



Nearly 2,000 members and friends sat down to an international dinner at the Hamilton Armouries on Saturday evening.

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three year's activities, budgets and resolutions. For many delegates, attending their first national convention gives them a much different picture of the Women's Institutes, as they meet the very capable, energetic women who are willing to give so much time and commitment to our ideals. One such woman is the newly elected national President-Elect, Faye Mayberry of Alberta.



One of the most inspiring speakers at the Convention was Lyndsay Hackett-Pain, President of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). She detailed the many projects throughout the world, stressing that they are aimed primarily at women as "women's eyes look to the future because they are the mothers of the next generation."

ACWW takes the broader view that women play a vital role in the survival of the world's population from birth throughout the whole lifespan, as all their energies are directed towards the family.

Maybe education wasn't your prime goal in coming to Hamilton, but I can guarantee that everyone hearing the panel "One Tree - Many Branches," under moderator Hilde Morden certainly learned more about the various levels of our organization. We were also given a larger view of future community concerns by the panel "Envisioning the Future" conducted by Dr. Richard Vosburg from the University of Guelph.

By Friday everyone was excited about the anniversary celebrations at Gage Park. A morning of pouring rain and severe thunderstorms didn't stop the hundreds of delegates from boarding buses to tour various areas of Ontario within a sixty mile radius of Hamilton. The Erland Lee (Museum) Home, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, Niagara Falls, Hamilton tourist spots, Elmira and Guelph were all well described by excellent WI tour guides. Fortunately, by two o'clock the skies cleared and the huge barbecue and entertainment at Gage Park proceeded. This was the greatest opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. The parade of banners from Branches in Canada and from across the world was especially exciting.

Pomp and ceremony was again in evidence with Saturday's centennial program. The keynote speaker, Dr. Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman astronaut, is a wonderful role model for women of all ages. Encouraged from an early age to pursue her

dreams, she continues to develop and achieve new goals. Listening to her makes us determined to set goals, to do everything we can to achieve them and, then, to be prepared to try something new.

There was entertainment at all stages of the Convention. The Halton District Women's Institute "Do You Remember" program, with marvellous costumes and commentary, brought us from 1897 to 1997. Peggy Knapp's colourful pageant, with music by the Garner family, took us back through the years of WI achievements. Brenda McNeil delighted her audience with her singing. There were draws at every gathering.

Saturday night's international program with the Chaika Dancers, Nawagonia Dancers and other entertainment was a highlight of the celebrations, especially the closing when thousands of miniature flashlights illuminated the huge theatre. Choirs, dancing, competition awards and the huge displays and sale tables in the Wentworth Room meant little spare time during the week.

Sunday was a moving program when the Provincial Presidents gave their individual "Wish for the Future" followed by an Inter-faith Service with representatives from three of the great world faiths - Hilda Rosen - Jewish, Angela Valli - Muslim, and Roberta Templeman - Christian - presented the meditations. A huge rooftop picnic under a broiling sun ended the festivities.

Long live the Women's Institutes!

Lynn Lodge was the Media and Public Relations Assistant for Convention '97.



Mildred Keith, incoming FWIC President, and Charlotte Johnson, outgoing President, share a humorous moment at Convention '97.

FWIC Resolutions Passed at Convention '97

- that FWIC urge Canada Post Corporation to review the minimum requirements for Addressed Ad Mail rates, and allow non-profit and charitable organizations to utilize this type of mailing for any number of items
- that FWIC urge the Product Safety Program, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada, to set safety standards for Canadian-made or imported cooking pots
- that FWIC urge the Product Safety Program, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada, to set a minimum standard of print size on medicinal containers for both human and veterinarian purposes, regarding dosage, use and contra-indication
- that FWIC urge the Product Safety program, Health Protection Branch, Health Canada, to ensure that a complete list of ingredients is included on the labels of all imported liquid-filled products, such as paperweights, and that the Health Protection Branch have available on file further information on potentially dangerous substances, including trace elements, contained on these imported items.