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W. I. GOING STRONG AFTER 90 YEARS SERVICE

By Christine Reaburn

Newly elected Provincial President of the 24,000 strong Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO) Margaret Munto of Carp stated, "After almost 90 years of Service to the community the Women's Institute is still going strong."

A Women's Institute member for 29 years, Mrs. Munro is a member of Huntley Branch in Carleton West District and is the first Provincial President from Eastern Ontario since the early 70's. Margaret and Harold Munro live at R.R. 1, Carp and have a Holstein herd, milking around 100, as well they cash crop mostly corn. They have a family of three, Philip and Carolyn are away from home, Stephen helps with the farming operation.

Mrs. Munro said, "The Women's Institute not only represents the agricultural Community but also the rural and rural urban community." These communities benefit both from time and financially from W.I. During the last year Women's Institutes in Ontario gave \$78,000 to libraries, schools, festivals and scholarships, Hospitals, Seniors homes medical centres and meals were supported to the tune of \$105,000. While \$250,000 went toward the upkeep of halls, parks, arenas, recreation, water safety and fire victims. Another \$31,000 was spent on courses.

Earlier this year the FWIO met with the three parties at Queen's Park to express their concerns, Ontario Family Farm Interest Rate reduction Program, the Farm Operating Credit Assistance Program, the Beginning Farmers Program and the National Tripartite Program. In the spring of this year a workshop was held in Eastern Ontario to discuss nuclear energy and the safe disposal of the resulting waste. FWIO board decided to work with the Nuclear Fuel Energy Waste Branch of Atomic Energy to promote workshops to educate people on what is being dumped and how it can be managed.

A seminar, "How Will Free Trade Affect Farm and Rural Families" was organized by FWIO and sponsored by Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC). Four seminars will be held across Canada, the results being compiled and used to present a policy paper. Those attending were WI members, representatives of other rural organizations and commodity groups.

For some time the FWIO has had a representative on the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. They have two members who attend the Directors meetings of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair Association, the only organization to do so. They have another link with representation on the Ontario Coalition for Better Day Care.

Still going strong, The Women's Institute will celebrate their 90th anniversary next year. On Feb. 19, 1897 the first WI in the world was chartered at Stony Creek, Ontario. This non partisan, non sectarian, non political organization has spread around the world into sixty countries with a membership of 9.5 million.

As part of the celebration, a Provincial Conference will be held in North Bay from July 6 to 9, 1987.

"The Women's Institute will continue to have community involvement talk and work with other similar organizations, express their concerns, and give leadership" said Mrs. Munro.

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Mrs. Evelyn Scheuneman