

*A message to all Women's Institute members from the
Safe & Healthy Communities Committee*

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS?

The following success stories may give you some ideas.

COMMUNITY POLICING COMMITTEE (Middlesex County)

In Mount Brydges, the community police officer recommended a liaison between the community and the police. The Women's Institute, Lions Club, Lioness Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Masonic Lodge, Ministerial Association, Friendship Club for Seniors, the elementary school, Caradoc Township and Pathfinders all got involved.

The township provided an office, the Pathfinders distributed newsletters, and others donated funds for a computer, printer and air conditioner.

The committee organized a child identification program and a Neighbourhood Watch Program. By neighbours looking out for each other, vandalism and theft have been reduced.

911 SERVICE (Grenville District)

Bishop's Mills WI encouraged a letter writing campaign to the local and County Councils to develop a 911 emergency service.

A 911 Committee was set up by the County to plan and implement the service by July, 1996.

To others planning a community project the committee recommends "never *assume* anything is being done. Do your research. Don't give up."

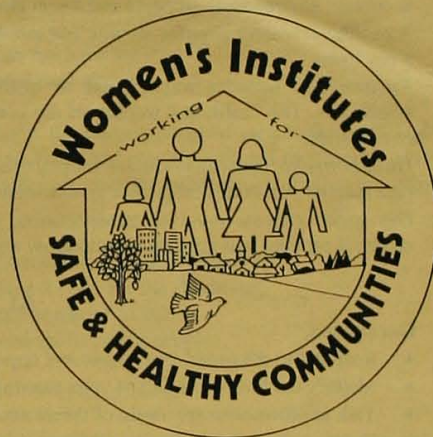
COMMUNITY HALL (Norfolk County)

The community hall in Marburg needed a kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Community members and the Women's Institute worked together to locate a house with an addition about to be demolished. This addition was moved to the back of the community hall and is now used as a kitchen and 2 bathrooms.

Working together, the committee served brunches and suppers, paying off their loan in 3 years. Since then, they have installed a new furnace and insulated the building.

"If you get people working together anything can be accomplished."



"I CAN" THERAPEUTIC EQUESTRIAN RIDING ASSOCIATION (Niagara Region)

A farm and animals were made available to help exercise physically disabled children and adults, helping their balance, coordination, muscle tone and their self-esteem.

The community, the Women's Institute, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and many volunteers have worked together to make this a successful endeavour.

"As a need is recognized, creative answers may be the solution."

In this case, the cost is minimal to users, and no government assistance is required.

HEALTH AND AWARENESS LECTURE SERIES (Dufferin County)

The Salem Women's Institute worked with a health foods store and an alternative therapies clinic to organize a series of lectures on electromagnetic pollution, alternative therapies, herbs and iridology, nutrition and stress, and boosting the immune system.

This was a new idea to the community and it was difficult to sell tickets. The number of people attending increased as the series progressed.

Have you a story of how your group addressed or is addressing community needs?
Send it to the *Safe & Healthy Communities Committee*.