

Hamilton area WIs hold convention

1988
by Ruth Uetz
Special to the News

Reach Out and Touch was the theme of the 62nd anniversary convention of the Hamilton Area Women's Institute held at Niagara Falls. Close to 300 members attended from the eleven districts which include Lincoln, Wentworth, Welland, Haldimand-Norfolk and Brant.

Helen Emmott of Brantford chaired the two-day event. Myrtle Stone of Simcoe spoke to the convention theme. She said we fail to reach out and touch others. A word of praise and a little understanding would be appreciated by the lonely. A gentle word of compliment falls lightly but it carries a great weight.

Jane Graves of Brantford was the speaker at the evening banquet. This busy mother of six, who has also been a foster mother for 24 years told the delegates she has been reaching out and touching for years. She urged the delegates to speak out and do something if they know of children being abused or neglected.

Rural Organizations Specialists Bev. Elving and Dave Trivers gave a presentation on the Business of Volunteers. With participation from the delegates, they listed reasons why people volunteer, how you keep volunteers, and what motivates volunteers.

RESOLUTIONS

Delegates sustained an emergency resolution requesting prayers and religious education be put back into our school curriculum. Other

resolutions were related to the banning of the advertisement of alcoholic beverages on television, the unannounced and frequent inspection by the Ministry of Health of all nursing and retirement homes and the urgent need for strong uniform guidelines to be set by the Attorney-General regarding the sentences handed down in the courts.

Margaret Munro, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, urged members to use plastic bags that are biodegradable. These are manufactured by the St. Lawrence Starch Company and are made from corn. She suggested that delegates ask store managers to obtain them.

She commented on the great success of the Recycling Conference held by the Women's Institute in Kingston. She said members had attended from across the province.

Almost \$30,000 has been sent to the Associated Country Women of the World by the Ontario WI members who each contributed the price of a loaf of bread. Mrs. Munro told the delegates they need to be aware of Family Law. Many of our laws are now in place because of WI involvement, she said.

An unexpected guest of the Federated Women's Institute of Canada was Jennie McInnes. She said the next conference of the national organization will be held in Vancouver. The FWIC has produced a cookbook. Members from Ontario have been asked to sell 1,000 copies.

Hilda Beachin from the Erland Lee Home Committee said there is a new parking lot at the home lo-

cated near Stoney Creek. "Christmas at the Lee" will be held Dec. 7. There will be demonstrations of Christmas crafts and tours through the home. The general public is invited.

Joyce Nelles said there will be a Christmas Open House at the Adelaide Hoodless Home, near St. George on Dec. 1.

Each of the districts presented a display of their choice at the convention. The fact that nearly all of the displays were based on Waste Management showed the keen interest that WI members have in recycling.

Delegates from Hamilton Area to a WI Leadership Workshop, to be held early in 1989 will be Kay Taylor of St. George and Edna Ward of Jerseyville.

The 1989 Convention will be held in Brantford.

Editor's note: The Erland Lee Home can be contacted at 662-2691.

Erland Lee Home hosting craft days

Erland Lee Museum Home is having Heritage Craft Days from June 8 to June 10 at the museum, 552 Ridge Rd., Stoney Creek.

Hours are Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Demonstrations of quilting, bread making, loom weaving, rug

hooking, tatting and doll displays will be featured. There will be a country store with home made crafts, jams and jellies.

Contact June Coombs at 662-2691 for more information.