

FWIO 1995 Annual Meeting Summary

By Mary Janes

The enthusiasm, involvement and vitality of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) Board Directors was evident at the recent annual meeting, from the first dinner where each one told about herself, until the last session of the "Safe and Healthy Communities" Seminar. The varied backgrounds of the Board Directors reflect the variety of work done in the local Branches. Their involvement in the community and in WI work indicates a rosy future for the Women's Institutes in Ontario.

Much discussion took place about the knitted squares for Zambia. This project has become extremely popular in the province.

The Public Relations Officer introduced the new "image" of FWIO to reflect the vitality of its members. The package includes new letterhead, with an updated version of the logo, business cards and presentation folders. Also available are revised "Calling All Women" pamphlets focusing on "Safe and Healthy Communities," a new Fact Sheet suitable for giving to prospective sponsors, and a revised brochure - "The Biggest Small Investment You Can Make" - directed to people interested in becoming contributing members. All three exhibit boards, which are available through David Doyle at the OMAFRA office in Guelph, were on display.

Luncheon speaker Ken Knox, Deputy Minister with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), spoke about the new economy where there are fewer resources to meet the same or greater needs. He foresees more dependency on the Women's Institutes for rural community development.

Knox's job is to manage the budget cuts by deciding which are the critical functions of the Ministry. OMAFRA has been dealing with budget cuts for several years. In the last five years, the Ministry's budget was reduced by 30 per cent. The new cuts forecast in the



Pictured above is the FWIO Executive. Standing from left to right are Wilma Carter - Western Regional Vice-President, Arthena Hecker - President-Elect, Marg Harris - President, Donna Russett - Past President and Ann McDougall - Eastern Regional Vice-President. Seated in the front row are Mary Janes (left) - Public Relations Officer, Chris Green (centre) - Executive Secretary and Mary Lou Norton (right) - Program Coordinator.

economic statement of November 29 indicate further restructuring. The fact that OMAFRA benefits the rural community, farmers and the food industry does not decide if the Ministry should continue its present course.

At the annual meeting, Board Directors affirmed that the Health Committee should work with the Federation of Agriculture and its partners concerning rural health care issues. The Health Committee plans to meet with all the ministries involved, directly and indirectly, in health care. Board Directors also agreed to support the Ontario Hospital Association's resolution concerning recruitment, retention and reimbursement of physicians in rural Ontario.

Other highlights of the annual meeting are reported throughout the *Home & Country*.

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The Second Year Board Directors, from left to right in the back row, are Wilma Carter, Mary Inglis, Helen White, Margaret Richardson, Peggy Roger, Victoria Braeker, Mary Elmhirst, Marie McVety, Mary Nicklas, Aleta Campbell and Jean Genter. Seated in the front row, from left to right, are Ann McDougall, Elsie Ball, Sue Harris, Margaret Armstrong, Donna McGuire, Joe Ann Lane and Phyllis Laughton.



The First Year Board Directors, from left to right in the back row, are Laurena Ulrick, Leona Stubbings, Dianne Orr, Anne Dyas, Shirley Gsonto, Mary Vezeau, Norma Hanes, Victoria Hargraves (Alternate, Subdivision 7) and Winnifred Mann. Seated in the front row, from left to right, are Eda Van der Linden, Janet Ellenberger, Marie Thompson, Alta Vance, Edith Lazaruk, Anna Hodge and Doris Lindsay.