

A Self-Profile:

Provincial Tweedsmuir History Curator

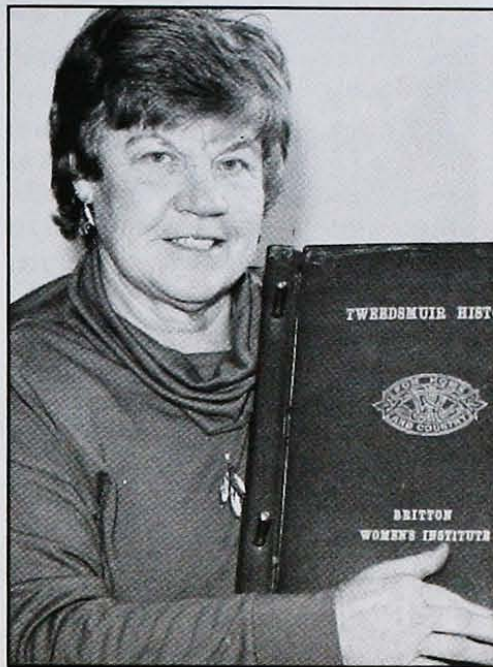
The Women's Institute has been a part of my married life for the past 35 years. I was a teacher in Petersburg and Galt in Waterloo County, and now I supply teach in Perth County, at both the elementary and high school level in Listowel.

I am also in a partnership with my husband, Sam, and two sons, Doug and Dave, on a 600-acre purebred Holstein and seed grain farm in Britton, near Listowel. We have three more children, Bruce, Jim and Nancy.

For the past four years, I have run Marcie's Miracles, a sewing and alterations business specializing in everything and anything - weddings, graduations, casualwear, nightwear, and even clothing for the disabled. It has been a rewarding experience. Crafts, oil painting, curling, lawn bowling and travelling are a few of the extras that keep me busy!

From 1982 to 1987, I was the Provincial Secretary. During this time I learned that the Provincial Executive and Board of Directors were not only involved in Institute work, but with a variety of other organizations and government bodies. At the time, I felt it was important to have their involvement at all levels recorded in the Tweedsmuir History Book.

The WI began Tweedsmuir Histories to preserve our heritage and enable people to use the pictures and information collected.



Marcie Johnston displays the large Tweedsmuir History of the Britton WI.

Here are some suggestions that can help uphold this process.

- ◆ Everyone should wear gloves when working on or perusing Tweedsmuir Books to protect the pages from the oil on the palms of hands.
- ◆ Do not take it for granted that all Tweedsmuir Books are complete; check them over for gaps and inaccuracies.
- ◆ Disbanded Branches are obliged to give their Tweedsmuir to their District, who decide where to keep them for safe-keeping.
- ◆ Newly formed Branches should start a history of their area if it has not been done, and if it has they should contribute photographs and information on a regular basis to keep the history up-to-date.

Please keep me informed of the whereabouts of your Tweedsmuir Histories. Let

me know if your Tweedsmuir History is on microfilm or published and where it is stored. Also let me know if your Branch disbands so I can keep this register of information up-to-date. Remember, Tweedsmuir Histories are a vital resource of our country's heritage!

Marcie Johnston is the Provincial History Tweedsmuir Curator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Strategic Plan...continued from page 6

Strategic Direction No. 4 - Efficiency of Operation

- Increase the efficiency of the operation of the organization to meet its expanding activities.

Strategic Actions:

- Raise a capital fund of \$1,000,000.
- Relocate the provincial office to a larger facility.
- Streamline the organization's structure.

Strategic Direction No. 5 - Effective Networking

Collaborate with other organizations to influence change and shape policy around issues affecting the well-being of communities.

Strategic Actions:

- Initiate local community action, such as the establishment of Rural Blue Box Programs, the placing of signs at busy rural intersections, or pointing out the need for wheelchair accessible washrooms at local institutions.
- Liaise with other provincial organizations, such as the Recycling Council of

Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, The Farm Safety Association and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

- Continue liaison with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Strategic Direction No. 6 - Evaluation

Strategic Actions:

- Design and circulate a survey to gather data from every member to seek information about future directions.
- Identify changes to the existing Strategic Plan.