

## AUGUST BOARD REPORT:

# Organizational Changes for the Future

By Mary Janes

The August Provincial Board meeting was held at Crieff Hills Community and Conference Centre, after a picnic at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Inclement weather forced the Hoodless Committee to serve the delicious meal in the living room and dining room of the Homestead, rather than in the picnic shelter. What a pleasure to eat in the surroundings in which Adelaide Hunter grew up. Curator Sue Doiron and her staff then guided the Board members through the residence. Several Board Directors saw for the first time the new booklet produced jointly by the Hoodless and the Lee Committees, which gives background information about the co-founders of the Women's Institutes and the two historic homes maintained by the WI.

After an enjoyable social evening, all Board Directors were ready for the discussions, decisions and deliberations of the next two days.

### Preparing for the Second Century of FWIO

The attention of all those who attended the August Board meeting was focused on the future direction of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). President-Elect Arthena Hecker facilitated discussions about the vision, the goals and priorities of the organization. The purpose of these discussions was to provide the information needed to develop a business plan for the FWIO, which will complement a new financial and marketing plan. This planning process was initiated in 1987 when a strategic plan for the organization was first developed.

### FWIO Tartan

President Marg Harris presented the new Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Tartan and introduced its designer Nelda Morrison. Nelda has been an Institute member since 1957; she is presently a member of South Macaulay WI in the Bracebridge area. She decided in 1994 that she would like to create a tartan as a gift to the Women's Institutes in return for all that she has gained from leadership and 4-H courses.

The tartan is composed of six colours: white representing the winter snow and clouds above; gold portraying the grain that has sustained Ontario families over the years;

cornflower blue representing flowers; green depicting the verdure of Ontario; red symbolizing Ontario fruits; and, black denoting the trail of the black walnut that led pioneers to Ontario.

### Scholarship Report

The 90th Anniversary Educational Award winner is Cindy Ashton of Hampton, Ontario. She is pursuing a diploma in Business Administration from Durham College. Brenda Lee Coleman of Belmont has won the Helen M. McKercher Scholarship; she is working towards a Master of Science degree in Epidemiology.

Judith Kalunda Mutooni is the winner of the FWIO International Scholarship. Judith is working towards a Master's degree in Marketing Management at the University of Guelph. After her studies are completed, she hopes to return to her native Kenya to improve the position of women in Kenyan society by increasing their awareness of women's rights and by teaching them how to influence policy makers. Conference '96 participants had the opportunity to meet Judith in Ridgetown.

### Restructuring Committee Report

Several recommendations presented by the Restructuring Committee were accepted. The term for Board Directors will be three years, with one third changing every year. Several Board Directors are willing to serve for a third year now, so this process will start in November, 1996.

Board meetings will move around the province, to give Board Directors and Executive more opportunities to meet with members. The FWIO Annual meeting will be open for the elections, financial reports and committee reports. Meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, replacing the hard to obtain Bourinot's Rules of Order. Plans will be made for self-sustaining regional leadership conferences and workshops.

Another change at the provincial level is to include the position of Resolutions Convener on the Executive Committee. There will be more changes coming as FWIO prepares for the future.

### Changes in the FWIO Office

Staff changes were reported in the Summer issue of *Home & Country*. As a result of those

changes there have been revisions in the job descriptions of FWIO office staff. The positions of Executive Assistant, Clerk-Typist and Bookkeeper are now being filled on a temporary basis. They will be filled on a permanent basis by the Board after the November meeting. By that time the required hours of work will be determined, along with any changes that may still be forthcoming.

Daily office hours are now from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a new loan library for both videos and books through the office. The Supply Order Form has been updated. These are only a few of the changes being made to reinforce the image of the Women's Institute as a modern organization in tune with today and ready for tomorrow.

### Public Relations Initiatives

FWIO is on the Internet at two locations. The addresses are:

<http://www.tdg.ca/ontag/fwio>

<http://www.xcelco.on.ca/~edjanes>

Plans are being made to increase the amount of information available through the avenue provided for us by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Information about FWIO resolutions and history, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and Associated Country Women of the World is available here. Tweedsmuir Curator Marcie Johnston announced that there is an initiative now being undertaken on the Internet called *History, Heritage and Progress* which will include Tweedsmuir History information.

Provincial Board Directors will be reporting many more happenings from the August Board meeting at their Area Conventions this fall. As they left for their homes, President Marg Harris reminded everyone:

*A good thing to remember,*

*A better thing to do,*

*Work with the construction gang,*

*Not with the wrecking crew!*



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