



By Valerie Smith

A new Women's Institute Branch was established in the Kingston Convention Area, Frontenac District. Its name is Westside and the charter meeting was April 7, 1993.

Charter President Connie Harris, with her contagious enthusiasm and determination, organized the Branch, and the Kingston Whig-Standard played an important role as well. The Branch is in the Bayridge-Amherstview area.

As New Branch Organizer, it is the culmination of my efforts which began in

January, 1992. Promoting awareness of the WI through area newspapers was one of my first objectives. And it paid off when the Kingston paper ran an article in December, 1992. Connie Harris, one of the interested women who responded to that article, brought together enough other women to plan an information meeting at her home. The Whig-Standard published a notice about the meeting which provided more coverage.

Along with my committee members, Rowena Raycraft and Vera Collings, Judy Smith, Kingston Area Board Director, attended that first meeting on February 9. Judy spoke about the history of the movement, the aims and objectives of the WI, its publications, the benefits of membership, and the Associated Country Women of the World.

The organizational meeting took place on March 3; once again, the Whig-Standard provided marvellous coverage. There are 14 members of the Westside Branch, only 5 of whom are former WI members, and their comments have been very positive.

June Barber, hostess of the charter meeting, looks forward to the regular meetings. "I know Connie through our church," she said. "I learned about the WI, found I liked what it stood for and decided to join. They have interesting programs and projects that will give me a new interest in life. I am also looking forward to meeting new people."

Molly Woodruffe, who recently moved away from her former Branch, has been a member for seven years. "I have enjoyed it very much. I like the friendly atmosphere of the meetings and the projects we undertake. The Women's Institutes are wonderful groups. The people in the group become close friends."

Betty Berry, who does a lot of volunteer work, joined to do something for herself - a sentiment that reflects the personal growth objective of the WI.

At the charter meeting, the Kingston Area Board Director, Judy Smith, installed the officers: President - Connie Harris; Secretary-Treasurer - Marlene Wentzel; Program Co-ordinator and District Director - Penny McNaughton; Public Relations Officer - Molly Woodruffe; and, Tweedsmuir History Curator - Betty Berry. Cheryl Frae is in charge of Pennies for Friendship.

As New Branch Organizer, I presented the charter and addressed the members: "I am pleased with your commitment, and it is evident that you are a strong Branch of capable members who will be an asset to the Women's Institute movement."

CONGRATULATIONS WESTSIDE!

Valerie Smith is the New Branch Organizer for the Kingston Area.



Pictured above signing their charter, from left to right, is Valerie Smith, New Branch Organizer, Marlene Wentzel, Secretary-Treasurer, and Connie Harris, President, of the newly formed Westside Women's Institute.

Join us for a little PG & R at Crieff Hills

By Donna Russett

Enthusiasm, camaraderie and eagerness to learn were evident at the second Personal Growth and Renewal (PG & R) Courses held at Crieff Hills Community and Conference Centre.

The art participants - both the experienced and non-experienced - produced amazing pieces of art inspired by the local winter scenery.

The tatters, on the other hand, started out knotting when they shouldn't have. But all of a sudden, the thread flicked over the right way and the only knots they made were the ones they had been trying to make all along. They could tat at last!

A get-together of the two groups to exhibit their paintings and tating endeavours brought the four-day educational program to a close. Each participant left to inspire others to sign up for future courses.

Remember, the investment in a new undertaking can not be measured.

Donna Russett is the President Elect of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.