

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

By Mary Lou Norton

This year should be a busy and exciting year for Women's Institute members in Ontario. Your Program Committee has been busy preparing information which we hope you have received and are planning to act on this year.

Partnership Agreements - A Challenge

We would like to remind you of the partnership agreements made with the following four groups:

- Community Abuse Program of Rural Ontario (CAPRO)
- Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada (PMAC)
- Osteoporosis Society of Canada (OSC)
- Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)

These groups agreed to partner and work together with the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) presenting educational programs throughout Ontario. Now, we challenge you - the members, Branches, Districts and Areas - to initiate at least 100 programs in 1998 with each of these partners. Let us prove that we are good partners. Let us help inform Ontario women and communities.

Contact: For contact information on each of these projects see pages 8 and 9 of the Fall 1997 *Home & Country*.

Safe and Healthy Communities Insert

Programs, projects and resource information on the Safe and Healthy Communities theme can also be found in the gold-coloured insert that came with your Winter 1996-97 *Home & Country*. Page 3 of this insert recommended "Safety - How to Make your Communities Safe" as this year's theme.

Contact: Ask your Branch Secretary for this insert or call the FWIO Provincial Office for a copy.

Arts, Crafts and Hobbies

At the November Board Meeting, another theme - "Arts, Crafts and Hobbies" - was approved for the upcoming year. This theme was chosen for a number of reasons:

- busy hands keep the mind healthy and alert



- this theme may interest prospective members if we invite all women to join in as we learn a new craft or technique
- children, youth and adults can be taught crafts and hobbies this coming year
- each WI can take the opportunity to learn one new craft this year
- WI members have many skills and talents to offer in the area of arts, crafts and hobbies

Organize an "Arts, Crafts or Hobbies" workshop and invite people of all ages from your community to join in. Ask those who are directly involved with arts, crafts or hobbies to be a guest speaker or demonstrator at your meeting or education workshop.

Contact: Contact Mary Lou Norton for information related to this theme. She can be reached by calling (613)393-2052 or faxing (613)393-3378.

Competitions Organized

Competitions have been initiated as an additional component of Conference '98 at Loyalist College in Belleville. We encourage individuals, groups, Branches or District to enter. The competition categories include:

- Quilting - pieced, applique or mixed media (2 or more techniques)
- Quilted Clothing
- Counted Cross Stitch Picture
- Hand-crafted Doll

Deadline: All entries to be completed by July 1, 1998.

Note: Watch for details about these competitions in a January Branch mailing.

Conference '98 Workshops

The provincial Program Committee is offering a number of half and full-day, pre and post Conference '98 workshops. Also watch for details in a January Branch mailing.

Mary Lou Norton is the Program Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at RR 2, Bloomfield ON K0K 1G0, Phone: (613)393-2052, Fax: (613)393-3378. Also call your Program Coordinator or Board Director for additional assistance.

Stay Alert - Don't Get Hurt:

Howick Junior Women's Institute Farm Safety Day

The Howick JWI organized and sponsored a farm safety day at their local Community Centre. Grades 4 and 5 Howick Central School students spent the day learning about safety - on the farm and around the house. Guest speaker, Ken Kelly of Paisley, who lost a hand in a power takeoff unit, told the students how it happened and how it changed his and his family's life.

Following the guest speaker, the students attended eight different learning stations on the various topics: the Ontario Farm Safety Association on augers; Ontario Hydro on kites and wires; the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority on ice and rising water; the Wingham and Area Fire Departments on the use of fire extinguishers; LMS Equipment on avoiding tractor roll overs; the Huron County Public Health Unit on farm cleanliness; Hugh Douglas and E. Bowman on gravity box dangers; and, LMS Equipment on lawnmower safety. The message at each station was loud and clear - acting without thinking can cost you an arm, a leg or even your life.



One of the students is being instructed by Dale Edgar, Wingham and Area Fire Department volunteer, on how to properly extinguish a fire.

Submitted by Kate Tervit, Howick Junior Women's Institute.