



Branching Out in Parry Sound

Two dozen women gathered over tea and coffee in the auditorium of The Friends Centre on Forest St. in Parry Sound. It was the organizational meeting for a Parry Sound Branch of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). Seven new members formed the new Branch and elected the first slate of officers. There are now seven Branches in the District of Parry Sound South.

Mona Bray, New Branch Organizer for the Northern Area, commented that one member, Beulah Malkin, had been a former member of the Dunchurch Branch, about twenty-five miles away. Malkin gave up her membership when she moved into the town of Parry Sound. Malkin says she is delighted to join again "because the WI does so many worth while things."

Mona reported that while she is a Life Member of the Dunchurch Branch, she is able to join one other Branch as a regular member. She says she will enjoy being a sort of "coach" to this new Branch and that they are a very impressive group when they sit together around a table.

The Parry Sound Branch held its first meeting on the 20th of February to discuss program planning ideas. In the near future their meeting programs will focus on gardening, nutrition and recipes, and learning more about the Women's Institute organization.

This information was provided by Mona Bray, New Branch Organizer for the Northern Area, with the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.



Members of the Parry Sound Branch from left to right in the front row are Mona Bray (New Branch Organizer, Northern Area), Dianne Hurd (Secretary/Treasurer), Betty Stewart, Judy Turnbull and Beulah Malkin (Program Co-ordinator). From left to right in the back row are Florence Kirkbride (President) and Angela Bauer. The two other members not pictured above are Shirley Yorke and Barbara Whitehead.

FWIO Participates on Advisory Groups

The Long-Term Care Policy Branch of the Ministry of Health has convened advisory groups of key stakeholders for several programs. Long-Term Care is primarily for elderly persons, adults with physical disabilities, people with health care needs, and the caregivers of these primary groups. The Ministry asked that the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario be one of the many groups with representation on the following advisory groups.

Meals/Homemaking Advisory Group

For this group, meals include the Meals on Wheels program or a congregate dining area. Homemaking includes light housekeeping, meal preparation, banking and shopping.

This group dealt with Bill 173 - an Act representing Long-Term Care - paragraph by paragraph as it related to this Advisory Group. Each representative on the group had the opportunity to make written comments and recommendations. Suggested changes will be refined, put into legalese, work their way through the proper channels, and hopefully, effect a change in the Act.

- Report submitted by Shirley Morehouse, Thornhill Women's Institute, York East District.

Adult Day Care Advisory Group

Adult Day Care Programs are for adults with cognitive impairments and physical disabilities, and for their families who may need a break as caregivers.

This group provided feedback and advice to Long-Term Care staff on the proposed content and format of the Adult Day Care Program Manual to be used by multiservice agencies (MSA). This group will also develop options and recommendations for addressing the outstanding issues raised by stakeholders in the consultation.

- Report submitted by Doreen Wicks, Ashgrove Women's Institute, Halton District.

Advisory Group

Re: Nurse Practitioners

What role would a Nurse Practitioner fulfill in the Ontario Health Care System? The Ontario Ministry of Health defined that role to a group comprised of representatives from various organizations. They stated that Nurse Practitioners would be Registered Nurses with several years experience.

Many with relevant University education who would be recognized and Certified Nurse Practitioners would provide primary care and health education. They would give advice on healthy living, complete health histories, provide primary care and monitor illnesses, refer patients to other professionals, and do home visitations. Nurse Practitioners are to be active within the Ontario Health Care System by the end of 1995.

The group was asked for feedback on the advantages and disadvantages of and possible resistances by the medical field and by the public to Nurse Practitioners.

- Report submitted by Marg Harris, FWIO President Elect, South Lobo Women's Institute, Middlesex District.