

## Constitution Committee

The Constitution Committee is currently revising the FWIO *Handbook*. It will be reformatted so it is easier to work with and to read. What is part of the Constitution versus what is a by-law will be defined. Further changes are expected pending final adoption of the Restructuring Committee Report in August. The expected completion date is December 1998.

## The Ontario Rural Council

Mary Robertson, spokesperson for The Ontario Rural Council (TORC), explained that the Council is a catalyst for rural dialogue, collaboration and action. It is a 40-seat Council with representation from economic and infrastructure, resource and development, human services and community and government sectors. She outlined TORC's mandate:

- a forum to bring together provincial organizations and governments that share a commitment to rural Ontario
- a forum where members can discuss, listen and understand the many changes and issues facing rural Ontario, and mobilize a response
- a means to strengthen the rural voice through multi-sector collaboration
- a member-driven, consensus-based approach (the Council will not speak on behalf of the individual organization)

Their proposed three-year outcomes are to:

- exchange information and perspectives
- consolidate a vision of rural Ontario and ensure funding is targeted to address gaps
- launch a campaign to promote "rural"
- provide input into federal and provincial policies
- ensure new funding is allocated for rural development research
- share information on best practice
- encourage young people in the field of rural community development
- act as an effective sounding board for member organizations

For more information about TORC, call (519)843-7759 or fax (519)843-7773.

At the March Board Meeting, the FWIO Board decided not to become a charter member of TORC.

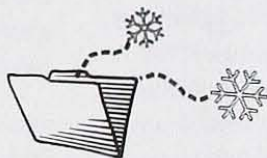
## FWIC

FWIC expressed their concern to the federal Health Protection Branch about the regulation permitting pharmacists to make substitutions when dispensing drugs. An example of this is the use of conjugated estrogens in the treatment of menopause and osteoporosis. Under current regulations, the natural and synthetic versions are interchangeable even though they have not been proven bio-equivalent. FWIC is urging the Health Protection Branch to establish separate standards for natural and synthetic conjugated estrogens.

## Home & Country

After some discussion, the Board of Directors approved the wording of the *Home & Country* Survey which appeared on page 16 of the Spring issue. If your Branch has not yet filled out the Survey, do so and send it to the FWIO Provincial Office.

## Ice Storm Report



Dwyla Pilgrim, Board Director from Sub-division 3, reported on the Emergency Planning Workshop held in February in the Eastern Area. Information on how to cope in the event of a disaster, such as Ice Storm '98, was compiled. Information on water and food storage and supplies, clothing, bedding and first-aid materials to have on hand was outlined. Suggestions on how to deal with the stress and other emotional health issues were also included. There are plans to refine this information and make it available province wide.

## Restructuring

Strive! met with the FWIO Executive in January to discuss different ways of implementing the new Board structure, the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Provincial Advisory Council, methods of election, the importance of regional representation and a schedule of implementation (etc.). As well, Executive members called Board Directors for input on the implementation process. Based on discussions of this information presented

at the March 1998 Board Meeting, a report of the Restructuring of FWIO was revised and compiled.

Once again, each Board Director will be contacted for their ideas regarding the concerns and questions that remained after the March meeting. The Restructuring Report is still a working document; a final report will be voted on at the August 1998 Board Meeting.

## Business Plan

The FWIO Executive and Board of Directors finalized an official Business Plan for the organization. The Business Plan explains who FWIO is, what they do and where they want to be in the future. The Plan is a working, evolving document that needs to be reviewed regularly.

## Motions Passed

- That members send all monies for disaster relief in Canada to the FWIO Provincial Office before presentations are made so as to glean as much publicity and government matching of funds as possible.
- That the FWIO Board of Directors review the Constitution Committee Report and send recommendations to the Provincial Office by April 30, 1998.
- That FWIO purchase display equipment (proper signage, free standing cases for books, pamphlets and items for sale, etc.) to be used for provincial displays and to be stored at the FWIO Provincial Office; not more than \$500 to be spent on this equipment; records to be kept of requests for its use.
- That the Marketing and Finance Committees consider items to sell as possible fund raisers that would appeal to the general public, as well as to WI members.
- That FWIO set aside \$2,000 for the purchasing of used computer systems when they become available to non-governmental organizations. [This is in preparation for future Board Directors to be able to communicate through the information highway.]
- That Codrington Women's Institute have permission to use the WI logo for T-shirts for sale.
- That the appointment of the Unity Convener be left up to the Executive.
- That each Board Director take one Centennial Plate to each District Annual to be raffled at \$1 per ticket.
- That Board Directors take the information on the Gambia Fund, promoted by the Group for Research and Initiative for the Liberation of Africa - Toronto Chapter, to Branches for to take such action as they desire.
- That Board rescind the motion that the FWIO Executive Officer to FWIO also assume the roles of Unity Convener and International Convener.
- That by virtue of her office and according to the FWIO *Policy Manual*, the Past President be the International Convener for International Affairs.
- That FWIO hold their annual meeting in November 1998 in the Guelph area.
- That the *Home & Country* survey, as proposed by the *Home & Country* Editorial Committee, be accepted and printed in the Spring 1998 newsletter.
- That the Board approve the amalgamation as written in the following notices of motion: that York Centre, York North, York East, Peel, Dufferin South and Dufferin North be one Sub-division called West Central and that Durham West, Durham East, Victoria West, Victoria East, Ontario North and Ontario South be one Sub-division called East Central.
- That the Board accept the amalgamation of Brant North and South, Norfolk North and South and Wentworth North and South Districts.
- That FWIO forward the motion regarding the ice storm to the FWIO Resolutions Convener.
- That resolutions be presented to the FWIO Resolutions Convener and Committee in time for adequate preparation for presentation to the FWIO Provincial Board.
- That Ed Janes, Paul Janes, Anne Marie Janes and Peter Janes each be presented with a provincial Friend of WI Award in appreciation of their efforts and commitment to the ideals of FWIO.
- That the FWIO Provincial Office lease arrangements be investigated by the Executive Assistant.
- That the Board request that the FWIO President send a letter of support to Prince Edward County WI to protest the closure of hospitals and reduction of health services.