



From the Heart

By
Marg
Harris

Thank you for the welcome, encouragement, warm wishes and support as I become your Provincial President. I offer the same to all new Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) officers - Arthena, Mary Lou, Wilma, Ann and Lorna - and Board Directors.

I would like to extend special appreciation to Past Presidents Donna Russett and Marg Eberle for their guidance and counsel (in the past and in the future!). Their enthusiasm for and dedication and contributions to the Women's Institutes cannot be measured. Nor can thanks for all they have done be adequately expressed by all of us who have learned so much from them. These statements are true of so many of our members.

It has been a challenging and invigorating year. A year of joy, accomplishments and achievements. I look forward to representing you in many ways. But I feel a heavy sense of duty knowing that I am accountable to each one of you. As Branch members, I know that you are the most important people in our whole structure!

I come to you with a sense of curiosity, welcoming the unexpected. I am willing to take chances and tackle challenges. I look forward to being involved with and am passionate about the FWIO.

As your President, my personal goals are numerous:

- to provide leadership with a clear purpose and a vision;
- to portray the FWIO in a positive, professional manner;
- to represent FWIO locally and provincially;
- to instill confidence as we go forward in 1996 and 1997;
- to listen to members;
- to motivate and encourage and laugh and enjoy;
- to be realistic and credible; and,
- to be fiscally responsible.

My vision is that the Women's Institute will continue as part of the value system on which a household is built and thrives. Our organization has an extraordinary record of achievement. Through the organization's social and learning functions, relationships are created and strengthened. The Women's Institute enhances the quality of life for its members, their families, their communities and their country. We will witness this time and time again over the next several years as we work towards "Safe and Healthy Communities."

While Executive and Committees can bring forth recommendations to be discussed and questioned at Board meetings, only the Board Directors have a vote. As your elected representatives, Board Directors are the decision makers on behalf of all members of the FWIO. Open the lines of communication with them; relay your wants and needs as members.

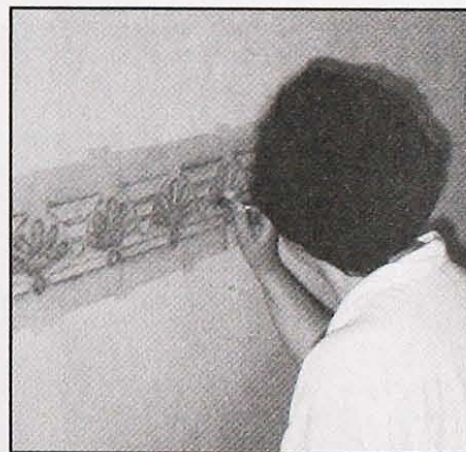
From the strength of our achievements, and as we work towards meeting our future needs, we must provide our members with a confidence born from their participation in and vision of the Women's Institute. Decisions about the future of our organization need to be made; decisions that all members are a part of. What we want and need as an organization is only available through the expertise of our members.

There is another great opportunity for each of you, as members, to have direct input into the future of the Women's Institute. Draw on your expertise and years of experience and document your vision of the WI and how it might be implemented. Then, send it to any member of the Restructuring Committee, whose addresses are listed on page 16 of the 1995 Fall issue of the *Home & Country*.

We know that through their Women's Institute work members have accomplished things they could not do alone. To provide the potential for each member to realize their dream is our greatest worth as an organization. And if we provide a nurturing environment, we can continue as a strong and dynamic group. I believe these are the basic premises on which our organization can build a prosperous future.

Marg Harris is the newly elected President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at RR 3, Kerwood ON N0M 2B0, (519)247-3695.

A Brush with History



Stenciling the kitchen walls was included in the final phases of redecorating the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Renovations have been ongoing since 1991 in preparation for the 1997 Centennial. Curator, Sue Doiron, is pictured stenciling the simple geometric shapes on the white kitchen walls. Before painting began, Sue prepared the walls by marking the middle point with the help of a plumb line. Not an easy task in an older home with few, if any, square corners!

Submitted by Shanna Balazs, Assistant Curator, Summer, 1995.

1995 Scholarship Winners

Regional Scholarships:

Eastern - Sixtieth Anniversary

- Glen Briscoe (from near Renfrew)

Southern - Dorothy Fitcher

- Carrie Racher (from near Petrolia)

Northern - Florence P. Eadie

- Bryan Koivisto (from near Desbarats)

Western - Hoodless-Lee

- Sarah Cressman (from near Ayr)

Macdonald College Entrance Awards

- Ainsley Brown
- Stephanie Ven

90th Anniversary Educational Awards

- Southern - Norma Celia Bice (of Ilderton)
- Northern - Gwendoline Ann Hand (of Thunder Bay)

Helen M. McKercher Scholarship

- Valerie Powell of Guelph

Junior Women's Institute Scholarship

- Barbara Forder of Welland, Wainfleet WI