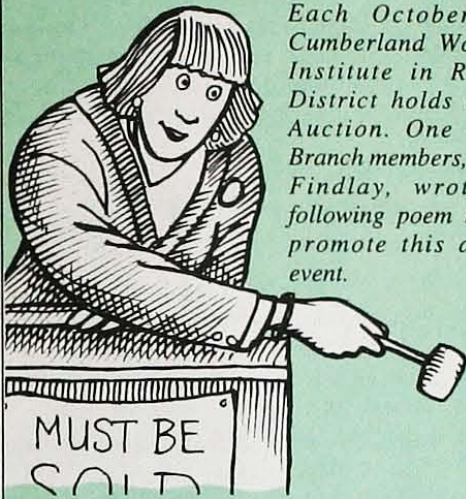


It's Auction Night at Institute



Each October, the Cumberland Women's Institute in Russell District holds a Fall Auction. One of the Branch members, Elaine Findlay, wrote the following poem to help promote this annual event.

Sale Night

The table's piled with treasures now,
Heaped to overflowing,
Ready for the auctioneer
To come and get things going.
Bounty from our gardens fair,
Pumpkins, squash zucchini -
There always seems a bumper crop
From huge to teeny-weeny.
Labours from our kitchens,
Fresh muffins, cookies too,
Jams from steaming kettles
Bringing summer back anew.
Pickled beets and chili sauce -
Colourful in jars,
Save the warm September sun
To brighten winter hours.
Don't forget the odds and ends,
Which make the evening fun:
Some novels we enjoyed, and now
Would share them once we're done;
A dish, a mug, some crockery,
Useful items all;
A piece of brightly coloured cloth;
A vase for blooms of fall;
Souvenirs from far away;
A necklace or a pin;
Candles for your table;
A trinket made of tin.
These, and more, are waiting.
Please look them over well,
For once the bidding's started,
We want all things to sell.
So put your hearts right into it,
Your bright, high spirits don,
For it's Auction Night at Institute -
And it's "Going! Going! Gone!"



Women Leading by Example

By Mary Janes

Crieff Hills Community and Conference Centre was the setting for the leadership workshop held by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Thirty-one enthusiastic members spent two-and-a-half days sharing ideas and learning about personal growth and community action.

Leadership training has always been an important aspect of FWIO work. Membership involves fun, fellowship, learning opportunities and a positive involvement in community spirit.

Anne Donohoe, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, was the keynote speaker. She encouraged Women's Institute members to establish their priorities and policies by focussing on the needs of the members. Women's Institute has been such an influential organization for ninety-eight years because it has been flexible and has led by example. FWIO has always been an anchor in the community. She said it is an especially important women's organization because "women will lead in the changes that will be needed to improve the sustainability of rural communities."

Workshop leaders discussed many of the opportunities available to women. New Branch Co-ordinator, Hilde Morden, discussed how to attract new members and encourage present members.

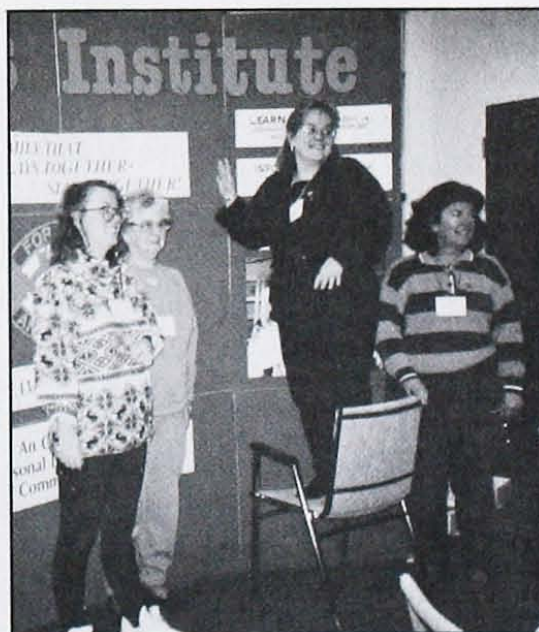
Marg Harris, President Elect of FWIO, stated that communications means "to inform, to build understanding, to lower barriers, to exchange ideas and to present a point of view." A person's tone of voice, manner of speaking and dress all affect the way one communicates. Her presentation was completed with a brief "Fashion Equation." Rie Van Steeg, one of the workshop participants from the London Area, illustrated with clothing from Braemer how a working woman can have over thirty outfits with two jackets, four bottoms and five tops.

Mary Janes, Provincial Public Relations Officer, and Glenna Smith, Provincial Program Co-ordinator, gave many ideas on meeting formats, such as mystery outings, hands-on-activities and telephone conferences. They included ways to promote the organization through dynamic exhibits and how to keep members aware of current issues.

Many activities of current interest, such as craft workshops and scholarships, were discussed. The importance of keeping informed on issues and the proper methods of preparing resolutions were presented by Mary Lou Norton, Provincial Board Director from Prince Edward District.

"Marketing the WI" gave all participants an insight into the work and future of FWIO. These enthusiastic women will now be presenting workshops in their own communities. Their ideas, their questions and their interest in all aspects of the WI indicated that we need to continually communicate with other members and our communities to keep current.

Their strong belief in the goals and objectives of the WI are a good indication that Women's Institutes in Ontario are alive and well after a century of providing personal growth and community action.



New members are learning how to set up the FWIO exhibit.

Mary Janes is the Public Relations Officer for the FWIO.