

It's all in the family at Napier WI

By Debbie Pierce

Currently, the Napier Women's Institute consists of seventeen members. We own and maintain our own Hall, formerly a one-room school house. As well, it is a meeting place for other non-profit groups, such as Neighbourhood Watch and the Kerwood Baseball Association.

Over the years, we have been flexible in our meeting times. When afternoon meeting times were not good for mothers with children, we changed to mornings. As their children grew older we held evening meetings, which was also good for moms who worked away from home. We have even tried a mix of afternoon and evening meetings when necessary.

Each December we hold a potluck Christmas supper and party for members and their families, complete with a visit from Santa. We also hold a "Family Day" in March. Some of the family events we have organized include a trip to a sugar bush, swimming at an Aquatic Center in London and bowling. We invite people in the community to join us for both our December and March gatherings.

The Napier Branch is involved in a number of projects throughout the year. Each fall for the last four years, our Branch has run a food booth for the Investment Centre's Family Day. As well as beef-on-a-bun, everyone enjoys the homemade pies, cakes and desserts contributed by Napier members.

Our euchre parties begin in September. In the past we have held two card parties each month from September through April. Due to competition from other groups, however, we thought we'd try something different this year and have one large party in the fall and one in the spring.

For the past three years the Napier WI has sponsored a family dance at the Legion Hall in Strathroy in November. The hall is donated to us by Marilyn Buttery of the Investment Centre. We lost money the



Napier Branch members prepare for the Investment Centre Food Booth. Pictured from left to right are Debbie Smith, Debbie Pierce, Karen and Candice Cox, Hester Hay, Doris Meier and Ruth Derks.

first two years, but decided to hold it last year as a community service because those who did attend had such a great time. To our surprise, the crowd increased and we made a profit. The money was donated to The Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy, a shelter for abused women and their families.

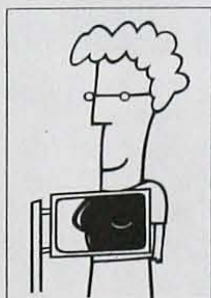
Five years ago we held a pork barbecue at our Hall. It proved to be a huge undertaking for a group of our size so we invited the Napier Masons to work with us. For the last three years we have worked in conjunction with the Masons to host a beef barbecue. And the crowds keep coming!

The Napier Branch supports a number of causes: cash donations to the FWIO Headquarters Fund; cash and article donations to the Children's Hospital in London; door prizes are provided for the Metcalfe Township Sports Day and Picnic each August; prize money for 4-H exhibitors at the Strathroy Fall Fair; cash and article donations for the Women's Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy; and, cash donations to the Kerwood Baseball Association and the Strathroy Hospital. Members also give freely of their time to help several local groups.

Debbie Pierce is the Public Relations Officer, Napier WI, Middlesex West.

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Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP)



The Ontario Breast Screening Program has twenty-eight screening sites in operation to screen approximately 100,000 women during 1997-1998. These sites are located in Belleville, Bracebridge, Cambridge, Chatham, Guelph, Hamilton, Kingston, Listowel, London, Ottawa, Owen Sound, Pembroke, Peterborough, Renfrew, Sarnia, Sault Ste. Marie, Sturgeon Falls, Sudbury, Timmins, Metropolitan Toronto (6 sites), Trenton and Windsor. A mobile van serves Northwestern Ontario.

The OBSP provides mammography, clini-

cal breast examinations, instruction in breast self-examination and recall to screening in two years. Women can self-refer or be referred by their physician. The OBSP has compared itself against published breast screening standards and meets or surpasses these standards. All sites must obtain the Canadian Association of Radiologists Mammography Accreditation within one year of affiliating with the OBSP.

The OBSP is pleased to be partnered with the FWIO in the recruitment of women for breast screening. In order to be eligible, women must be Ontario residents aged 50 and over, who do not have symptoms of breast disease and have not had breast cancer. You can assist in a number of ways:

- suggesting to your relatives and friends that they go to an OBSP centre for screening;
- ensuring the availability of OBSP materials in various locations throughout your community; and,

- making presentations to women's groups.

Contact: If you are interested in taking part in these activities, phone any of the OBSP centres to find out how to get involved. The OBSP toll free number is 1-800-668-9304. This number can also be used to make an appointment.

The Program and the Safe and Healthy Communities Committees, along with the FWIO Executive and Board of Directors, are enthusiastic that these programs will be a success in Ontario. As your membership forms partnerships with other community groups to produce these educational workshops and program materials, the profile of the Women's Institute can only be enhanced.

For further details on any of the above, please contact Mary Lou Norton, FWIO Program Coordinator, at RR 2, Bloomfield ON K0K 1G0, Phone: (613)393-2052, Fax: (613)393-3378.