

Highlights from the August Board

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home was the setting for the opening of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Board meeting held from August 17-19. Dinner, provided by the Home's Committee members, was followed by a tour of the Museum and a report from the Committee's Chair, Pamela Bronn, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Joan Playle.

Everyone then went to "Ye Olde Towne Centre" in Hamilton, site of the former Squire's Hall where the first Women's Institute meeting was held. The plans for the development of the site were presented.

The following morning, the FWIO Executive and Board of Directors resumed their meeting at the College Motor Inn in Guelph. Many thanks to the Arkell Women's Institute for preparing and serving the Wednesday evening dinner at the Arkell United Church.

Some of the other highlights from the two-day agenda included:

Ontario Round Table

Lunch guest Drew Blackwell, Executive Co-ordinator for the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and Economy, spoke about the current role and direction of the Round Table. He explained that he could foresee the involvement of local Women's Institutes with community environmental committees yet to be set up.

Centennial Committee

To date, more than 700 centennial plates have been ordered. The Mementoes Committee have approved the following requests: a china mug from the Wellington Centre District; a pin from the Central Area; a date book from the Grey Bruce Area; and, sweatshirts and T-shirts from the Dunchurch Branch in the Parry Sound South District.

The Guidelines for the Song Competition were approved. It is expected that the Rules, Regulations and Entry Form will be approved in November and ready for mailing to all Branch, District and Area Secretaries early in 1994.

Program Co-ordinator

Glenna Smith, Provincial Program Co-ordinator, introduced the new Program Co-ordinator's Manual to be delivered to the Branches at Area Conventions. She also spoke about attending the "Green Wave of Recycling" Seminar, designed to address the composting implications of the Province's new 3R's Regulations. The challenge is to reduce the amount of solid waste going to disposal sites in Ontario by at least 50% by the year 2000. She reminded members of the benefits of composting and asked them to set an example in their communities.

Glenna asked Board Directors if there had been a Community Food Advisor Program in their areas yet. The goal of this new program is to improve and promote safe and nutritious food selection, preparation and storage practices in Ontario. This will be done by increasing individual and group access to reliable information and education.

Moving Committee

Maisie Lasby, Chair of the Negotiation Team with Guelph Township, suggested that the FWIO could move their office to the new location in Guelph Township as early as February. Glenna Smith, Chair of the Moving Committee, emphasized that only cash donations will be accepted for furnishings. This allows us to recognize the donation with an official tax receipt, co-ordinate the office and treat everyone equally.

ACWW Report

The next World Council of the Associated Country Women of the World is in New Zealand from February 1-7, 1995. Peggy Knapp, ACWW Area President for Canada, reminded Board that contributions for sponsorship to bring developing country members to the New Zealand Council would be welcome. She also noted that FWIO's Conference '94 in August will host an ACWW mini-conference, as will Nova Scotia next November.

Centennial History Book

Linda Ambrose, the Researcher/Writer of the Women's Institute History Book, reported that the highlight of her interviewing experiences so far came through an invitation to spend time in Subdivision One. She travelled to the Districts of Stormont, Prescott, Russell, Glengarry and Dundas, and spent a few days on a very intense schedule, talking to members and looking at their books.

During that time, she spoke to a Branch meeting and took part in a Tweedsmuir Tea hosted by Osnabruck Centre Branch. The Cumberland Branch then hosted her for a couple of days during which time she collected completed surveys, pored over books, and spoke to members. She stated that if members in other Areas and Districts could hold similar events, it would be a great boost to the project!

Linda also noted that the FWIO archival material is not properly stored, and gave background to her recommendation that the FWIO negotiate a permanent loan of the material to the University of Guelph Archives.

Tweedsmuir Curator

The Provincial Curator, Marcie Johnston, is challenging all Branches to start a new section in their Tweedsmuir Histories on quilting. She urges Branches to ask members about the quilts in their community - who made them?, when?, and what were the materials, thread, batting, and quilting stitches used? Be sure to get a photograph of it. Make a record of the quilts donated to the various causes. Let this be a challenge to all WI members!

Development Officer

Wally Knapp of Guelph has been contracted to work as the Development Officer for the Federated Women's Institutes. He will be following up on the "WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE" fundraising campaign and researching and securing short and long-term sources of funding.