

Ways of Improving your community at roll call

Castleford Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History

1997-1999

Lillian Lindsay was hostess for the January meeting of the Castleford Women's Institute. Jan. 1991

The program for the evening was on education and Mary Ferguson introduced the evening's guest speaker, Nancy McGuire. Nancy is the training consultant for the Future's Program operating out of the Algonquin College and is funded by the department of education. It began in 1985 and is directed towards 16-24 year-olds. Disabled people up to 29 years are accepted. At the present 66 people are enrolled. These young people must have been out of school or unemployed for 12 weeks. If they have their grade 12 they must have been unemployed for 20 weeks.

To enter the Future's Program the student must fill out an application form. Any business interested in taking part must apply as well.

The program offers an opportunity for school drop outs to acquire life skills,

education and on the job training. There are four different options they may take depending on their educational needs, if they don't know what they want or how to present themselves.

Many small businesses take an active and important part in this program in our area. They are responsible for training and supervision. Futures pays the student's wages which are minimum wage. The employer, if he is able, will hire the trainee when the course is completed. A successful case is one where the person is hired, returns to school full time or decides to continue his career direction. There is an 80 per cent success rate although the recession is making it more difficult as employers are cutting back their payrolls or don't expand.

Nancy passed around pictures of the school and successful students. She told how each one worked hard towards their goals and achieved them. She urged that there are opportunities for anyone at any

age. They have only to get information at the Employment Centre for available programs.

The roll call was something you are planning to do to improve your community. Recycle, write to get Castleford signs where they should be and road improvement were some. A Horton firefighters auxiliary has been started and a dance to honour our firefighters will be held February 9 at the Legion.

During the business section the tariff list was read. This year's theme "A Night With the Golden Girls" sounds intriguing.

President Averil McLeod read a poem, "Belonging, which asks, Are you active member or do you just belong?"

A delicious lunch prepared by Lillian Lindsay and Mary Ferguson brought the evening to a 'full-filling' end.

Castleford WI takes part in Citizens' Forum discussion

Castleford Women's Institute met at the home of Doris Humphries on March 19, 1991. A brief time was spent looking at the Tweedsmuir History books on display. There are now ten loose leaf binders covering the history of the Castleford community.

The business meeting dealt with various matters such as District Annual at Combermere on May 14 and Renfrew South District trip to Stoney Creek on June 4 and 5. This year marks the 76th anniversary of Women's Institutes organized as this district.

Castleford was organized earlier in July 1913, as part of the Lochwinnoch branch. It became a separate branch in May 1915.

The program for the meeting was very up-to-date being a discussion on

Citizens' Forum, the People Speak. The moderator for the group was Doris Humphries.

Major issues facing Canada now and in the future are: employment, unity, the native people's issue, the strength of a central government and the question of transfer payments to poorer provinces or groups.

There were different opinions on how to cope with aboriginal people with a feeling that fair treatment is most important. However the idea was that they should be Canadians, taking pride in themselves, their skills, their homes, etc.

Regarding Quebec, the consensus was that Quebec should remain as part of Canada but should not make so many unreasonable demands. We

think the signs in French-only was extremely unfair to its English-speaking people and unwise in the Canadian system.

The attempt to make Canada a bilingual country has been very expensive, unwise, unnecessary and unsuccessful.

All ethnic groups have differences which are enjoyed and appreciated but there is a need to unit under one language, English, the business language of the world.

Canada has been regarded as a country which makes rational and fair decisions. We should stand by decisions made by the United Nations as long as we are a member there. We value our many freedoms and deplore the loss of freedom in other countries.