

County WI focuses on youth

By Sue Dickens
Gazette staff

Friendship Church in Demorestville was an appropriate site for the 77th annual Prince Edward District WI meeting, which attracted representatives from the ten county WI branches.

The Year of the Youth was the theme of the meeting, which boasted a full day's program of WI business with financial reports and auditor's reports and a special youth panel of high school students. Displays showing selected aspects of WI work were also set up for everyone to see.

Officers elected

The election of officers took place with the reappointment of the executive for their second year of a two-year term as follows: Rena Foster, past president; Mary Lou Norton, president; Phyllis Lowe, first vice-president; Thelma Coulter, second vice-president; Jean Alexander; third vice-president; Edith Cairns, secretary-treasurer; Faye Wood, assistant secretary; Nora Barber, federal representative; Myrla Motley, alternate; Phyllis Wight, public relations officer; Nellie Montgomery, curator for the Tweedsmuir History; Mary Ellen Closson, and Lynne Keene, auditors.

Convention delegates are Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Lowe as alternate.

Convenors

Convenors of standing committees were chosen as three of the members' terms were over. Those newly elected

are: Mrs. Joy Moore of RR 2, Bloomfield, citizenship and world affairs; Mrs. Mary Sallans of Demorestville, education and cultural activities; and Mrs. Jerri Manlow of RR 8, Picton, resolutions.

Those remaining in positions on the committees are: Elda Brooks of RR 3, Demorestville, agriculture and Canadian industries; and Marion Townsend of RR 1, Carrying Place, family and consumer affairs.

List of donations

In the financial report for the district, the list of cash donations is lengthy, totalling \$11,620.50. WI projects such as the Erland Lee Home Foundation Fund, Pennies for Friendship fund and Adelaide Hoodless Foundation Fund and others amounted to \$1,248.93. Education expenses included conferences and conventions, as well as support for 4-H Homemaking Clubs, and totalled \$1,630.04.

Also in the area of education, scholarships, bursaries, school competitions, music festivals, and money for the retired or handicapped totalled \$4,507.91. Health costs for sick shut-ins, seniors, meals on wheels and so on totalled \$2,962.52.

Community donations

Community costs for such things as halls, parks, bus tours, for fire victims and arenas, as well as a donation to the homes for battered women, cost a total of \$856.16. Cash donations to other organizations such as scouts, guides, and sponsor-a-child, totalled \$415.



Dickens photo

Life members

District life members of the Prince Edward County WI are (left to right): Ethel Brooks, Evelyn Barber Thompson and Bessie Dulmage. These women received corsages at the recent district annual meeting.

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WI wants why and wherefore orise

"Cancer—the very word drives terror into our hearts," said Ethel Brooks of the Cherry Valley Women's Institute to delegates at the district annual meeting held recently in Demorestville.

At the urgings of her group, the Prince Edward County WI approved a resolution asking for a survey of county residents to see if research can find a related cause to the number of cancer patients.

Wholehearted support

"Since many patients are from related families would they also make a detailed study of cancer related families," says the resolution.

The county WI received wholehearted support for the motion, which notes that a lot of land in Prince Edward is used for cash crop and apples, "which makes use of large quantities of commercial fertilizers and pesticide sprays." Most of the people in Prince Edward are rural and have wells as their source of drinking water.

Approach ministry

Mentioning there is a high incidence of intermarriage among families in Prince Edward, the resolution calls for a study of this relationship and the apparent link to an increase in the number of cancer patients.

The Prince Edward WI membership agreed that both Jack Ellis, MP for Prince Edward-Hastings, and James Taylor, MPP for Prince Edward-Lennox, be approached about the matter to ask the ministry of health to undertake the survey.

A recent booklet published by the Canadian Cancer Society says cancer survival rate has increased from 40 per cent in the 1950s to about 52 per cent in 1985.

Statistics

Statistics in southern Ontario on diagnosed cancer from 1981 to 1983 show

that 275 of every 100,000 and the others were over 65 years of age. 215 of every 100,000 have cancer. It is estimated that there will be 51,000 new cancer cases in Canada by 1994. "There may have been more," said Mrs. Brooks. The Cherry Valley WI feels this is just too high an incidence of cancer.

The society says that the incidence of cancer among men has increased in proportion to the remainder of the population. Their urgent request to the county is that the resolution be passed.

The society says that the incidence of cancer among women, which has decreased, is related to the fact that more women are smoking. Although there is hope than there was 30 years ago, it is a very serious problem.

"People have been pushing for a study on the incidence of cancer at Bowery St., Picton (Behind the Donuts) from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. — 71