

# HOME & COUNTRY



## “The Biggest Small Investment You Can Make”

Joan was first introduced to the Women's Institute by her mother, Doris Lindsay. [She] “decided it was time I joined and signed me up in 1983, making me the youngest member of the Silver-Wood Women's Institute at the age of 23.”

Joan admits that while she knew most of the Silver-Wood members, she didn't realize what a special group of women they were until she met with them once a month. She explained that while most were long-time members, they eagerly changed their meeting time from afternoons to evenings so those who worked regular day shifts could attend. And she added, “it was soon apparent, if you were willing to learn, these ladies could teach you anything.”

Through the years, Joan has held several convenorships, served as Secretary/Treasurer and District Director, and at present is Second Vice-President and Public Relations Officer for the Silver-Wood Branch. “The experience I have gained through the WI has proven ... invaluable to me,” commented Joan. “Whether at a Branch meeting or a province-wide conference, the feeling of acceptance and family belonging [is] felt as soon as you enter a room. And whether in crisis or conquest, you can always depend on the WI



Joan Lindsay at work at Halton Rapid Print in Georgetown, Ontario.

women for their unending support and encouragement.”

Joan has attended and thoroughly enjoyed many of the WI short courses; her favourite was the rug braiding. Since then, she has demonstrated rug braiding at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

In addition to her WI involvement, Joan is a member of the Georgetown Fair Board, which keeps August and September very busy.

In 1985, Joan and her partner, Ron Matheson, decided there was a need for a photocopying/printing shop in

Georgetown. Though they knew little about the business, they went ahead and formed Halton Rapid Print with one small copier and one very old press. She admits that “after many long and frustrating hours, we eventually learned this trade...;” and they have since had many accomplishments.

Joan explained, that personally her proudest moment was when Peggy Knapp, then President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, asked her to design a brochure for the WI. To me, Joan concluded, “the Women's Institute organization is truly “The Biggest Small Investment You Can Make.”

Joan Lindsay is the Second Vice-President and Public Relations Officer for the Silver-Wood WI.

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