



# From the Heart

By Marg Harris

**I**t did not look at all like the place I had booked! The site of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Annual Board Meeting, the Four Points Hotel in Kitchener, began redecorating the day before we arrived. There was general confusion: the varnish aroma was strong! Board Directors laughed and got to business immediately.

As President, I spent 211 days away and 96 days at home on Women's Institute work. It has been a heavy year. (Thank you, Bud, for your patience.) Thank you, Executive and Board, for the time, energy, wisdom, knowledge and dedication you have given.

Changes and challenges abound in this organization of ours.

FWIO needs to be seen and known as a modern, vital, vibrant and professional organization. FWIO financial matters are being identified and understood by our members. Goals and objectives, in a business sense, are being realized. We ask good questions and give answers based on the courage of our convictions. Credit goes to those determined members who see the worth of our organization and are resolved that it receive their best effort. Provincially, FWIO must provide the nurturing.

As we partake of our common program on February 19th, let us all be mindful of our opportunity and our obligation. Branch level is where it all began and continues to happen. Let us smile and get down to the business necessary to face the turn of the century.

Then, together, let us take on the next 100 years!

## The Past, the Present and into the Future

*What were the thoughts and needs and dreams of those women who gathered at Squires' Hall in Stoney Creek, Ontario, on February 19, 1997, where the Women's Institute (WI) began?*

*It has been 100 years since they met. But we share their dreams today.*

*Women's Institutes face this new century with the optimism, conviction and courage of our predecessors. We too are pioneers as we face the future, straight forward and unafraid.*

*Happy Birthday,  
Women's Institute!!*

*Marg*

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The Premier of Ontario

## Greetings from the Premier

**Women's Institute  
100th Anniversary**

February 19, 1997

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, I'm pleased to congratulate the Women's Institute on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The Women's Institute provides many opportunities for learning, leadership, friendship, travel and involvement in a variety of issues and interests. I commend the vital role played by each of your members in helping to enrich the lives of the citizens of our province. Your accomplishments are a result of hard work and dedication.

Please accept my best wishes for success in all your future projects.

The Honourable Michael D. Harris  
Premier of Ontario

## A Fair Market Day

The Oliphant Women's Institute Country Market, pictured below, began over twelve years ago. Today, it is a showcase for local and area artisans. Home baking and preserves and fresh fruits and vegetables are also for sale. The Market is open from May through to September on the grounds of the Oliphant WI Community Hall.

Submitted by Megan Ouder Kirk, Public Relations Officer, Bruce North District.

