-



Remember, IF YOU HAVE WON
A PRIZE IT DOES NOT COST A DIME

PHONEBUSTERS
1 (888) 495-8501

tute meetings across the Eastern Region. They will explain how many people are deceived by con artists on the phone and lose large amounts of money. PHONEBUSTERS is encouraging Branches to work in cooperation with local officials, including the police, bankers and health workers, to increase public awareness about this growing problem. Follow-up workshops may be held in areas where there is sufficient interest.

This interesting educational program will be introduced in the other regions of Ontario over the next two years so that all Branches will have the opportunity to participate. Get involved. Help stop phone fraud, so WI members and others in your community do not become victims.

Watch for more information in the Fall *Home & Country*.