

# Caring & Sharing

By Arthena Hecker



Season's Greetings! I sincerely hope your New Year will be happy and prosperous. The 1998 Annual Meeting was held and FWIO's new structure is in effect. The new Board - 8 Regional Directors, Past President, President-Elect and President - met for the first time following the Annual Meeting. Dates for the Board meetings were set and some priority items identified for discussion at the next meeting to be held in January.

Thanks to the Branches for responding to FWIC's Literacy Program. To those who sent their response by email: thank you. The total response from Ontario was disappointing. FWIO realizes that more notice of this project should have been given, but we were hoping for a better response.

Traveling to the Areas across the province during the latter part of September and the month of October was a pleasure. WI projects and community involvement is outstanding. I can only commend you for

all your hard work and dedication. And thank you for your hospitality; I felt welcomed wherever I went.

Each Branch will be receiving a copy of FWIO's Annual Report. This is the first time that FWIO has had a professionally printed Annual Report. It will be a great tool as we try to obtain funding for 2001 and other projects. Please ask to take the Report home to read.

There is confusion with regard to Resolutions. The Provincial Lobbying Coordinator can present resolutions at any Provincial Board Meeting. A resolution of provincial, national or international importance must be directed through the District Lobbying Convenor to the FWIO Lobbying Coordinator. A copy of the resolution, with the names of the mover and seconder, the signature of the President and the Secretary-Treasurer or Secretary of the Branch, name of the Branch, date sustained, and all supportive material, must be forwarded to the District Lobbying Convenor.

If sustained at District, the District Lobbying Convenor shall send a copy of the resolution, bearing the signature of the mover and seconder, and all supportive material to the FWIO Lobbying Coordina-

tor and to the Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) member in the Subdivision. The Branch Convenor retains the original resolution, bearing the signatures of the mover and seconder.

One member of the Branch shall be prepared to present the views of the Branch on the resolution at a District Meeting.

I hope this clarifies the issue.

There is a rumour that the Erland Lee (Museum) Home will be closing due to financial difficulties. This is not true. The Erland Lee Home is having a hard time financially due to low interest rates and our drop in membership. But it is not in danger of closing! If any Branch or individual could help financially, the Museum would be most appreciative. The cheque should be marked "Operating Fund."

Thank you for your Canadian Tire money for the TV, VCR and office supplies. We have purchased a TV and VCR on sale. We would appreciate your continued support for other items — fax machines for Board Directors and Coordinators, a unit to hold the TV and VCR and better telephones for the office (etc.) could be purchased through Canadian Tire.

Arthena Hecker is the President of FWIO.

## Branching Out

### The Birth of Ramara WI

By Cindy Lockhart

After two information meetings with speakers, displays and lots of "plain old" encouragement and enthusiasm, the Ramara Women's Institute Branch was officially formed in September, 1998, in Atherley, Simcoe East District. Seven charter members started the group, but more have joined since the first meeting.

After elections, officers were sworn in by Shirley Gleadall, Provincial Board Director for Subdivision 13. Special guests included Betty Veitch - Board Director, Subdivision 14, Lorna McGrath - FWIO Membership Coordinator, Barbara Ann Cook - President, Simcoe Area, and Glenys Hepinstall - President, Simcoe East District. Other members from nearby Branches joined in to wish the new members well.

Increased membership, whether it is through the establishment of new Branches or adding new members to existing ones, is critical to the Women's Institute organization. We need new, enthusiastic members with new ideas to encourage us all!

Congratulations to the ladies of Ramara for making the right decision to join this great organization.



Ramara Women's Institute members from left to right are Sue Rands - Treasurer, Muriel Matthews - Secretary, Lynda Davidson - President, Frances Carrick - First Vice President, Elva Moase - District Director and Val Myers - Program Coordinator. Linda Whitney was absent; she was giving birth to her son Jered Lee, 7 lbs., 8 oz.

Submitted by Cindy Lockhart, Membership Organizer, Simcoe Area.