

# THE CHAIR CHALLENGE

Country Heritage Experience (the former Ontario Agricultural Museum, now a non-profit, private group) seeks the continued support of the Women's Institutes. They are requesting a donation of \$60 from your Branch for a reproduction chair, which will complete an interactive living history centre in Mountview Hall.

Mountview Hall is now dedicated to presenting the evolution of the Women's Institute and food history. It will be showcased as a 1928 community hall supported by the Women's Institute; and it will demonstrate courses from that era.

Country Heritage Experience invites you to become part of this experience through the Chair Challenge! A \$60 donation from your Branch will:

- purchase one of thirty reproduction 1920s chairs, necessary to complete Mountview Hall
- provide your Branch with a "Chair Challenge Certificate" in recognition of your contribution to the museum
- be publicly recognized within Mountview Hall

Country Heritage Experience is open from May 17 through to Thanksgiving, Wednesdays through Sundays, plus holidays.

All donations should be payable to Country Heritage Experience, Box 38, Milton ON L9T 2Y3. For more information call (905)878-8151.

## All About Being On Board

### Duties of Provincial Board Directors

As outlined in the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) *Handbook*, the duties of a Provincial Board Director are as follows:

- to attend all sessions of the meetings held by the Provincial Board, with travelling and living expenses paid by FWIO;
- to attend the District Annuals in your Subdivision to:
  - present a summary of Women's Institute activities and the deliberations of the Provincial Board, and,
  - to ratify the District Directors (or their Alternates);
- to preside at the elections at District Annuals, except in her own District;
- to send a report of the District Annuals in their Subdivision to the Provincial Office;
- to have the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Districts in her Subdivision;
- to have travelling and living expenses paid by the FWIO when attending District Annuals in her own Subdivision, or meetings as requested by the Provincial President;
- to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Area of which her Subdivision is a part;
- to attend all sessions of the Area Convention as the elected delegate from her District; and,
- to communicate at a Subdivision meeting or in some other way the information from Board.

When asked what it was like attending Provincial Board, the following First and Second Year Board Directors had this to say:

*"Attending Board was overwhelming, but very interesting. I learned a lot. It wasn't as intimidating the second time around, at the second Board meeting. I recommend that you get all your papers in order prior to each meeting."*

Willia Johnston, First Year Board Director, Subdivision 22.

*"The biggest revelation to me at Board was the fact that we are now responsible for the organization and attracting new members. You really learn from each other. I was so impressed with the dedication and commitment to their work."*

Shirley Gleadall, First Year Board Director, Subdivision 13.

*"You've got to know your Branches better, get better acquainted with your local Branches and Districts. Being a Board Director involves more time than I was ever led to believe. It doesn't just involve attending Board, but involves some follow-up work too."*

Leona Stubbings, Second Year Board Director, Subdivision 15.

*"As a Board Director you really need to know what's happening with government regulations. We are passing resolutions, and we don't really have an understanding of it or we don't know all the facts. We rely on people sitting on committees to give us the information we need to make decisions."*

Laurena Ulrick, Second Year Board Director, Subdivision 27.



By Cindy Lockhart

This is the year to celebrate, and what better way to help our celebrations along than by starting a new Branch.

On Saturday, April 12, 1997, with eight charter members, the West Shore Centennial Women's Institute Branch was formed at Cumberland Beach

(near Orillia). Displays on the Women's Institute, Safe and Healthy Communities, Being a Board Director and Membership were all set up for viewing.

Elections were held and the new officers were sworn in by Simcoe East District President, Glenys Hepinstall. In attendance were Provincial Board Directors Shirley Gleadall (Subdivision 13) and Betty Veitch (Subdivision 14), Provincial Membership Coordinator Lorna McGrath, Simcoe Area President Barbara Ann Cook, Simcoe East District Second Vice President Carol Doolittle, past Board Directors May Brown and Elsie Perry, and Hampshire-Ardrea WI Secretary Dorothy Lockrey.

Charter Members are Jeanette Barlow, Irene Groome, Ethel Mallett, Wilma Carter, Diane Robinson, Jennifer Diceman, Sherry Short and Susan Elliott. Congratulations ladies!

It was a great pleasure for me to help the members in the organization of this Branch. Remember ladies,



no matter where you are, we are all part of a team that needs to grow and be strong in order for this great organization to stay alive.

Cindy Lockhart is the Membership Organizer for Simcoe Area.