

Rural women's group helps with conference

Rural women from across Ontario will meet to discuss common problems at a three-day conference at Geneva Park near Orillia, Nov. 16, 17, 18.

Concerned Farm Women, the rural women's support group based in Grey and Bruce Counties, is among sponsors of the conference, called Turning Point.

Organizers expect about 200 people to register for three days of speakers and discussion groups at the government-funded conference.

Beth Slumskie of Dobbinet, a founding member of Concerned Farm Women, will be one of three key speakers for the weekend. Mrs. Slumskie will speak on the topic "Community Growth Versus Personal Growth."

Susan Clover, another CFW member, will head a workshop which will describe the group's origins and development.

Ontario Agriculture Minister Dennis Trewell will address a session Sunday, and Lyse Blanchard, director of women's programming for the federal Secretary of State, will speak Friday evening.

Betsy Stephens of Owen Sound, conference co-ordinator, says participants will join small discussion groups to address various discussion topics dealing with

community development issues.

"One of our main goals is to strengthen the network of existing organizations," Ms. Stephens said, "to share information and make it available to participants."

The conference should provide advice about how to avoid the inevitable problems of establishing local, self-help groups "so people are not re-inventing the wheel over and over," she said.

Ms. Stephens helped organize a conference on Rural Women and Mental Health two years ago in Port Elgin.

Singer-songwriter Heather Bishopp, who performed at the Port Elgin conference, will also participate in the Turning Point Conference.

In addition to CFW, Women's Institutes, Women In Support of Agriculture, the University of Western Ontario and both the federal and provincial governments are conference sponsors. The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the federal Secretary of State have provided major financial support.

Subsidies are available for people who wish to attend the conference but may have difficulty with the \$100 registration fee or travel and child care costs. Anyone interested should contact Ms. Stephens at 371-4150.



THE TIVERTON BRANCH of the Women's Institute hosted the Bruce South District Annual, May 21, at the Underwood Community Centre. At this meeting the new executive for 1985-86 was chosen and is as follows: Provincial Board Director Doreen

MacAdam; Public Relations and Past President Marion Lowry; 1st Vice President Margaret McLane; President Lorraine MacPherson; and Secretary-Treasurer Norma Humphrey. (Barbara Cobean photo)



AT THE BRUCE South District Annual May 21, the new Standing Conveners were chosen: Agriculture and Canadian Industry Mrs. John Currie; Bruce County Women's Institute Scholars Mrs. Gordon Wall; Curator Mrs. Cecil Hollands; Education and

Cultural Activities Mrs. Charles Murray; Resolutions Mrs. Dave Ireland, County Trust Fund Mrs. Doris Hays; and Citizenship and World Affairs Mrs. Stonehouse. (Barbara Co

Zilla Hedley new WI president in Toronto

The election of officers was held at the Ripley Women's Institute meeting electing Mrs. Zilla Hedley president and Miss Christina Robertson secretary. Following a pot luck luncheon the roll call, the payment of fees of \$4.00 was answered by 15 members. Several new members joined and were welcomed.

The District Annual will be held on May 8 instead of May 20 at Teeswater. The theme of the annual will be, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Each member is asked to take a craft to this meeting to be sold later at the Eriand Lea Home. Ripley will conduct the song sing in the afternoon.

Mrs. Florence Kirkpatrick conducted the election of officers. Other officers elected were: vice president, Mrs. Margaret Scott; new vice president, Mrs. Peg Chappelle; treasurer, Mrs. Annie Culbert; branch directors, Florence Kirkpatrick, Donald McLean, Annie Scott, Margaret Scott and Anna MacTavish; conveners, Elizabeth Fair, Annie Scott, Minnie Lock, Amelia Cumming, Noreen MacDonald; curator, Frances Nugent; P.R.O., Margaret Gemmill; visiting committee, Noreen MacDonald and Mary Brooks; pianists, Violet

MacKenzie, Adeline Martyn and Margaret Gemmill; auditors, Peg Chappelle and Elizabeth Fair.

Thanks was extended to Sadie McLeod, retiring president, Donald McLean, retiring secretary and Mrs. Mary MacDonald for work as next by Frances Nugent.

Next meeting at Noreen MacDonald's home. Peg Chappelle and Minnie Lock are representatives at Hospital Auxiliary.

Bruce South WI

The District Directors meeting of the Bruce-South W.I. was held in Bervie Institute Hall on Tuesday, March 25, 1986.

Mrs. William McPherson presided. The Opening Ode was sung and the Mary Stewart Collect was repeated.

Please note the change in date for the District Annual to May 8. The theme for the day is "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

Mrs. Fred Friar as alternate board member gave us the highlights of the board meeting last fall.

Mrs. Dave Ireland gave us a report of the workshop she attended at Bond Place in Toronto in Feb. A delicious lunch was served by Bervie W.I.

FWIO leaders met in Toronto

Developing resource leaders was the main objective of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) during their Leadership Development Workshops on Feb. 25, 26 at the Bond Place Hotel, Toronto. The 85 delegates from across Ontario will return and organize workshops on the current topics within their communities.

Pat Ferraro, Guelph conducted the opening session on effective speaking aimed at personal development and planning a stimulating workshop.

The delegates then attended concurrent workshops related to water and financial planning.

Dr. Keith Rodgers, Senior Research Management Advisor from Environment Canada addressed the session on water - nature's greatest resource. Water has no cost, it can be removed from rivers, lakes, etc. by industry, municipalities or individuals and little is being done to discourage its waste or excess use. Dr. Rodgers stated, "Acid rain changes quality but not the quantity of water." Because the quality does affect the economy, research is being encouraged to make the new technology for controlling causes of acid rain more effective and less costly. Other concerns covered were water testing, water diversions and exportation and Great Lakes pollution.

Workshops a feature of WI area convention

Workshops designed to broaden the horizons of women's institute members were a feature at the 27th annual Grey-Bruce Area Women's Institute convention held at the Bayshore Community Centre.

Introduced by Marjorie Parker the workshops dealt with such issues as pornography, led by Muriel Lush and Laurie McKnight Walker, agriculture and where it is with Karlene Gault and the leader, effective speaking led by Amber Underwood and quality of life for seniors.

There were 499 delegates registered at the convention, which covered two days and a half, and 315 attended the evening banquet. The attendance trophy was won by Grey West District.

President Ann Payne opened the meeting urging delegates to let the good happen and shun the bad. A rally welcome was extended by Yvonne Thom. Song-leader was Margaret McPherson, with Doris Flowers the pianist.

Mrs. Glen Hallenby from Bruce South district conducted the in memoriam.

How to get new members and how to be depicted in a kit presented by rural organization specialists Barbara Klages and Denise Edwards.

An update on Ontario happenings was given by Charlotte Johnson, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. She encouraged delegates to foster understanding between rural and urban residents. Since one-third of the members live on farms it's important to get the right person in the right place at the right time.

Members were invited to write to institute branches in Prince Edward Island, the twin province for the next three years.

In the public relations report Helen Whitney noted that 112 branches donated in excess of \$75,000 to worthy causes during

the past year. ¹⁹⁸⁵ Verna Maluska in reporting for Tweedsmuir histories, noted that most branches have two or more volumes of history but only 12 have songs.

Members were thanked for quilt donations which raised \$7,500 for Participation Lodge. Fifty more are needed for the 1986 sale in September.

Banquet guests were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Elliott of Cape Croker Reserve. Mr. Elliott introduced the Chippewas of Nawash, a group of singers and dancers with whom the couple has been working for the past three years. The young people, who take pride in themselves, want their own identity, want to help themselves and don't want welfare. They entertained with songs and dances including the snake dance, a very old woodland dance.

The topic of the convention was the topic of a report given by Lynda Frieberger.

Resolutions were presented by Blanche Martin. One on farm succession was passed after family violence also passed.

New bylaws were presented by Margaret McArthur.

A suggestion to have a one-day convention was agreed upon. Next year Bruce East district will host the convention in the Southampton area Sept. 9.

Other officers include past president, Mrs. E. G. Urstad; vice-presidents, Mrs. Norman Wyville, Mrs. George Parker and Mrs. Harry Thomas; secretary, Mrs. James Thom; treasurer, Mrs. William Henderson; public relations, Mrs. John Whitney; assistant, Mrs. Howard Harrison. The president of the Ontario Women's Institute with Joyce Canning rural organizations and services co-ordinator.