

## For Home and Country — launched across the province



Since the launch of *For Home and Country: The Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario*, several Branches have donated copies to their local libraries and historical societies. Linda Ambrose (seated), Assistant Professor of History at Laurentian University and author of the book, is pictured signing copies at the book launch which took place last fall. Standing from left to right are Jane Croft - Chair, History Book Committee, Peggy Knapp - ACWW Area President for Canada and Marg Harris - FWIO President.

Photo courtesy of Eve Martin, Silverwood WI, Halton District.



The Bervie Branch also helped to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute by presenting a copy of *For Home and Country* to the Kincardine Library. From left to right are Emily Bushell - President, Ann Munn - Librarian and Virene Thompson - Secretary.

Submitted by Margaret Harkness, PRO, Bervie WI, Bruce South.



Queen Elizabeth WI members Carol Peterson (far left), Thelma Allen (second from left) and Jean Whitfield (far right) are pictured presenting *For Home and Country* to Mary Bockman, Librarian at the Thessalon Township Union Public Library.

Submitted by Thelma Allen, President, Queen Elizabeth WI, Algoma East.



Members of the Waldemar Women's Institute donated *For Home and Country* to the Grand Valley Library. Pictured above from left to right in the back row are Berva Buttery, Wadell Black and Mabel Gardner. In the front row from left to right are Anne McPherson, Louise Cornelius - Branch President, Leah Mitchell - Grand Valley Library representative, and Willie McGuire.

Photo courtesy of Mike Maloney, Photographer, Grand Valley.  
Submitted by Louise Cornelius, President, Waldemar WI, Dufferin South.

## Teen Esteem Program Started in Listowel

By Kate Tervit

In September of 1995, members of the Maple Keys Junior Women's Institute near Listowel attended the Safe and Healthy Communities Seminar and learned about a program for adolescent girls Grades 6 to 8 that had been implemented in Brantford, Ontario. The program, coordinated by Anne Bernhardt, was called Teen Esteem, The Lunch Bunch.

Teen Esteem is a community-based program organized to boost self-esteem and career awareness. It consists of a series of six noon-hour workshops in the school implemented by volunteers. Maple Keys members were intrigued by the idea and purchased a program manual from the Brantford organization. The manual outlined the details of the program, including agendas and suggestions for workshops.

Maple Keys members approached other groups in the Listowel area - Big Sisters, Kinettes and Optimists - for additional volunteers. The local school board gave permission to implement the program. A central committee was established and the individual workshop topics were distributed to the volunteers who wished to become workshop leaders.

These leaders gathered other women volunteers together who could participate in the fun, fast-paced workshops. Representatives from self-employed, business and traditional and non-traditional sectors of the work force were approached.

The result has been a group of enthusiastic women who care about the future of young women. They have worked together to implement the Teen Esteem program in Listowel, beginning in March and April of 1997.

This is just another example of networking in our communities to ensure a "Safe and Healthy Community" for future generations.

Kate Tervit is a member of the Maple Keys Junior WI.