

FWIC EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

By Donna Russett

Having attended my first FWIC Executive Meeting in October, there are several items I would like to report.

Literacy Project

In partnership with the Consumers Association of Canada (CAC) and the North West Company, FWIC is undertaking a Literacy Project. It is being funded by the Literacy Secretariat. The first segment is awareness. A committee of FWIC will work with CAC to produce a workshop kit for use in the provinces.

International Project

We have a new international project, "Novisi Weaning Industry." The Novisi Women's Development Association based in Ghana demonstrated that, through their own efforts, the cycle of poverty and dependency can be broken. They have initiated many income-generating projects which have brought improved living standards and better health to their community.

With funding of £1776 the Novisi Women's group are to purchase equipment to produce baby food, known as "Weanimix" for weaning mothers. With high infant mortality, it is important to ensure that babies and small children are given nutritious food. The weanimix has proven helpful in the past in strengthening immunity to disease among the poorest members of the Volta Region community. I hope Ontario members will participate in raising the \$4,000 required for this international project.

Triennial Convention

The triennium theme is: "2000 - Up, Up and Away - Shaping our Dreams." The Convention will be held in Brandon, Manitoba, from June 6 to 11, 2000. It will be held at Brandon University.

Bob the Beaver

Please note that Bob the Beaver retired as of Convention '97. However, FWIC will happily accept donations from WI members and Branches across Canada.

Safety Tips for Cellular Phone Users

A cellular phone in your vehicle should not be a driving distraction. Like anything else, there's a right way and a wrong way to use it. Bell Mobility suggests the following safety tips:

- make safe driving your top priority
- always buckle up, keep your hands on the steering wheel and your eyes on the road
- don't dial your phone when driving; wait for a traffic light, stop sign or pull off the road
- don't let a cellular conversation distract you from driving safely; nothing is more important when you're behind the wheel

FWIC Competitions

The Tweedsmuir Competitions for 1997-2000 have been set:

- Cultural Competition - a short story entitled "My Memories of a One-Room Schoolhouse"
- Community History Competition - a wall hanging depicting the history of your community
- Handcraft Competition - a counted cross-stitch christmas tree skirt
- Senator Cairine Wilson Competition - not yet decided

Watch for the regulations in upcoming issues of the *Home & Country*.

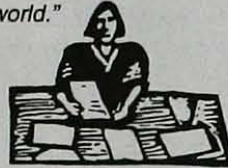
FWIC Vision Statement

We are also working on a vision statement so there is a unified message across Canada. Many of us have difficulty expressing what WI is all about when asked that question.

"A women's organization working together to improve the lives of families, communities and the world."

What is WI?

- Women Interested
- Women Informed
- Women Involved



Twining

It was decided to twin the provinces, and Ontario has been twinned with Nova Scotia. Watch for details in future issues.

Christmas at the Hoodless

A recommendation was passed at the Convention in June that FWIC request \$1 per member annually for the operation of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Christmas at the Homestead will be on December 7, 1998, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with an Irish theme.

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- never take notes while driving; record your thoughts when your vehicle is stopped or parked
- if it's not convenient to take a cellular call while driving, let it ring
- if you do take a call and conversation becomes too involved or distracting, hang up and call back when it's more convenient

Be a Cellular Samaritan

Use your cellular phone to help reduce crime, report impaired drivers, enhance public safety, report traffic accidents and save lives. 911 is a free call for cellular customers, but only use it for life threatening emergencies.

Information courtesy of Bell Mobility and O.P.P.



Pen Friends Meet at Last



Convention '97 was special for Peggy McLeod (right) in more ways than one. She was able to meet her pen friend from New Zealand, Dawn McKnight (left). Three years ago, a group from Peggy's village of Cobden attended a Cobden Connection get together in New Zealand. One of the WI members from New Zealand donated a tea towel with her name and address attached to it. The towel was brought back and given to Peggy, a Cobden, Ontario WI member. Thus began a pen pal friendship.

When Peggy's Area designed and planned the program for February 19th, 1997, she sent a copy to Dawn. Dawn wrote that she was organizing a bus load of people to come to the Convention.

They finally met, face-to-face in the media room. They hugged like long lost friends and chattered as though they had known each other for years. That is the powerful benefit of the WI - friendship!



Convention '97 Video Launched

On November 22, 1997, Kent District WI hosted the launch of the Convention '97 video. Mary Janes presented Video Producer Steve Hagarty with a Friend of Women's Institute Award for all his hard work. The videos can be purchased through the FWIO Provincial Office.