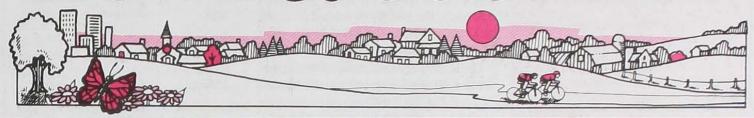
HOME & COUNTRY



Norfolk North District WI Prepare Farm Kits

over the past number of years, resource kits for use by teachers and primary students have been developed on the topic of agriculture and farming. Joan Fallis, Supervisor of Curriculum for the Primary Program for the Norfolk Board of Education, decided to add to the existing kits when she became aware of a series of farm animal puppets prepared by women in the London area. "Having purchased the patterns," she said, "my next task was to find someone interested in making the puppets."

Joan approached Helen Young, an active member of her local church and the Lynnville Women's Institute. Helen was

quite intrigued by the idea and discussed it with other Women's Institute members. "From then on," explained Joan, "the project was a definite GO, as [Helen's] enthusiasm and interest encouraged other [WI] groups in the local area to participate."

Five kits have been completed by the Lynnville, Bealton, Delhi, Villa Nova and Wilvan Craft Branches of the WI and each one has been presented at one of the local schools. The primary farm curriculum kit includes a collection of felt puppets representing a variety of farm animals, as well as a flannel board with felt farm buildings.

Some of the children have used the puppets for dramatizing and story telling. Here are some of their comments:

"Thank you for making the puppets. I like the lamb the best. It is soft and furry."

- Tiffany, age 7

"I like using the puppets to do a play. My favourite one is the cow. I like the cow bell. I like to make her moo-o-o."

- David, age 7

"We have the puppets in our class. I tell stories with them. The mouse and the scarecrow are my favourites. I hope you make more puppets for us. Thank you."

- Krystal, age 8

"Without the generosity of members of the local Women's Institutes," said Joan, "in particular that of Helen Young, these puppets might not have been assembled so quickly and professionally. This is an excellent example of community members working with schools to develop a partnership which is beneficial to all, and in particular the students."

This information was provided by Helen Young, President of the Norfolk North Women's Institute, and Joan Fallis, Supervisor of Curriculum, Primary Program, Norfolk Board of Education.



Lynnville Women's Institute members presented the Grade 1 class of Bloomburg Public School with fifteen hand-sewn puppets. Pictured above, from left to right, are Joan Fallis - Supervisor of Curriculum, Primary Program, Norfolk Board of Education, Jimmy Wood - Grade 1 student, Helen Young - President, Norfolk District WI, and Ruth Hooper - President, Lynnville WI.

Photo courtesy of the Simcoe-Nanticoke Times.

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