

Excellence in Agriculture Award

The third annual Excellence in Agriculture Award was presented by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario President Arthena Hecker to Grace Oesch at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on November 6, 1998.

Grace Oesch and her husband Ivan have been showing purebred Simmentals at the Royal since 1982. They have won many awards, including the RAWF Herdsman Award for Simmentals in 1996. Oesch has served with the Ontario Simmental Association, helping with the planning of the 1995 Canadian Simmental Association annual meeting and show. She has also been an active Executive member of the Ontario Farm Women's Network, working tirelessly for the cause of farm women and the farm family.

Her interest in the Royal has included working with Perth County 4-H members attending Royal beef events. The Oesch family resides on a farm in Wellesley, Ontario.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes the contributions made by

Canadian women in all facets of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The portrait of Grace Oesch will join previous winners in the "First Ladies of the Royal" Gallery.

Extracted from a Press Release written by Mary Janes, FWIO Public Relations Officer, dated October 5, 1998.

Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Project

Last winter, FWIC launched the Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Project. It was the result of a motion passed at Convention '97 requesting that each WI member donate \$1 annually to support the operation of the Homestead. Thank you to all those who answered this appeal. Because of your generosity the Homestead was self-sustaining for the first time in years.

We hope we can count on your support again this year. Please send all donations directly to the national office as soon as possible in the new year. Make cheques payable to FWIC and mail to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, 606-251 Bank St., Ottawa ON K2P 1Z3. Specify your donation is for the *Homestead Upkeep Project*.



1998 Scholarship Winners

4-H Regional Scholarships - \$350

Eastern - Sixtieth Anniversary

- Melaine Babcock of Harrowsmith

Southern - Dorothy Fitcher

- Andrea Wills of Thorndale

Northern - Florence P. Eadie

- Erica Jansen of Little Current

Western - Hoodless-Lee

- Stephen West of Bradford

Note: The theme for the 1999 essay is "Safe and Healthy Communities in the New Millennium."

FWIO-University of Guelph Scholarship - \$800

- Joanna Nicol of Lively
- Natale Desrochers of Ancaster
- Lee-Ann Hunter of St. Catharines
- Angela Birnie of Chatham

90th Anniversary Educational Award - \$600

- Margaret McDonald of Chesley - also member of the Gillies Hill WI, Bruce East

Helen McKercher Scholarship - \$1200

- Andrea Buckholz of Oakville

FWIO-CHEA International Scholarship - \$2500

- Elen Moya of Zimbabwe - currently attending the University of Western Ontario

Women's Institutes on Display!

Five Women's Institute Branches - Anna P. Lewis WI, Athlone WI, Elmhurst WI, Princess Elizabeth WI and the Tavistock WI - near to the village of Tavistock worked together to produce this exhibit. It was in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the village and depicted many Women's Institute accomplishments and their influence in the community. The Anna P. Lewis Branch also compiled a sixteen month calendar portraying historical photos of Tavistock.

Submitted by Helen Anderson, Hamstead WI, Perth Centre.

