

Homemaking Clubs, being involved in various projects for community improvement studying laws regarding children, updating the Tweedsmuir History (each branch contains this book which contains 80 years of community history for further information) contact _____.

Ontario Women's Institutes spent \$³/₄ million in '84

Almost three-quarters of a million dollars was generated by 1,152 Women's Institute branches across Ontario to carry out their diversified projects and activities during the past year.

This statistic comes from the public relations report presented to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario at their annual board meeting at the Bond Place Hotel, Toronto.

Non-members see the Women's Institute as a social organization. They are quite unaware of its educational role, the high level of community involvement it fosters and its traditional concern with improving the quality of life.

Since the Women's Institute is an educational organization, the branches initiated and supported many projects in this field. They presented awards, scholarships and bursaries to students, bought recreation equipment for a nursery school, supported public speaking competition and music festivals, purchased a projector and microfilm reader, pro-

vided a "scanner" for the CNIB.

Branches also promoted resource material within their communities when volunteer leaders attended workshops to learn techniques of quilting and rug braiding. Then these leaders returned to instruct groups in their communities. Most branches also provided volunteer leaders and support for the 4-H clubs. Many members attended Loyalist costume workshops, then created their own bicentennial dresses - replicas of 200 years ago.

Women's Institute branches discover needs in the community and then ways of filling those needs. Over the past years, they made and painted street signs, maintained and equipped community halls, organized hobby and craft shows, supported fall fairs, purchased band uniforms; installed street lights; made finger puppets for a children's hospital, compiled cook books, co-ordinated fashion shows and even a township reunion, organized the complete

women's program at the International Ploughing Match, provided replacement beds for a hospital, donated privacy curtains, installed a park bench at a hamlet Post Office - a rest stop for those walking to pick up mail. The Women's Institute groups were actively involved in numerous bicentennial activities.

Women's Institutes are continuously attempting to improve the quality of life: The elderly, sick and shut-ins are visited and remembered with gifts and cards. Meals on Wheels and parties add to the life of seniors living alone. Members volunteer help at blood donor clinics and hospitals and also provide hospital and medical transportation. Branches supported crises centres and Block Parent programs and canvassed for non-profit organizations. One branch adopted a resident of a home who had no family and brightened that life considerably.

All Women's Institute groups support the world wide UNESCO co-action project of "Clean Water for All".