

Stay Alert, Don't Get Hurt

By Mary Macfarlane

Excited about the new focus for FWIO - Safe and Healthy Communities - the new North Shore Branch (Peterborough District) did some brainstorming about how they could implement this theme. They recognized that the FWIO is a partner in the Rural Child Safety Project of the Farm Safety Association Inc. (FSA). Because several members had already had their lives affected by farm tragedies, they had a personal interest in seeing this project succeed.

With the eager and generous help of the Farm Safety Association, Kawartha OPP, Otonabee Fire Department, St. John Ambulance, Peterborough Vet Service, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and numerous commercial and non-profit sponsors, a program was organized; 117 children registered.

Held on June 30 at Jaemar Farms, operated by the Stillman family of Keene, the day-long program was timely since children just started their summer holidays. The day began with a general assembly. Local pharmacist, Stephen Lovick, addressed the children about skin protection. Kawartha OPP Officer Debbie Belisle reminded the children of several safety rules.

Following the assembly, the children were divided into groups and



Pharmacist, Stephen Lovick, addresses the children regarding skin protection and the use of sunscreen.

began a rotation of nine stations for the day, including PTO and auger, fire, lawnmower, video, grain bin, animal, chemical, first-aid and tractor safety. In the afternoon, "Sparky," the robotic mascot dog from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal, entertained and educated the children about fire safety.

The message of the day was "Stay Alert, Don't Get Hurt." Several local newspapers covered the event and the local TV station featured a report on the evening news. The day provided an opportunity for the North Shore Branch to market themselves and the Women's Institute.

The North Shore Branch would like to act as a resource for other Branches interested in organizing a similar program. Please contact Mary Macfarlane, RR 8, Peterborough ON K9J 6X9, Phone: (705)295-6615.

Mary Macfarlane is the President of the North Shore WI, Peterborough District.

About ACWW

By Peggy Knapp



As you are aware, throughout the last triennium, Canada had been seeking an ACWW project which we could support and claim as "our" project. With information available during the World Conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, our delegates voted to accept responsibility for a project to purchase a red pepper drier for the women of Wando Island, Korea.

Since that time, further information and clarification have led to the demise of that project. As Area President for Canada, I have been in touch with the Projects Secretary at Central Office in England to request a new project to which those funds already collected for the pepper drier might be re-assigned.

As we know there are needs everywhere in the developing world. Uganda's families have been devastated by the dreaded AIDS virus, which has taken the lives of many

young women and left tiny babies and young children, who are vulnerable to the Immune Deficiency Virus, in a weakened state.

WE CAN HELP.

Two Ugandan village groups, Tweyambe (Way-ombe) and the United Women's Group, have attacked the problem of poor nutrition and the well-being of these children. Tweyambe has already set up a village nursery for AIDS orphans, but are in need of an increased and dependable supply of fresh milk. We can enable them to purchase 100 milking goats and two males to maintain the herd size for the future. The cost - \$3,446.

The United Women's Group has taken on the welfare of the older children, who, in addition to having the responsibility of caring for their younger siblings, are also vulnerable to the disease. They do, however, want (like all children everywhere) to be helpful. The women have therefore begun the raising of pigs to provide a protein staple and allow these older children to be contributing members of their community. The cost - \$3,368.

The total cost of the two projects plus a 15% administration fee comes to \$7,836,

well within the \$8,000 voted at the New Zealand conference.

I regret the breakdown of the Red Pepper Drier Project, but I do ask for your support of the two new projects. These projects will bring hope and an improved standard of living to those children suffering from the dreaded AIDS virus, as well as providing some income generation for those women who are taking action to improve the conditions in their community.

I encourage you to continue collecting funds for our Canadian Project, albeit a different one than had at first been selected. Thank you for the special dinners, programs, and numerous efforts that have sent money arriving at your provincial offices. All of it will be forwarded to ACWW's Central Office at the end of the year.

AIDS has become a priority for concern of ACWW. As caring members of the Associated Country Women of the World, my best wishes to you all as we continue working together to make a difference in the lives of women and their families, wherever they may be.

Peggy Knapp is the Associated Country Women of the World Area President for Canada.