

# Whig-Standard columnist honored by Women's Institute

By HARRY KILFOYLE  
Whig-Standard Staff Writer

SYDENHAM OCT 25, 91

Whig-Standard columnist Reg Whitty became the first recipient of the Erland Lee award given by the Federation of Women's Institutes of Canada Wednesday.

It was the second women's institute award presented to Mr. Whitty. His 34 years of service to the rural and agricultural community was recognized last fall when the women's institutes of three counties presented him with an ho-

norary life membership.

It is believed that Mr. Whitty is the first man to be presented with a life membership and award of merit from the all-female rural organization founded 94 years ago.

The Erland Lee award — the latest national award — was presented for the first time this year. It recognizes the contribution of men to the movement.

It was presented to Mr. Whitty, The Whig-Standard's Sydenham correspondent for 43 years, at a special ceremony at the Spring Valley W.I. Hall, near Brockville.

The other recipient is Wallace

Knapp of Napanee. Mr. Knapp will receive his award at the Royal Agriculture Fair in Toronto.

Erland Lee helped organize and draft the constitution of the women's institute 94 years ago. The Ontario chapter has purchased the Erland Lee Homestead.

"The award was presented to Mr. Whitty for his faithful service in promoting the women's institute," said Joyce Watson, a spokeswoman for the institute. "He always gave our activities good coverage."

Mr. Whitty's newspaper career began in 1948 and his admiration for the women's institute has spanned 34 years. He has reported the institute's regional, district and special anniversaries across three counties — Frontenac, Leeds and Lennox and Addington.

Mr. Whitty covered his first women's institute meeting in 1957 in Harrowsmith. He said that he quickly learned that the organization gave the rural community a continuing sense of identity.

While concerns over nutrition and food standards were early goals of the women's institute, serving the environment and education is their goal now.

Reg Whitty, the recipient of one of the Erland Lee Awards proudly holds the certificate. It was presented by the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario to a man who has given outstanding service to the Women's Institutes. Pictured with him is the Frontenac District W.I. President Barbara Stewart and F.W.I. O. Board Director Joyce Watson.



B. Roberts, 1991