



By Mary Macfarlane

At a sewing workshop about a year ago, Rosemary Moran, Past President of the Trent Valley Area, spoke to me about her involvement in WI and its history. Rosemary's enthusiasm triggered my interest. Soon, Margaret Killeen, the Area New Branch Organizer (NBO), contacted me to discuss what kind of support there might be in the Keene area to start a new Branch.

A list of women was compiled and letters were mailed inviting them to an information night. This proved a disappointment; yet, a core group evolved committed to the idea. We were successful in gaining more interest simply through word of mouth. A fashion show and workshop sparked interest in another information night.

A small group continued to meet monthly for almost a year to learn more about the WI and fellowship. Craft nights held in someone's home generated the most interest. At the same time, Margaret Killeen asked for a volunteer to coach our small group, answer questions and act as a liaison. Mary Elmhirst from the Westwood WI was that enthusiastic volunteer.

On April 22, 1993, our charter was established at a pot luck supper with fifteen charter members. Our name comes from the same

name of our new public school - North Shore. We live on the North Shore of Rice Lake.

In support of our establishment, the Executive of the Mather's Corners Community Hall offered the Hall to us rent free. The Pioneer Seed Company donated \$1000 to help us buy new chairs and tables for the Hall. And the Keene WI donated \$100 to get us started and offered support.

The Vice President, Valerie Bell, and myself now joke about how for six years we waded to each other, but didn't get to know one another until joining the WI.

The majority of our members work full or part-time. They travel to Peterborough to work and that's why we hold evening meetings. Though we are rural based, only a few members live on farms.

In our enthusiasm, we agreed to meet in the summer. We work together to plan meetings and events so as to not overload or frustrate any one member. We all have busy lives and many of us have young children. Our Branch Directors call members with a friendly reminder of the upcoming meeting and a "We hope you can make it" attitude.

Strong friendships are evolving in this cooperative working relationship. Flexibility is our strength. We are not afraid to try something once or try it differently the next time. Our future plans include: building a float for the Keene Santa Claus parade; becoming more involved in our community and exploring local business and industry; and, seeking out interesting guest speakers.

We all enjoy the fellowship and many view it as time out for themselves. We look forward to enjoying many years ahead in this organization.

*Mary Macfarlane is the President of the North Shore WI.*

coincides with the annual Bala Cranberry Festival. "The weekend is really fun for us," explains Murray. "We look at it as our once-a-year open house, and always look forward to seeing a lot of old familiar faces."

The Johnstons' Cranberry Marsh is located on Medora Lake Road in Bala. For more information on the Bala Cranberry Festival, contact the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation at 1-800-ONTARIO.

*This article was prepared by Foodland Ontario.*

## Congratulations

### Anniversaries:

Balmoral WI	40
Ferguson's Falls WI	65
Ilderton WI	70
Parham WI	70
Sparrow Lake WI	75
Uttoxeter WI	80
Alton WI	90
Cathcart WI	90
Coldstream WI	90
Fordwich WI	90
Moyle WI	90
Sanford WI	90
Springford WI	90

### Certificates of Merit:

<i>Canboro WI</i>
- Vera Scott
- Heather Topp
<i>Paynes' Mills WI</i>
- Irma Karafil
<i>Sparrow Lake WI</i>
- Edna Franklin
- Ruth McDonald
- Phyllis Stanton
- Mary Witteman
<i>Sunshine WI</i>
- Eunice Hill
- Pauline Ryan
- Patricia Bradley
- Yolande Gadouas
- Marie Wilkes
- Ruby Proudfoot

### Life Memberships:

<i>Canboro WI</i>
- Dorothy Bradford
- Mildred Lane
<i>Dunvegan WI</i>
- Joanna MacLean
<i>Kippen East WI</i>
- Margaret Hoggarth
- Ruby Triebner
<i>Sanford WI</i>
- Hazel Penney
<i>Uttoxeter WI</i>
- Joan Falconer
- Norma Ross
- Barbara Steven
- Norma Steven

*Cranberries, continued from page 1*

Then, with fall, comes the harvest. Beds are flooded to help loosen and cushion the berries and picking begins. The berries are mechanically harvested and turned into shallow punts. Harvested berries are trucked to the Johnstons' packing house, sorted and packed, most of them destined for processing.

It sounds like hard work without much time left over for socializing. Nevertheless, visitors during harvest may find their arrival