

# Women's Institutes help preserve heritage

The legacy any organization leaves for the future generations in the community is just as important as what the individual members receive. This is very true of the Women's Institutes. Throughout the rural communities in Ontario there are tangible records that the Women's Institute cares about the community they are in.

In Granton it is the Women's Institute that erected the War Memorial while the Yarmouth-Glen branch take care of the local cemetery. In Tourist village of Sparta, the local Women's Institute branch have restored and maintain the local museum, The Forge and Anvil.

It was through the efforts of the Women's Institute that the Southwest Earth works, recording a campsite of the Neutral Indians, has been restored. For a long time Parks Canada and the Women's Institute maintained the site. Now Parks Canada looks after it.

St. Thomas is the home of the Elgin County Museum. The local Women's Institute branches under the direction of Mrs. Fitcher helped to raise money to establish the museum which records the work and joy of the pioneers of Elgin County. Thirty years after its establishment the local branches are still supporting the museum, financially.

If you travel to Stoney Creek you will visit the Erland Lee (Museum) Home, a site that is visited by hundreds of overseas as well as Canadian visitors, as the home of the co-founder of Women's Institute Erland and Janet Lee. Visitors particularly like to see the original table on which Janet Lee recorded the minutes of the first Women's Institute meeting in 1897. Little did she realize that this organization would spread throughout Canada and to the four corners of the World.

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada maintain the Hoodless Homestead in St. George. This is the home of the other co-founder of Women's Institutes, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless. Both these houses are of interest not only to Women's Institute members but to any one interested in seeing homes restored to their original style.

When you visit the Agricultural Museum at Milton you will have the chance to see the Women's Institute Hall. This now depicts a 1920 Sewing Class, similar to the many sewing classes held in the rural halls throughout Ontario.

Many Women's Institute branches purchased the local schools, when consolidation came about, and turned these schools into local community centres. Some are maintained entirely by the local branches and others have been turned over to a local community committee. Facilities such as these help to hold the community together.

When you travel out Ontario there is still one more place that the Ontario Women's Institutes help maintain. This is the International Peace Gardens between Manitoba and South Dakota. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada was one of the first organizations to offer assistance when the Peace Gardens were established. Today the upkeep of the Women's Institute are financed by annual donation from each province. Maybe you sat on the Ontario bench or had a picnic on the table.

As you travel throughout rural Ontario you will find many more examples of the legacy that the rural communities have received from the largest rural women's organization in Ontario - the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.



The executive of the South Bruce District WI, which met Tuesday at last week in Ripley, is pictured above. Front row, from left: Margaret Harkness of Bervie WI, Doreen MacAdam of Belmore WI, Eleanor Conway of Thorton WI, Jean McGuire of Whitechurch WI, Laggart McInnes of Teeswater WI. Centre row:

Marion Lowry of Reid's Corners WI, Joan Murray of Holywood WI, Emily Bushell of Bervie WI. Back row: Virene Thompson of Bervie WI, Deanna Scott of Purple Grove WI, Marjorie Wall of Whitechurch WI, Gwen Harrison of Reid's Corners WI, Doris Hays of Belmore WI, Norma Humphrey of Reid's Corners WI.

## Terri Johnston awarded WI scholarship

The Bruce County Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship for 1988 has been awarded to Miss Terri Johnson of R.R. #4, Kincardine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Johnson, Kinloss.

Terri has been involved in 4H Clubs for eight years and has completed 15 projects. She has received her County and Provincial Awards. During her 4H work she has participated in all activities and completed one Youth Leadership course. She has been helpful with younger members and has been a willing volunteer.

Terri is presently a student in Grade 13 at Kincardine District Secondary School, where she is an Honours student, tutors in many subjects, belongs to soccer and basketball teams, dance club and was a Rotary exchange student.

She is also active in her community, helping at community suppers and fundraisers, speaking to groups and teaching Sunday School. She is a Lifeguard and a swimming instructor at the Davidson Centre. She worked in the summer on two Indian Reserves. She also has worked with the mentally handicapped.

Terri plans to attend University in September. The Scholarship cheque for \$250.00 and the certificate were presented to her on May 17, at Bruce South District Annual Meeting at Ripley United

Church by Mrs. Gordon Wall, the Scholarship Committee Representative for Bruce South.



Terri Johnson of R.R. #4, Kincardine was presented with the Bruce County WI Scholarship of \$250 at the annual meeting of the Bruce South WI last Tuesday in Ripley. Making the presentation was Marjorie Wall. Terri hopes to take medicine at the University of Western Ontario.

## New executive

R.R. #4, Kincardine; curator, Mrs. Alvin Thompson, R.R. #2, Kincardine; tartan, Mrs. John Bushell, R.R. #2, Kincardine; assistant, Mrs. Charles Murray, R.R. #1, Holyrood; rescinders, Mrs. Doris Hays, R.R. #1, Wroxeter; museum, Mrs. Gwen Harrison, R.R. #2, Ripley; scholarship, Mrs. Gordon Wall, Wingham; alternate, Mrs. Marjorie Scott, R.R. #3, Ripley; trust fund, Mrs. James Conway, R.R. #2, Thorton; P.R.O. report, Margaret Harkness.

## FWIO backs recycling

Not in my backyard. The women of rural Ontario would like the rest of Ontario to do what they intend to do. That is recycle as much of their own garbage as possible, re-use packaging and other articles when possible, reduce the need for landfill sites and the expense of waste disposal and to recover energy by processing solid waste.

Over 400 women participated in the Educate-Initiate Conference sponsored by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO), held recently at Queen's University, Kingston. The theme of the FWIO for 1988-89 is Waste Management - Recycling. As a result of the 1988 Conference the FWIO would like to see 100 new recycling projects started throughout Ontario, by 1990.

The constant use of throw-away products was aptly demonstrated when it was discovered that the panel members, on the Friday night, were using plastic throw away water glasses and a plastic plate suggested Pat Slater, deputy reeve of Peel Township in Wellington County. Even the bows on the speaker's gifts were recycled.

Practical applications were given to the women on how they could influence their communities. Maybe the women could raise the money to buy their community centre a dish washer instead of using styrofoam cups and paper plates suggested Pat Slater, deputy reeve of Peel Township in Wellington County.

John Hanson, executive director of the Recycling Council of Ontario told the women, that if they were told there was no funding to set up a depot for the collection for recyclable materials, that this was misinformation. There is funding but some municipalities just seem

to discourage recycling. When one Women's Institute Branch presented a brief to their township asking for something to be done about recycling they were told nothing could be done unless their taxes were increased drastically.

The Ontario Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Jim Bradley told the participants that the Ontario government enthusiastically promoted municipal waste

management that included reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery as the primary alternative waste management tools. Over 70 municipalities have made use of provincial start-up funding to establish curbside multi-material recycling projects.

The over 7,000,000 tons of garbage that Ontario creates each year should be processed in the municipality that creates the garbage. The women of rural Ontario do not want the garbage of the urban centres dumped in the rural areas. They were pleased to find out that Guelph has set aside a park of 40 acres to commemorate all the trees they saved in the first year of operation of their recycling project.

To help get the message of the Conference across to all parts of the province, the conference participants took part in a series of workshops that included fund raising, speaking with confidence, program planning, public relations and volunteer management. As well they saw displays on recycled articles and pictures of what can happen to the environment when garbage is not controlled.