

Women's Institutes celebrate

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40th annual rally

by Anna Farrow

Lois Frieburger of Walkerton presided for the Fortieth Annual Bruce County Rally. In her opening poem she challenged members to advertise their accomplishments, thus introducing the theme "Marketing the W.I." At this meeting in Belmore, Oct. 19, 1995, a welcome was extended by Betty Stafford for the Bruce South District. Warden Paul Eagleson brought greetings from Bruce County Council, expressing appreciation for the Women's Institute as a top volunteer contributor in the county.

In Memoriam was conducted by Viola Chambers and Doreen Wrightson of Zion-Amabel Branch.

President Frieburger thanked the members for their support. She also thanked those responsible for the "Roots of Bruce" program for elementary school children. A banner prepared for this and other Women's Institute functions was displayed.

Wanita Haliday read a report prepared by Audrey Underwood on the Bruce County Museum and Archives, emphasizing the excellence of the Military Gallery recon-

struction. More chairs are still needed. A recommendation regarding reducing the number of members representing Women's Institute on the Museum board to two members, on the retirement of present appointees, was approved.

A workshop on the day's theme by Fran Farrell, Area Program Coordinator, enabled members to discuss and formulate methods of gathering information to make meetings interesting and worthwhile. Through programming, resolutions, public relations, education and You this personal growth and community action organization

can be given a higher profile in the general public, Farrell explained. Louise Moyer, Area Public Relations Officer, urged members to organize their thoughts so that when asked what W.I. is, they can have a great answer. Promote your actions through celebrations, radio interviews, bulletin boards, and any community events. Closing the workshop with a skit and organizing the audience into a pep rally, Farrell left the members with excellent ideas and much enthusiasm.

Margaret McInnes for the Bruce County Tartan Committee outlined their work in the past year, announcing a large purchase of tartan material.

Three 4-H members applied for the Bruce County Scholarship, reported Judy McKinnon. The winner was Tara Thacker, a second year student at the University of Guelph. A thank you card was received from Thacker for the monetary award and the book "A History of Bruce".

Emily Bushell, Tweedsmuir History Curator, reported on her work to update the history of the rally.

Fran Farrell reported for the "Roots of Bruce" and thanked the

members for their support enabling them to provide 90 to 100 meals daily to the volunteers during the event. Next year a similar programme will be held on April 9, 10 and 11.

Keith Reid representing OMAFRA reported on the Environmental Farm Plan, a farmer led, farmer driven programme identifying risks to ground water from farming practices. He urged the Women's Institutes to help by supporting a workshop to acquaint farm families with the plan.

Ruth Thomas conducted the election of officers:

Past Chairperson: Mrs. (J.) Lois Frieburger, Walkerton;
 Chairperson: Mrs. (I.) Kate Meilhausen, Lion's Head; Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. (P.) Marion Lowry, Kincardine; Second Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. (D.) Margaret Playle, Tara; Third Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. (R.) Linda Frieburger, Walkerton; Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. (O.) Norma Stewart, Stokes Bakes; Public Relations Officer: Mrs. (K.) Eleanor McLelland, Allendorf; Assistant PRO: Mrs. (G.) Anna Farrow, Allendorf; Tweedsmuir History Curator: Mrs. (J.) Emily Bushell, Kincardine.

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