

Institutes are performing vital role

By ANN KELLY
Lifestyle Editor

In the modern world of working women and instant information, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is holding its own, according to Bernice Noblitt, president of the 45,000-member organization.

Although it has lost some members, it isn't as many as other older organizations, she told the conference. Coupled with the fact that more women are working outside the home and many new single-issue groups are vying for the time of women, she sees institutes as more relevant because they handle all issues.

It was in 1897 that the women's institute was begun for the education and support of rural women in Canada. But now issues ranging from wife battering, pornography, acid rain, nuclear disarmament and video violence were discussed by the 1,200 delegates to the 10th annual convention of the FWIC held recently at the University of Western Ontario, London.

Local delegates went to the conference and will be making reports to their own chapters.

The Charter of Rights, quality of life for seniors, child abuse, and teenage alcohol changes were among the workshop topics. By submitting briefs to the federal government, on these and other issues, Ms. Noblitt believes the visibility

of the FWIC has been raised during her three-year term.

Living near Ottawa has made it easier for her to help make the organization a more effective lobbying group, she said in reports released from the conference.

Resolutions relating to beer advertising, family law, nuclear arms limitation, prohibition of demographic data on programs, and preservation of seed varieties and sentencing of sex offenders were among those carried at the convention.

The theme of the convention was "Women — Unlimited Potential" with Mrs. Charlotte Johnson, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, extending a welcome as did A.K. Adlington, acting president, University of Western Ontario and Al Gleeson, mayor of London.

Greetings came from Dr. Ellen McLean, president of the Associated Country Women of the World; Senator Martha Blichfeld, area vice-president, Canada, Associated Country Women of the World; Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, federal Minister of Agriculture; John Wise, federal Frank Premier, who was then premier of Ontario.

Ms. McLean, president of the nine million member association, has been involved with the Women's Institute of Canada for 32 years. She often travels to the central office in London, England, and to many of the 68 member countries, including several in the Third World.

In her view the international aspect of the work has always been one of the real pleasures of being a member. The main concern of the Associated Country Women of the World is to help women everywhere and by doing so, then to help others.

The organization provides education and training as well as donations for projects in such countries as Brazil, Pakistan, Kenya

and Jamaica, focusing on the provision of clean water and sanitation, the United Nations' theme for this decade.

The organization stresses the grassroots approach to development and the women in the villages who are doing the training. The Federated Women's Institutes is raising \$50,000 from its members in Canada for the ACWW to use in its work. . . .

Ms. McLean was the recipient of an honorary degree from St. Paul's Xavier University in 1976 for her work with rural women.

Mrs. H. Viola Clark of Markdale placed second in the Tweedsmuir cultural competition.

First-prize winner, Emmie Oddie received the Order of Canada from Governor General Jeanne Sauve earlier this year.

The Adelaide-Hoodless Foundation Fund has received \$69,000 to-

ward a total of \$100,000. Because it was the founder's home members were urged to support it.

Tweedsmuir History cursor for FWIC, Jenny Morgan, aims to gather documentary and photographic accounts of all special events, honors, awards and projects since the founding of FWIC in 1919 and keep the book in the national office.

During the triennium, the provinces were twinned, exchanged letters, ideas and programs. At the convention, they came together with skits, songs, a fashion show and slides to tell of their customs, origins and life. Ontario was twinned with New Brunswick and invited members and the opportunity to learn what institute members are doing across the country.

Music was provided by the Twin City harmonizers.

Members were encouraged to keep up to date by subscribing to Federated News at the National office, 46 Elgin Street, Room 28, Ottawa, K1P 5G6. A single subscription is \$2.50 and more than 10 for one address cost \$2.

More than 600 delegates enjoyed tours to the Meononite area, Niagara Falls, Sarnia, a St. Clair river cruise, the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead and the Erland Lee Museum Home.

Area WI convention

"As the years unfold, we are the pioneers of today who will be looked back on by the future generation. What will they think of our accomplishments?" outgoing president Lois Urstad asked delegates at the 26th annual Grey-Bruce Area Women's Institute convention in Chesley.

There are pioneers in every generation, she said. "We can all become pioneers; have an idea, invest something, do something new or do something old in a better way."

"When history books are read, will they know that we've been here and be glad for it? Are we doing our share toward bringing in to be a better world of which all good men and women dream? Let us not be timid citizens," she said.

Mrs. Urstad was developing the convention theme The Canada we enjoy today was not brought to nationhood by timid citizens.

Charlotte Johnston, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, encouraged understanding and consideration when dealing with others.

Mrs. Johnston conducted the election of officers when Iris Coyne, RR 6, Winton, was installed as president. Vice-presidents are Jean Wyville, RR 2 Markdale, Maureen Parker, RR 1 Elmstow, Ruth Thomas, RR 1 Holiston; secretary, Yvonne Thom; Meaford; assistant, Doris Renzie, RR 1 Meaford; treasurer, Audrey Henderson, RR 1 Mar.

Other officers include: Helen Whitney, RR 2, Holland Centre, public relations assistant, Gwen Harrison, RR 2 Ripley; agriculture and Canadian industries, Elda Grievie, RR 2 Port Elgin; citizenship and world affairs, Alice Atkinson, RR 5 Owen Sound, family and consumer affairs, Dorothy Friar, RR 3 Chesley; resolutions, Blanche Martin, RR 4 Chatsworth; Tweedsmuir curator, Yvonne Maluske, Chesley; assistant, Joan Spurling, RR 7 Owen Sound; Auditors are Roslyn Reid and Mrs. Sydney Richardson, both of Winton.

There were 554 delegates with Bruce South district winning the trophy for perfect attendance.

Verna Maluske, chairman of the Committee for Women's Institute of the Future, encouraged members to take part in the program to look at what institute members want, how it can be implemented and strengths for the future.

She congratulated branches for quality made and sold at the Split Rail Festival. They raised \$9,000 in aid of disabled people using Participation Lodge.

Board director Muriel Busch, Louisa Long, Margaret McArthur and Doris McElman led workshops on the work of the institute at branch, district, area and provincial levels. Findings included a need for better communication at all levels.

How are your vital signs? A questionnaire to assess the work of the institute at branch level, was outlined by Joyce Cannings, rural organization services organizer. Assessing needs, planning, implementing plans, evaluation and other areas were considered.

Winner of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada Tweedsmuir essay competition at area level was Viola Clarke of Rocklin. Being the subject was The Impact of WI in Canada.

Iris Coyne reported on meeting with the Anglican Diocese and gave an update on Convention '85 in London. It is expected 800 delegates will attend. Any interested members can attend at their own expense. The Grey-Bruce area is responsible for registration. Each district is to donate gifts to the value of \$20, but no single gift is to exceed \$10.

Each branch will be assessed \$1 to cover the cost of pins and tags for guests at the convention.

Group discussion on food poisoning was the highlight of the report given by rural organizations specialists, Denise Edwards and Barbara Klages.

Mrs. Susan Clappen Henderson and her husband have been hired to replace Mr. and Mrs. Beecham who have retired as host and hostess at Erland Lee Home. Christmas at the Lee Home will be celebrated Dec. 5-6.

The Federated Women's Institute of Canada is sponsoring an essay contest for children up to 14 years. The title can be Water For a Thrifty World or My Dream of Peace. The hand-written essays are to be not less than 250 words and not more than 1,000, written on one side of 8 1/2" paper with name, age, branch and school of the author attached on a separate paper. The essays will be judged by Jan. 5 with first prize \$100.

Delegates were encouraged to continue supporting the project, Clean Water For All. By next year's convention the goal is \$50,000.

There won't be an officers' conference in 1985 but a curator's workshop dealing with family trees, house logs and methods of preservation will be convened for district and area curators.

Roxanne Buckle of Downsview won the Helen McKercher scholarship of \$1,200.

Guest pianist at the convention was Joyce Schuur.

At the evening banquet entertainment was provided by the Merry Music Quintet of Owen Sound and Mrs. John Kingma, talk show comedian.

Marian Koepke, vice-president of the Junior Women's Institute, highlighted their work which includes contributions to the Hospital For Sick Children and pennies for friendship, trophies for the disabled and the publishing of the book, A Little Bit More.

Blanche Martin presented three resolutions relating to packing potatoes, nuclear disarmament and deep sea fishing but only the nuclear disarmament resolution carried with an amendment. The deep sea fisheries issue was referred back for more research and rewriting and the potato resolution was lost.

Bruce District Annual

Tiverton Branch of the Women's Institute played host to the Bruce South District annual meeting held at the Underwood Community Centre on May 21 when the theme was "Youth is Not Wasted on the Young."

The district President, Mrs. Wm. McPherson of Holyrood chaired the meeting. Mrs. James Convey, Secretary-Treasurer, read the minutes of the 1984 annual meeting. Entertainment by the Sing-a-long was enjoyed-put on by Kinloss-Kairshea, Whitechurch and Reids Corners. Reports of the past year were given by the various conductors.

Mrs. Don MacAdam, F.W.I.O. Board Director Subdivision 17, in her address urged members to encourage and support the youth as this is the "Year of the Youth". Barbara Klages, Rural Organization Specialist, said we should make our meetings interesting and current to today in order to attract new members.

A quilting display was set up with quilts for people to admire and the Bruce County Tartan display with items for sale.

The district executive for 1985-86 are as follows: Past President Mrs. Perrin Lowy, R.R. 1 Kincaid; President Mrs. Wm. McPherson, R.R. 1 Holyrood NG 2B; 1st Vice President Mrs. Wm. McInnes, R.R. 3 Teeswater NG 2B; 2nd Vice President Mrs. Russel McGuire, Wingham, NG 2W; Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Cecil Humphrey, R.R. 1 Ripley, NG 2B; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Don MacAdam, R.R. 2 Wingham NG 2W; and Public Relations Officer Mrs. Perrin Lowy R.R. 1 Kincaid NG 2A.