

# Bruce County Women's Institute district director's meeting

By PAT CALHOUN  
Special to SCN

The Kinloss Community Centre was the location of the Bruce County Women's Institute district directors meeting of the March 2.

The meeting was hosted by Reid's Corners and Silver Lake branches.

Institute president Lois Freiburger welcomed everyone. There were 31 branches were present out of 35.

Institute secretary/treasurer Doreen MacAdam read the minutes of the last meeting, gave the reassures report and correspondence.

A letter was received

from Marion Schlorff with regards to events at the Bruce County Museum.

March 15 was Pioneer Day and members volunteered to do sewing for some of the exhibits. Also there will be a Dinosaur exhibit at the museum this summer.

Provincial board director Fran Farrell gave a report on happenings at the board.

Every branch received a video on the literacy program and she announced at the area conventions this year there would be workshops on Tweedsmuir and membership.

Roots of Bruce will be

held April 11-13 of Grade 6 students and they are expecting 988 children to attend.

Once again, the Institutes are serving a hot meal each day to the volunteer workers.

Mary Ziegler reported for the Tartan Committee. Lois Freiburger will attend the FWIC in Manitoba in June of this year.

The committee for the district annual which will be held May 25 in Elmwood are Solway, South Line Brant, South Saugeen, Tara and Teeswater.

The Roll Call for the annual meeting is for each branch to bring an article

for the Erland Lee Home which will be sold to visitors who are visiting the home.

The treasurer asked for a cheque from the branch to be sent along with the number attending the dinner for the district annual. The theme will again be Caring and

Sharing.

The theme for the Bruce County Rally this year will be "Life Is Like a Garden". The meeting will be held Oct. 26 in Tiverton Community Centre.

The committee will be Tiverton, Underwood, Walkerton, Williscraft, Zion Amabel. During the

lunch break the committees worked in groups planning the upcoming meeting for the year.

Adamsville and Allenford will be hostess for the next district directors meeting in March 2001.

The meeting was adjourned by Freiburger.

## Group gives to Women's House

### BRANT-GREENOCK WI

Brant-Greenock Women's Institute met at the home of Claudia Taylor on March 14. President Lois Freiburger opened the meeting with a poem regarding the fickle, changing weather in March.

A report of the recent Bruce County District Director's meeting reminded the members they are asked to donate small crafts and jars of preserves to be sold at the Erland Lee Museum during the summer of 2000.

Wanita Hollands gave highlights of the latest

provincial magazine "Home and Country". She also challenged each member to take part in a "Gas Out" campaign against the high price of fuel. The request is for drivers to avoid fueling up from April 7-9, 2000, as "a silent way to have our voices heard against rising fuel prices."

Answers to the roll call, "Something New You Have Tried," revealed the ladies have been busy with new recipes, new computer

technology and new ways to combat moles in flower beds.

Each person brought items to sell for a "Bring and Buy" auction. Verna Sewers capably auctioned the muffins, tea biscuits, pies and other items. It was agreed to donate \$50 from the proceeds to the Women's House of Bruce County.

The annual meeting (including a pot luck lunch) will be held April 8.

## Women's Institutes in Ontario 'keen to make a difference'

One hundred and three years ago horse and buggy was the transportation of choice and a community meeting was the best, and maybe the only place to acquire new information in rural Ontario, today WI members travel the breadth of our country and even our globe by plane to meet for conferences and fellowship, and they are becoming as comfortable with e-mail and the Internet as their techies sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters.

The WI website [www.fwio.on.ca](http://www.fwio.on.ca) is visited by readers worldwide. Now many WI members no longer rely on a phone call for news, a host of e-mails each morning connects them with others across the province, the country and even the globe.

The nearly 12,000 members who make up the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario are as keen today as their predecessors were 103 years ago when Erland and Janet Lee and Adelaide Hunter Hoodless laid down the constitution of Women's Institutes at a first-ever meeting attended by 101 women in Stoney Creek, Ontario in 1897.

The educational programs initiated to promote safe pasteurized milk for babies and children back in the turn-of-the-century are being mirrored today with Federated Women's

Institutes of Ontario's (FWIO) new Health Program, being implemented province-wide during 2000 & 2001. The program, funded by Ministry of Health / Women's Health Council, will be providing FWIO members and rural Ontario women with access to vital health information.

Featuring the resources of FWIO's Health Partners (listed below), community workshops will be delivered in rural communities throughout Ontario, and organized and hosted by participating WI Branches. Branches will receive substantial support through Leadership Training, an event planning kit and promotional material, which will assist their planning activities.

This program provides numerous benefits. Not only will it increase awareness of important health issues, it will provide access to resources for prevention and treatment of disease and health problems, which will assist in improving the health of women and their families living in rural communities.

On another front FWIO will continue the 1999 initiative to join forces with the OPP's Phonebuster department to educate communities about the dangers of financial loss and emotional distress from falling victim to telemarketing fraud.

WI members have been

ever mindful of their ability to lobby government to create change in both community and country starting back at the turn-of-the-century with such basic fundamental issues as having milk pasteurized and having bread wrapped; then white lines down the centre of provincial highways FOR IMPROVED SAFETY ON ROADS; music in school curriculum (1937); legal age for marriage at 16 years with parental consent (1937); traffic to halt when school buses stop to pick up and drop off children (1962).

In more recent times WI's efforts to enforce such issues as handicapped parking regulation (1985) AND TO PROMOTE MORE funding for health care, have been recognized by our politicians. Before becoming an FWIO resolution each issue of concern is discussed and processed from WI Branch, to WI District, WI Area to WI Lobbying Coordinator and then presented to FWIO Board for approval and action. Grassroots-based, WI lobbying continues to work to protect the families and communities of Ontario.

FWIO members are as busy at a local level as FWIO is at a provincial level and wherever there is a Branch, that community will benefit from WI members' energy. Children in play schools, seniors in

nursing homes, hospital patients, adults with reading problems, are likely to experience the friendly smile, the helping hand or the skills of a WI member. Craft shows, health fairs, fundraising, entertainment, WI members are busy in their communities.

Women's Institutes, born 103 years ago in Ontario, is now a national organization and Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) reflects a national viewpoint for WI members, and members Canada-wide will gather in Brandon, Manitoba this June for their Triennial Convention.

On a global scale WI members are also members of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and many will take advantage of the opportunity to meet like-minded women from around the world at the ACWW 23 Triennial Conference to be held in Hamilton in June of 2001.

To continue the work started 103 years ago WI branches are always in need of new members who will bring new energy, new insights and skills to assist present members. To learn more about FWIO contact FWIO office in Guelph at 519-836-3078; FAX 519-836-9456 or e-mail [fwio@sentex.net](mailto:fwio@sentex.net) or Internet [www.fwio.on.ca](http://www.fwio.on.ca).

Submitted by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

## WALKERTON WI

### May meeting opened with spring poem

The Walkerton Women's Institute met at the library on Tuesday, May 9.

President Marie Cartwright opened the meeting with a spring poem.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary Marg Wand.

In April, the group had District President Lois Freiburger install their officers for 2000-2001. She also answered questions.

The group received a thank you card from the Katimavik group.

Nine members and three visitors were present for the plant exchange which was

part of the roll call. The institute will join the museum in Southampton for another year.

Each member will make a quilt block over the summer, to put together for Participation Lodge.

The Royal Fair display will be decided in June.

The June 13 meeting will be an outing to the Glen Farms Herb Garden. A garage sale bake and produce table is being held on May 27 at 120 Colbourne St., Walkerton, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

The September 12 meeting will feature a pot luck lunch at 12:30 p.m.

## Local Evening Institute meets

Seven members of the Walkerton Evening Institute met in the library, June 13.

President Marie Cartwright asked for a minute of silence for Luella Taylor, who was the last living charter member of the group and also for family members who fell ill due to the E. coli in the water.

Roll call as a favorite flower. Minutes were read by Mary Wand. Janet Eindigeur reported on the annual meeting. Yolanda Cameron was the guest speaker. The fall fair exhibit was discussed.

Margaret Hedley served lunch.