



From the Heart

By Marg Harris

A day of celebration remembered

February 19 was a great day of friendship and celebration. How did you celebrate?

I spoke on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for fifteen minutes with England. I accepted a plaque from Ken Kelly at the February Board meeting of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Then, I was pleased to go to the Royal York to speak to the Homecraft Division of the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies Convention. That evening, Bud and I attended dinner with the Mount Brydges WI.

tute members and am grateful to you. To say a personal thank you for what you have done for the Women's Institute is my reason for this letter addressed directly to you.

Sincerely,
Marg Harris

Marg Harris is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at RR 3, Kerwood ON N0M 2B0, (519)247-3695.

Helen Duffield Retires

Many orders were capably handled over the last decade by Helen Duffield, who recently retired as FWIO's Supplies Person. Her willingness to act for the Women's Institutes' best interest came from her heart. Helen's knowledge of FWIO is enormous. Thank you, Helen, from the WI membership.

With respect, best wishes to you, and good health.

Marg Harris

International Video Conference to Celebrate Anniversary

On February 19, 1997, four Ontario Women's Institute members were part of an extraordinary centennial celebration. They were linked with WI members from England, South Africa and New Zealand in a video teleconference initiated by the Hampshire County Federation Women's Institutes and supported by International Business Machines (IBM) in England.

FWIC President Charlotte Johnson, ACWW Area President for Canada Peggy Knapp, Erland Lee (Museum) Home Chair Pauline Lindsay and Adelaide Hoodless Committee representative Pat Ozsvari represented the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes of England, Wales and the Channel Islands filled two tiers in the studio audience.

In England, the focus is now on physical fitness for health to counteract problems, such as osteoporosis and heart disease. Aerobics and walking exercises are some of the national activities being planned.

South Africa is preparing for the ACWW Triennial Conference from April 1 to 7, 1998, at the University of Pretoria. The South African WI have just recently opened the first museum of embroidery and needlework in Africa.

From New Zealand came concerns about rural revitalization. The members are particularly interested in the sessions of the panel "Envisioning the Future" at Convention '97 in Hamilton. These sessions include "Sustaining Rural Communities", "The Future of Organizations" and "Financial Management of Personal and Organizational Resources."

The Canadian representatives spoke of the centennial celebrations, the upcoming convention and current happenings at the two museums.

A "round the world" teleconference was indeed a unique method of celebrating the centennial of the foundation of the first Women's Institute!

Submitted by Mary Janes, FWIO PRO.

Dear Women's Institute Branch Member:

Have you noticed that I have not sent a President's letter to the Branches after each Board meeting? It has been the practice in the past. *Home & Country* is our communications vehicle. The facts from FWIO should come directly to your home through it. The cost of a Branch mailing exceeds \$1,000, three times a year.

Peggy Knapp wrote in 1995 that she would have liked a letter or brochure from FWIO at least once a year. It would be like a Branch program, only with the names, addresses and phone numbers of FWIO, FWIC and ACWW Officers and Directors; it would also include dates of events and special projects (etc.). I would like to use the money spent on President's letters and delegate it to an annual letter or brochure from FWIO. What do you think?



The second century of the Women's Institute has begun! Now, we move on. Our organization - proud and humble, gracious and bold, tenacious and adventurous, diligent and daring, caring and giving - is looking hard at itself.

In the past three years the Restructuring Committee, and many Branches, have given much thought to the organization's future. For effective change, priorities must be considered carefully. The more responsible decisions made, the more solid the future of the Women's Institutes will be. Solemnly and seriously, your Provincial Board will ponder these decisions, as a team at March Board. Difficult decisions will have to be made for what is deemed best for FWIO.

Our future requires a rekindled vision. Inspiration and encouragement come through our own members. There is a great need and opportunity for the Women's Institute in their next 100 years. Many accomplishments and achievements are unlisted, some are envisioned, and some are still to be articulated. As members, we hold the future of the Women's Institute in our own hands.

I respect and appreciate all Women's Insti-