

Cross Country Calendar

Brant District WI

The Brant District Women's Institute Education Committee recently invited women in their communities to participate in a day of learning. Four guests - a lawyer, a pharmacist, a banker and a funeral director - all women, were asked to talk about their work and then field questions from the audience. The cost of the workshop was minimal as the hall was free, the guests came at no cost and the participants brought a bag lunch.

Highgate WI, Kent East

What started out as an Environment Committee at the Kintyre Presbyterian Church in 1985 has expanded into the communities of Highgate and, most recently, Ridgetown. The Highgate WI, under the leadership of Carolyn Smith, started a fine paper collection program in 1992. After moving to Ridgetown, Carolyn and her husband, John, started a collection program in 1994 at the United Church. The Highgate Branch holds garage sales, plants trees, collects magazines and fine paper, uses cloth napkins at all meetings, encourages members to bring their own dishes, and reports regularly about household hazardous waste and other environmental issues.

Simcoe Area WI

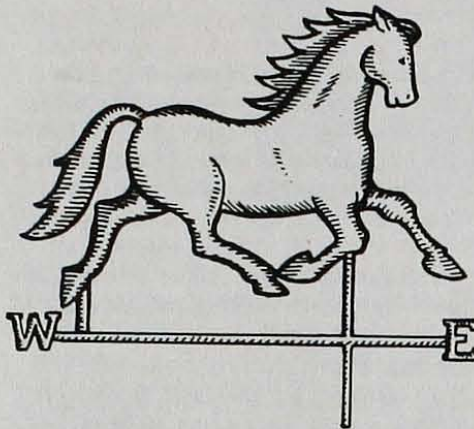
Simcoe Area members attended an all-day "Celestial Celebration" Workshop in Elmvale. Stained glass, paper ribbon, ceramic and cotton doily angels were expertly crafted by the 88 participants. Embossed gift tags were also produced. Sixty members attended a second workshop the following week.

Strabane WI, Wentworth North

Joan DeNew, a member of the Hamilton Branch of the United Nations (UN), was invited to speak to this group last November in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the UN. After each member responded to how they might, in their own small way, contribute to international understanding, Joan led the group through a United Nations game called "Joining, Helping, Connecting Globally." She also showed a video entitled "Hope for Harmony," featuring Dr. Robert Mueller, Assistant Secretary General to the United Nations from 1986 to 1989.

Howick JWI

This Branch gathered last fall to learn about a number of topics: Education in the '90s, Coping with Aging Parents and Palliative Care and the ACWW Triennial. They started the new year touring local industry in North Huron County.



Perth Centre District WI

Winnie Trachsel, Perth Centre District President and Agri-Food Advocate for Perth County, was invited by her daughter, who attends Queen's University, to help her put on an Ontario Agri-Food Education (OAFE) Workshop. The workshops focused on resources, hands-on-activities and the latest educational materials from the agri-food sector that are available to teachers. The mother and daughter team were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the Bachelor of Education students who participated.

Wilton WI, Lennox-Addington

This Branch invited members of the Lady Nelson Rebekah Lodge to perform a truly hilarious skit; in fact, it was so funny that tears of laughter streamed down President Lucille Burt's face. Following the skit, a talented local, Christine Hunter, played the guitar and sang some of her own compositions, and Wilton member, Jean Shea, played the piano.

Blythe WI, Victoria East

This group recently entertained two neighbouring Branches. A Stephen Leacock skit, "How They Kept Mother's Day," was presented to the Bury's Green and Fenelon Falls Institutes. The humorous presentation performed by this group is indicative that members, while growing older, are still young in spirit!

Hastings JWI

This group has been on the move to Stoney Creek to visit the Erland Lee (Museum) Home. In October, member Ruth McCurdy demonstrated her culinary talents that had everyone's mouth watering. The Christmas season brought a cookie exchange, food bank donations and a presentation of "The Magic of Christmas." A donation of \$100 was made to the FWIO Headquarters Fund.

WOLFE ISLAND WI EXPERIENCES A "JANUARY THAW"



The cooperative efforts of members of this Branch raised \$1200 for a new emergency service building on Wolfe Island. The money was raised from the raffle of three pieces of handiwork: "Patches and Posies" Quilt, a knitted afghan and four quilted place mats. "January Thaw" created another flurry of quilting sessions for Wolfe Island members. The quilt is to be used as a community project raffle prize this year. The sessions were open to all interested quilters in the community. Submitted by Joan O'Shea, PRO, Wolfe Island WI, Frontenac District.