

No Ordinary Strip Club!

A group of women calling themselves the Maple Leaf Strippers get almost as much enjoyment out of the astonished looks on people's faces when their name is spoken, as they do out of their true activities - creating warm quilts, baby-clothes and comforting teddy bears out of left-over materials and

giving them away to people in need.

Iola Subject of Atwood, an expert craftswoman, taught the group how to use a strip-quilting technique. With this method, scraps are cut into two-and-a-half inch strips and sewn together. These bigger strips, the batting and the backing are then all cut the

same size and sewn together, through all three layers, to produce a self-quilted finished product. The technique eliminates the hand-quilting done on frames.

The ten regular members of the club - members of the Maple Leaf Women's Institute (Perth North District) and friends - meet once a week. The Maple Leaf WI funded the group with a donation for the bats, quilting thread, backing materials and the few other items the women could not find through their recycling efforts.

Since February, the women have completed more than a dozen strip quilts and two tied quilts. They have also knitted dozens of "preemie sets" for neo-natal units in Stratford and London and teddy bears for Optimism Place in Stratford, for the Salvation Army and for police services to give to children in crisis situations. Their plans for future projects include flannelette quilts for children, lap robes for nursing home residents, and items for house fire victims.



The Maple Leaf Strippers display some of their completed projects. Behind the women are strip quilts they have made and on the table are pillows, teddy bears, preemie sets and hooked rugs. Club members, from left to right, are Rhea Patteson, Shirley Weber, Betty Van Sickle, Elaine Willis, Georgina Henderson, Iola Subject, Beryl Smith and Georgina Smith.

Photo courtesy of the Independent Plus.

Parts of this article were extracted from an article written for the Independent Plus, a weekly newspaper serving the communities of Listowel, Mount Forest, Harriston, Palmerston, Wingham, Brussels, and surrounding areas.

COMMUNICATE - Program Theme, 1995-96



Let's resolve to improve communications within and between the Branches, Districts, Areas and the provincial level of the Women's Institute organization. And don't forget to communicate with your local community.

Here are three mottoes you might like to use:

- "Communication is shared meaning and shared understanding."
- "Ask, listen and hear in order to determine the wants, needs and possibilities."
- "When a person does not understand what the communicator intended, the responsibility remains that of the communicator."

Communication is not a one-way street. You must hear, see and speak.

I look forward to great reports on much improved communication. Spread the word. Communicate!

Glenna Smith is the Program Co-ordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

T-E-A-M-W-O-R-K

Through Effective Communication

- T** Treat all people with genuine respect.
- E** Expect the best in every situation.
- A** Anticipate success!
- M** Manage your time carefully; make time for relationships and duties.
- W** Weigh information carefully.
- O** Open your mind to observations, opinions, and options.
- R** Recognize, reward and reinforce the positive efforts of others.
- K** Make knowledge and its proper application a continuing quest.