

"Safe and Healthy Communities"

- Program Theme, 1996-1997

By Glenna Smith

In November of 1995, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) launched a new focus - "Safe and Healthy Communities." This will be the WI focus for the next five to seven years. It is our hope that every member will become involved in some way to make their own community a safer and healthier place to live.

Since the first Branch was formed in 1897, the Women's Institute has focused on safety and health issues in the home and in the community. As outlined in our newly revised "Calling All Women" pamphlet, the Women's Institutes are still working for safe and healthy communities by:

- lobbying for safer communities;
- promoting good family life skills;
- developing acceptable community standards;
- encouraging responsible citizens;
- revitalizing community spirit; and,
- working toward a healthy physical and mental environment.

In order to address these concerns, FWIO is working with the assistance and expertise of other community leaders and organizations with similar goals and objectives. In their work towards safe and healthy communities, the Institute offers a challenging opportunity for everyone to work together!

Of the 834 Branches in Ontario, it is hoped that at least 400 will be involved in a specific project by 1997, or that at least 100 District projects are initiated. The provincial Executive and Board of Directors look forward to hearing about your work. Make sure you inform the Provincial Office so they can tell others.

Consider the following resources when planning your upcoming programs and as you work towards "Safe and Healthy Communities." Contact the following individuals if you would like more information about the groups who participated at the "Safe and Healthy Communities" Seminar held on November 24 and 25:

■ Katherine Pigott, Community Animator

- Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition
- 415 Yonge St., Suite 1202
- Toronto ON M5B 3E7
- Phone: 1-800-766-3418
- As a Community Animator she is available to assist groups with planning safe and healthy community projects.

■ Rural Community Advisors

- **Contact:** The nearest Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Office
- Rural Community Advisors are available to help define what projects might be implemented and how to get them started.

■ Graham Stewart, Executive Director

- The John Howard Society of Ontario
- 771 Montreal St.
- Kingston ON K7K 3J4
- Phone: (613)542-7547
- Mr. Stewart discussed the 1989 Nesbitt Report, entitled *Safer Communities: A National Strategy for Crime Prevention*, that explains why there is so much crime and what needs to be done about it.

■ Groups Against Pornography

- Box 20143
- 3310 Portage Ave.
- Winnipeg MB R3K 2E5
- Phone/Fax: (204)832-2822
- This group's objective is to combat the harmful influences of pornography through the education and motivation of communities.

■ Constable Dominic D'Arcy - "The Singing Policeman"

- Contact via: B. Murray Agency
- 106 Delaney Dr.
- Carp ON K0A 1L0
- Phone: (613)839-1947
- Mr. D'Arcy is a Constable with the Ottawa Police Force. In conjunction with the Ottawa Board of Education, he has developed an educational program and video about drugs and their consequences, entitled "Don't Pay the Pusher."

■ Project Stepping Stone

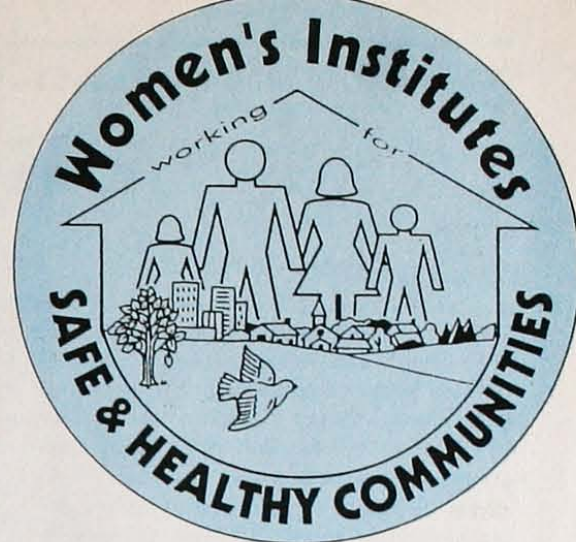
- South East Grey Community Outreach
- Phone: 1-800-265-9107
- This Project offers addiction information and counselling, a drug and alcohol hot line and a kids help phone.

■ Anne Bernhardt, Coordinator

- Teen Esteem
- 3 Belaire Rd.
- Brantford ON N3R 6Z3
- Phone: (519)751-1836
- This is a community-based program developed to boost self-esteem and career awareness in young women, Grades 6 to 8.

■ Jane Reed, General Manager

- Farm Safety Association Inc.
- Suite 22, 340 Woodlawn Rd. W.
- Guelph ON N1H 7K6
- Phone: (519)823-5600
- The Farm Safety Association is continuing their Rural Child Safety Project with the theme "Stay Alert, Don't Get Hurt."



This is our new "Safe and Healthy Communities" logo. A copy may be obtained from the FWIO Provincial Office. Please use the logo often.

■ Marine Perran, Managing Director

- Ontario Agri-Food Education
- Box 460, 144 Townline Rd.
- Milton ON L9T 4Z1
- Phone: (905)878-1510
- Resources include study prints from various commodity groups for use in schools. Call and ask about their Ontario Agri-Food Advocate Program.

■ Laura Pasot

- Health Promotion Branch
- Ministry of Health
- 21 Kirkton Rd.
- North York ON M3H 1K6
- Phone: (416)638-8310
- Her display focused on promoting a *Healthy Eating Manual*, offering foods with less fat and more fibre.

■ Sue Berlove, Program Manager

- Public Information and Education
- Osteoporosis Society of Canada
- 33 Laird Dr.
- Toronto ON M4G 3F9
- Phone: 1-800-463-6842
- An educational program entitled "Building Better Bones" discusses prevention and treatment of this disease.

This is my last report as provincial Program Coordinator. The past four years have passed quickly and have been an interesting and educational experience. Thanks to all of you for the privilege of serving in this capacity.

Glenna Smith has completed her last term as Program Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Please Note:

The new Program Coordinator is Mary Lou Norton from the Bloomfield Women's Institute in Prince Edward District. She can be reached at RR 2, Bloomfield ON K0K 1G0, (613)393-2052.