Waterloo North District WI

This District presented the Helena Feasby Award to Brent Bloch of Elmira. The Waterloo North Memorial Award was presented to two students: Aaron Coe of Winterbourne and Christopher Burt of Bloomingdale.

York Road WI, Northumberland East

York Road members recounted some of their recent activities: initiating the sending of hygiene kits to Bosnian families living in bombed-out living quarters; sending similar kits to women's crisis centres in Cobourg and Belleville; sending letters of concern before the Referendum to the 72 WI Branches in Quebec expressing their hopes that Canada will stay together; a pot luck Christmas supper and auction with the proceeds going to Smithfield Christmas baskets and women's crisis centres.

Shetland WI, Lambton South

This group gave donations to the Dawn-Euphemia 4-H Calf Club to help purchase trophies and to the local library's children's programs. Each member brought a child's gift to the December meeting to give to the Cloverleaf Nursery for physically and mentally challenged children. Boxes of cookies were also packed for local shut-ins or those confined to nursing homes and hospitals.

Thornhill WI, York East

Violet Drew, a long-time member of this Branch grew the Women's Institute rose in her garden last summer. At the July Flower and Vegetable Show of the Thornhill Garden and Horticultural Society, she exhibited a bloom in the grandiflora class, which won third prize out of eight entries.

An Oasis in a Sea of Mud

Many members of the Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Institutes worked in a variety of ways at the 1996 International Plowing Match, from modelling in the Fashion Tent to assisting in the Food Tent. In spite of the rain and mud, most events went on as scheduled and difficulties were overcome with good humour and rubber boots!

The first tent to have coffee and muffins available each morning was organized and staffed by Haldimand West and East District members. It became known as the "Pie Tent," offering home-made pies as part of their menu. It was quite a trick for the various Branches to get their thirty pies delivered each morning and afternoon through the mud. But, they all managed to find a way, from four-wheelers to hay wagons to a manure spreader!

Over 500 packages of breast care information, provided by the County Health Unit, were also distributed as part of the Women's Institutes "Safe and Healthy Community" focus.

Submitted by Audrey Ricker (pictured left), Public Relations Officer, Haldimand East District.

The Horse Paid Off ▶

The Stardale Branch raffled a wooden rocking horse. The proceeds of $1,000 were sent to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. The Day Surgery Department purchased two badly needed strollers for children awaiting their surgery. Pictured standing from left to right are members Betty Harvey, Margaret Lester, Margaret Wyss (Branch President), Lyla Coombes, Margaret Newton and Mary Hatz (Vice-President). Kneeling in the front is Merle Leduc (far right). The two hospital staff members pictured made them feel most welcome.

Submitted by Margaret Wyss, President, Stardale WI, Prescott District.

Digging in for WI

Ten members of the Kemptville Women's Institute were on hand last year for the planting of a Women's Institute Rose. The rose bush, developed in honour of the 100th anniversary of the WI, was placed by the community's Centennial Cairn and plaque. Pictured above from left to right are Florence Fnukal (kneeling), Erma Bennett, Josie Seguin, Phyllis Willis, Marion Stinson, Betty Lapp, Vera Folkard, Millie Somerville, Mary Bowrin and Margeret McIntosh (seated).   Photo courtesy of J. Brownlee, Advance Photo.

Submitted by Marina Gilmer, Public Relations Officer, Kemptville WI, Grenville District.

Electrifying Tour

The Bonnechere Valley Women's Institute of South Renfrew District recently toured Ontario Hydro's Chepeux Generating Station. Guide, Ted Hoppin, presented the women with hard hats before the tour began.

Submitted by Jean Woods, Secretary, Bonnechere Valley WI, South Renfrew District.