

Common Threads

By Donna Russett

August 21, 1994 - a day of celebration and history as we officially opened our Provincial Office under sunny skies and balmy breezes. The Garden Party on the lawn with 800 plus members and friends sharing in the joy and excitement, accented by best wishes from government officials and dignitaries, created a wonderful atmosphere. A special thank you to all those who shared this day with us.

August, 1991 - Three years ago, following changes in the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, this whole plan began to evolve when a Space Task Force was appointed to investigate office space. There was also much encouragement from individual WI members for us to be on our own.

Being independent has been a major change for all of us, but we have always realistically tackled our challenges. Remember, there is only one constant, and that is change. Imagine the impact, voice and power that the Women's Institutes have as they work together for change.

We are at a new beginning and are committed to establish a program to enhance new goals. Our most exciting goal at present is the Headquarters Fund. We are most

grateful to our members who donated monetary gifts to the Furnishings Fund to purchase the necessities and to all our members and friends who have given to the Headquarters Fund.

This has been a busy summer to say the least.

We were delighted to be able to host, Valerie Fisher, the President of the Associated Country Women of the World, at our new office and at the homes of both our founders. Thanks to our members for supporting the open houses and making Valerie feel so welcome. She certainly appreciated the opportunities to meet so many members.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Charlotte Johnson as she begins her term as President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. I was delighted to present her with a bouquet of coral roses in Truro on behalf of FWIO and all her WI friends.

A hot, humid June 18th brought the long awaited sod turning for an addition of nutrition labs to the College of Family and Consumer Studies at the University of



Guelph. Marg Harris, President Elect, and her husband Bud, accompanied me for the presentation of a \$25,000 cheque, half of the promised amount from the FWIO 75th Anniversary Project. The other half will be given on completion of the labs.

Many thanks to the members who attended Conference '94 - the ACWW Area Conference. We feel it was a tremendous success thanks to the dedicated members of Simcoe County and the support of those attending. One couldn't help returning home with enthusiasm and a positive feeling.

Each of us is a vital part of this organization and dedicated to its continuing as a force across our province. Only by the continued commitment of each one of us as individuals will we make this possible. This common thread of commitment should be our top priority.

Donna Russett is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.



From the Provincial Program Co-ordinator

By Glenna Smith

Was your last meeting current, interesting and educational? Did you have fun? Did you go home saying, "I wouldn't have missed that for anything?" If you didn't answer yes to at least one of these questions, you had better take a good, hard look at your programs.

Watch for future Branch mailings from the FWIO Provincial Office; there will be a page of program ideas and maybe a quiz or two.

Have you studied the Discussion Group Topics for the Conference in Christchurch in February, 1995? Your delegates would like feed back. Please send any comments to the Provincial Office, attention Delegates, Conference '95. These are very interesting topics

and even if you can't deal with them before February, use them in your program planning next year.

- Health Services for Women and Families: Community Health, Health Education and Primary Health Care and Aids
- Our Environmental Status in the Year 2000: Changing Weather Patterns and the Effect on our Lives
- How Can Agricultural Production Sustain the World's Population by the Year 2000?: Women in Sustainable Agriculture
- Protection of Women and the Girl Child - Legally, Culturally, Physically and Financially

Here are a number of new resources available to you:

- The National Film Board of Canada has a catalogue of more than 2,000 videos available on numerous topics. The catalogue costs \$9 plus tax and can be ordered by phoning 1-800-267-7710. Order it now and use this valuable resource in your program planning.
- The FWIO promotion video is available from each of your Area Presidents or Secretaries.

- A booklet entitled *Programs, Services and Initiatives Guide*, put together by the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board (OTAB), discusses: entering the workforce/on-the-job training; workplace training, consulting and incentives; upgrading and literacy; employment counselling; and, re-entering the workforce. More information is available by calling the OTAB Hotline at 1-800-387-5656.

- Two pamphlets - *Hazardous Waste: Put a Lid on It* and *Composting: Getting Down to Pay-dirt* - are available from the Environment Canada Inquiry Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3, (819)997-2800 or 1-800-668-6767.

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Did you know? Worms, millipedes, centipedes, sowbugs, snails, slugs, beetles and ants should all be welcome visitors to your compost pile. They play an important role in decomposing the organic material.

