

August Board Highlights

By Margaret Atkins

The gala garden party at the new office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario was the setting for the opening of the August Board meeting. With the Board Directors acting as hostesses, the 800 plus members from across the province were awed, inspired and proud of their latest achievement - a Provincial Office. A place to call their own!

Following dinner, the Board assembled at Crieff Hills Community and Conference Center where reports from the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Convention were given by the designated delegates.

Highlights of the following two-day agenda included:

4-H Liason

An Ontario 4-H Council presentation by Di Jaggassar brought the Board up-to-date on the progress of the 4-H movement and defined the roles and responsibilities of parents, volunteers and WI members. Working within our respective communities, WI Branches can and do have a leadership role in the personal development of youth through the 4-H program.

Centennial Committee

To date, 1,270 centennial plates have been sold. If you wish to purchase one send a \$50 cheque, payable to The Centennial Committee, to P.O. Box 29038, 55 Wyndham St., Guelph, Ontario, N1H 7T8. The #1 plate has been placed in a wooden frame and given to the FWIO and is hanging in their new office.

Many other projects are underway: a Fashion Show Booklet that will depict the past 100 years of fashion and offer guidelines to help Branches across Ontario organize fashion shows; a WI sponsored Blue Jay Day at the Skydome in Toronto in June, 1996; and, a Program for use by every Branch so that every member across Ontario can be together in spirit on the founding day of the WI.

Public Relations

Interacting within the community is one way to promote the Women's Institute. Volunteer to help at other organizations' functions and remember to talk up the WI. "We must adapt. We must meet the challenges of a changing society. We must be open to change. Be prepared to hear and be ready to act when the need arises," said Marg Atkins, Provincial PRO. She reminded Board members that each one of them is an advertisement for the Women's Institute.

Centennial History Book

Dr. Linda Ambrose, Researcher/Writer of the Women's Institute History Book, reported that most of the research for the book is completed and compiled. She noted, however, that a few Districts have not fully responded to her request for lists of Branches and dates. Check with your Board Director to make sure your Branch will be included in the History Book.

Environmental Projects

The FWIO recently purchased the rights to the successful book produced by the Selwyn WI - *Environmentally Friendly Household Hints*. The book is available from the FWIO office for \$8.

The second Christmas ornament - Two Turtle Doves - in the series depicting the Twelve Days of Christmas is now available. The ornaments are \$5 each and are made from recycled light bulbs. The ornaments will be available through your Board Director or the Provincial Office.

The profits from both of these fundraisers will go towards the Headquarters Fund.

New Branch Co-ordinator

New Branches are thriving and gaining new members. They are in touch with established Branches, sharing, communicating, challenging, supporting and encouraging each other in all their activities. The New Branch Co-ordinator reported that the President of the newly formed Branch in Toronto, P.J. Wade, will be the guest speaker at Central Area Convention, and that the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Elmer Buchanan, spoke at a Trent Valley Area District Annual because he needed to talk to the grass roots of our organization.

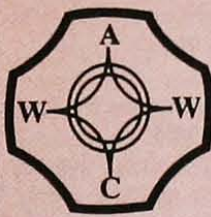
Erland Lee (Museum) Home

As usual, the Hands-On Heritage Craft Day in May was a success, and the second Local Artist Show and Sale in June was popular with local talent participating. Pam Bronn, Chair of the Committee, reported that the British visitors keep coming - from Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and the Orkney Isles.

Margaret Atkins is the Public Relations Officer for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

About ACWW

By Peggy Knapp



The highlight of our year in Canada has undoubtedly been the visit of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) President, Valerie Fisher, O.B.E., of Australia. As Area President for Canada, I was pleased and honoured to host her. Enroute to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Convention in Truro, Nova Scotia, she was able to meet with most of ACWW's Societies across the country, and to address the National Convention. It was a memorable visit, and wherever she went she inspired our members and shared her insights and experiences as President of the world-wide organization, which is making a difference in the lives of women and families everywhere.

My report to our fifteen Society Offices across Canada since my return from the ACWW Board Meeting in July, contains many

items of interest, but in this small space I shall only remind you that the ACWW Triennial Conference will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, next February 1 to 7, with the theme "Challenges in a Changing World."

The Sponsorship Fund still needs donations to enable women from Eastern Europe and the Developing Countries to attend the Conference as voting delegates. FWIO has opened a fund to help pay the airfare for a WI member from Zimbabwe to travel to New Zealand; her Society is working hard to pay her Conference registration and accommodations. I am asking our ACWW Societies across Canada, if they as individual members or as Branches or provincial units can contribute to the fund, to please do so.

You can help by sending a Bank Money Order in pounds sterling, to ACWW, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2NB, England. But please send a covering letter to specify that your donation is to go to help support a WI member from Zimbabwe.

Thank you all for your generous support through your donations to ACWW's projects and to Pennies for Friendship.

Peggy Knapp is the ACWW Area President for Canada. You can write to her at 61 Woodland Glen Dr., Guelph, Ontario, N1G 3S3.