

Grey Bruce Women's Institute Area Convention

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MAXWELL - Recently, in Maxwell Community Centre, the Grey-Bruce Women's Institute Area Convention was held with Gretha Holmes presiding. Sylvia Hasbury presented the Canada flag.

O Canada and the W.I. Ode were followed by the Mary Stewart Collect. President of South Grey District Norma Geberdt warmly welcomed everyone. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Grey-Bruce Area W.I. will host the FWIO Women's Institute conference in 2012. Guelph Area will host the 2010 FWIO conference.

Reports from public relations, advocacy, Tweedsmuir curator, ROSE co-ordinator and area voting delegate convenors were given. A ROSE program is any health or educational event that includes the public.

FWIO president Joy Trimble presented the following information.

Twenty years ago the focus was on

the environment. Now "going green" is more prevalent. Change something in your life or community to help our environment. Educate the youth about recycling.

“Ontario's Women's Institute has 6,766 members, 515 branches and 71 districts. Two new W.I.'s were organized this year.”

Support local farmers and buy their produce at nearby markets or farm-gates. Fifteen per cent of Canadian food is grown here, 85 per cent is imported. Read labels carefully. Canadians are the world's largest water consumers. Avoid bottled

water in plastic containers, especially plastic packaging.

Marg Everley, Home and Country magazine's columnist, "The Rose Garden," can provide us with more "green" ideas.

Pat Salter is the provincial Advocacy convenor. The Erland Lee homestead, 200 years old, requires painting and the replacement of a water tank. Mark any donations to the Lee for these purposes with Paint the Lee. ACWW thanks us for a generous Pennies for Friendship contribution which provides clean water in several countries.

Bruce County Tweedsmuir histories are being digitalized. Patty from the FWIO office will help organize community ROSE programs and WOW events. Send helpful hints, stories and recipes to Home and Country by Jan. 1, 2009. Ontario's W.I. has 6,766 members, 515 branches and 71 districts. Two new Ontario W.I.'s were organized this year.

Comfort quilts instructions can be obtained from Leona Ford at 519-205-1026 or forth@yahoo.ca

W.I. Week is from Feb. 15-21, 2009. A book, "Tales from an Imperfect Housewife" is for sale.

A 50-year convention certificate was presented by Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MP Larry Miller and Grey Highlands Mayor Brian McMullin.

Warden Kevin Eccles remarked on Kemble W.I.'s Institute Cairn, marking it as the second oldest W.I. in the world and congratulated the area on their 50th convention.

Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Bill Murdoch tendered greetings and congratulations to the Grey-Bruce W.I. Area Convention. Bill led us in grace before lunch was served by the Osprey W.I.

Rev. Bob Giuliano, our interesting speaker, recounted some highlights of his life as a minister where he worked in various archaic prisons. Conditions were terrible in both the

prisons and the Ontario Hospital in Hamilton then, where he was a chaplain. Rev. Trimble requested that his fee be donated to Grace Riding Academy.

Elections were conducted by Joy Trimble. No changes in the area executive except a volunteer to become Area Tweedsmuir Curator.

Fran Farrell, past area president, was a competent co-chair of Bruce County's 2008 IPM. Her report stated Jen Megans from Durham County was the IPM Queen of the Furrow.

Cookbook sales are excellent. IPM souvenirs are available at Mildmay Grocery Store. The artisan tent had excellent sales. Forty businesses joined to produce the tastefully landscaped areas.

Next year's area convention will be held in Keady on Oct. 8, 2009. Isabel Hewitson gave the courtesies. The Royal Anthem concluded the convention.