

# life

■ **COMMUNITY:** Newly elected FWIO president honoured

## Oxford District WI meeting

### OXFORD DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Brooksdale United Church was a blaze of activity as Women's Institute members from Oxford and London Area met to honour the newly elected president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, Carol Innes.

As we entered the hall Brooksdale president Catherine Grieve welcomed us and asked us to sign the register for Carol's book. Inside we were greeted by Carol herself, who was so pleased to see each person as they arrived. A smorgasbord of colourful and delicious food was displayed for us to choose from. Past that with silver coffee and teapots were members of Brooksdale branch doing the pouring. As we munched and visited the room became very full, with many VIPs in attendance.

At 4 p.m. Oxford District president Sheila Greason called the meeting to order and started the formal part of the gathering. Carol was seated in a special chair and was soon joined by her two granddaughters. Sheila had a letter from MP Dave McKenzie, who was not able to attend but sent his congratulations and assurances that the FWIO was in good hands with

Carol at its head.

MPP Ernie Hardeman was in attendance and he also had kind words for Carol and the work of the Women's Institute in Oxford and across Ontario. The warden, Paul Holbrough, brought greetings from the county and announced both his grandmother and great-grandmother were members of W.I. Zorra Mayor Margaret Lupton is herself a member of the Brooksdale branch and brought greetings from the Township of Zorra. She is also a neighbour of Carol. She had a letter from a gentleman in British Columbia who saw on the Zorra web page this celebration and wrote to Mayor Lupton to give his congratulations.

It was very interesting about a Mr. Youngs from this area who is being honoured by the government of California for his part in the U.S. Civil War for which he had been given the highest medal issued by the U.S. government. This man died in the U.S. His burial place has been found and a new stone will be erected on the site this summer. A number of the Youngs family from Brooksdale will be attending. Peg Caffyn, a longtime friend and colleague gave her congratulations.

Her mother was a longtime W.I. member and was very impressed with work Carol did as an OMAFRA home economics leader responsible for 4H work. She was very thorough and made sure books were properly completed for each club. Later, they both taught together at WCI in Woodstock.

Marlene Archer, our board member for southern Ontario brought greetings. Oxford district secretary Vivian McDonald had a gift from the District and Catherine Grieve had a gift from Brooksdale branch.

Carol thanked everyone for taking part in the afternoon events and for coming. She introduced her husband Allen who has supported her in all she wants to do and said she couldn't do it without his support. Two of their daughters were present with husband and children. Carol's mother and brother and his wife were present as well as many friends and neighbours, both men and women. Debbie Bauer, president of London Area, was also in attendance.

It was a wonderful afternoon for Carol and all those who came. Yes, the FWIO is in good hands.