

# A View from Here

By Margaret Eberle

Do you have a window in your kitchen? Is it a large one? When we remodelled the kitchen a few years ago, we installed the largest window that the space over the sink would allow. This has proven a wise choice since a lot of my time in the kitchen has been spent at the kitchen sink.

As I look out this window I see the flower beds and the deck next to the house, followed by an expanse of lawn and our garden. And beyond that is an expanse of fields, the sugar bush, and in the distance the neighbour's homes. This scene is never constant, and changes often by the hour, as well as by the season.

Each spring I anxiously watch for the new little trees to come into leaf and I am glad they made it through the winter. These trees were planted as a result of what, at the time, seemed a tragedy; several of the huge old spruce trees crashed down during a storm. When the low spot at the end of the garden fills with water in the spring, Jack and I spend a fair amount of time at the kitchen window with field glasses trying to identify



the different kinds of ducks that stop on their migration routes. In summer, the grass grows, the garden grows, the weeds grow, and the flowers bloom. And with the onset of fall, the sugar bush changes to a multitude of colours.

The changes in the scene from my kitchen window are continuous. As I stand inside looking out, I have a warm, safe, comfortable spot. I can choose not to be involved in these changes. I can watch and criticize and say how pretty the changes are, or I can be horrified at

the changing scene and wring my hand and wonder what will happen next. But it is much more interesting and productive to go outside and get involved in the changes. The lawn needs to be mowed. The garden seeds have to be arranged in neat rows. And the fallen spruce trees have to be trimmed of their branches and the logs carried off to the saw mill.

If you stop to think about it, our organization is like this scene. It is constantly changing. Some changes have created great challenges for the FWIO Board Directors and Executive. But with the support of all of the Women's Institute members across the province we have met, and **will** continue to meet, these challenges, and progress to a greater and stronger organization.

Recently, I was given the following quote which aptly summarizes my thoughts on change within the FWIO: "The organizations that will succeed and flourish will be those that have mastered the art of change."

*Margaret Eberle is the President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.*



## From the Provincial Program Co-ordinator

By Glenna Smith

If I can be of any help in planning and carrying out exciting programs for your Branch, please ask. I have current material on most topics as outlined in our Handbook. In the mean time, here are a few program planning ideas to ponder.

Could you build your year's program around the theme "I'm proud." Have you "practiced" and "preached" "I'm Proud to be Canadian?" How did you celebrate Canada's 125th Birthday? Perhaps other

meetings could focus on "I'm Proud of the Stand Our Branch or Township Has Taken on the Environment," "I'm Proud of the Elderly" (remember - 1992 is also the Year of the Elderly), or "I'm Proud of Our Youth."

Have you considered the exchange program as suggested in the ACWW October-December, 1991 issue of *The Countrywoman*? Why not turn an ordinary Branch meeting in 1992 or '93 into a special international one? For example, at about the same time a Branch in Ontario could hold a typical Dutch meeting and vice versa. This would be a wonderful way to find out about a sister Branch in another country. If your Branch would like to participate in this exchange program, please send your Branch information and your

choice of country to ACWW, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2NB, England. Please enclose a small donation to Pennies for Friendship to cover the administration cost.

And have you started your "BEE" - Brown Educational Envelope? It is the hope of the FWIC that each province will send in a bag of program ideas, accomplishments and clippings related to education. I ask that all Branches, Districts and Areas be aware of this and that the Program Co-ordinators collect interesting items and forward them to me at report time in 1992 and 1993. In turn, ideas from other provinces will be coming back to you.

*Glenna Smith is the Program Co-ordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.*