

WI will give quilt

1984

On June 11, a quilted wall hanging will be presented to the province of Ontario, destined to hang in the Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park. At their semi-annual meeting from Apr. 16 - 19, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Board members viewed the completed article which the organization has created as a Bi-Centennial project.

The centre of the embroidered wall hanging features an illustrated map of Ontario, with the Ontario Bi-Centennial logo and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario crest appearing in opposite corners.

Women's Institute members from across the province designed and embroidered 48 other blocks which depict highlights from the counties, districts and regional municipalities, a picture of the Province's diversity.

After the Institute colours of gold and royal blue were used to assemble the finished portions, a number of skilled workers from Bruce Centre District quilted and added the finishing touches to this cooperative effort of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The formal presentation to the Premier of Ontario will be Mon., June 11 from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto. Following the presentation, members of the Women's Institute Provincial Board and the women who worked on the wall hanging will be welcomed at a tea.

Women's Institute members from across Canada will visit in Ontario from June 16 - 20, 1985 when Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario hosts the 10th National Convention of the Federated Women's of Canada. The expected 600 delegates will be in residence at Sauguené Maitland Residence, University of Western Ontario, London, Wed. June 19 will be "Ontario Day" when delegates will visit the Eriand Lee (Museum) Home, Stoney Creek and the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead, St. George. Also included on the tour will be the Niagara Area and the Mennonite Area.

300 delegates are expected at the Officers' Conference at Waterloo University on May 1, 2, 3. This will be a learning experience for secretaries, treasurers and members at large.



THE CREWEL EMBROIDERY class in Ripley began Monday at Knox Presbyterian Church. Here, instructor Helen VanderGlas assists Margaret

Gemmel, right with some work, while Alice Gamble and Florence Kirkpatrick, left work on. (Bev Clark Photo)



Ann Planting and Colleen Girling, members of Rutherford Women's Institute, RR 3, Florence, watch as Cindy Boyd of Chatham, a rural organization specialist with the provincial ministry of agriculture and food, offers some tips on how to cut old clothing for use in braiding projects.

FWIO presenting quilt wall hanging

The activity and hum of voices issuing from the public gallery lobby of the Ontario Legislature attracted everyone's attention on the afternoon of June 11. The gathering crowd was awaiting the unveiling of a bi-centennial gift for the Province of Ontario.

Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, president of federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, formally presented the organization's gift, a quilted wall hanging which they had designed and created.

After unveiling the wall hanging, Hon. Robert Welch, Deputy Premier commented on the contribution of the many people who created this masterpiece that put the province together.

The centre of the embroidered wall hanging features an illustrated map of Ontario depicting early pioneer life in the province and a small Ontario community with a local point of church and school which was typical 200 years ago in the upper left hand corner is the bi-centennial logo and in the lower right hand corner is the official crest of the Women's Institute with its motto "For Home and Country". Forty-eight other blocks depicting highlights from the counties, districts and regional municipalities of Ontario were designed and embroidered by Women's Institute members from across the province who supported this project and gave so generously of their time and talents. A special group of ladies from Bruce Centre District assembled the blocks, quilted and

finished the wall hanging. Hon. Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Agriculture and Food, thought the location of the wall hanging - across the gallery from the painting of the Fathers of Confederation - was very appropriate because they had organized the country and the Women's Institute had built upon it.

When you next visit the main legislative building, be sure to take a few minutes to view this wall hanging on the third floor - it will be time well spent.

Old clothing put to good use

PETROLIA - Yesterday's cast-offs are turning up in the strangest places - underfoot, on chairs and at the table.

"There's really no end to what can be made by braiding discarded clothing," said Cindy Boyd of Chatham, a rural agriculture specialist with the provincial ministry of agriculture and food which is holding a fabric braiding workshop here this week. "We're emphasizing the recycling of things like pantyhose, cotton knitwear and other items that tend to accumulate around the house."

More than 80 members of women's organizations in Lambton County are taking part in the

course, learning how to cut up old clothes and turn the fabric into rugs, chair pads, place mats and dozens of other household accessories.

"The idea behind the courses is that the participants take the knowledge picked up here back to offer courses in their own communities. These people are all leaders of organizations such as women's institutes, nursing homes, municipal recreation departments, senior citizen groups, the YMCA, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and neighborhood groups," Boyd said.

Participants learn how to prepare old clothing for braiding -

"for instance, it's unwise to put together types of fabric that have different shrinking or fading characteristics."

If the item is to be dyed when it is assembled, "it's wise to know that natural fibres pick up and hold dyes better than synthetics," Boyd said. "And there are little tricks to cutting old materials the right way as well. . . . We also talk about how to care for the things we braid."

She said workshop participants will lead fabric braiding courses this winter and then, in the spring, hold open houses to display the handwork in their communities.

The workshop, at Christ Anglican Church, ends today.

Sid Ross