

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

# International Flavor At Meeting

By CHRISTINE REABURN  
WESTMEATH — Greenwood Women's Institute were special guests of Westmeath WI at their October meeting. The evening's theme was international with emphasis on the United Nations (UN). Following an international buffet the President Beryl McBride and Secretary Noreen Desjardins presided for the business part of the program.

The roll call "give one criticism or positive aspect of the UN" evoked many impressions and opinions. While it is easy to criticise the UN it is however a forum where nations can sit down and talk out their differences and frustrations. It was also felt that the UN can be a strong influence for peace. Another positive aspect was the work

carried out by various UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO and WHO.

Correspondence brought news of the 4-H Homemaking clubs being offered in 1986, Milk make It, horticulture, etiquette and careers.

Myrtle Bromley was elected as the branch delegate and Christine Reaburn as the alternative to area convention to be held Oct. 28 and 29 in the Talisman in Ottawa. Members considered the resolutions to be presented at the area meeting, they cover capital punishment, pornography on VCR's, individual prices on items in supermarkets, banning alcohol ads on TV and the curtailing of so called "junk mail."

The executive reported that all

details were final for the All Candidates night to be held Thursday, Oct. 24 in the Westmeath Community Hall. Letters are being sent to all those seeking election, as well as those in by acclamation outlining rules and procedures to be used. Candidates invited are those wishing to be representatives on Westmeath Township Council, Renfrew County Board of Education and the Renfrew County R.C. Separate School Board.

The Branch accepted an invitation from Golden Lake WI to visit with them on Monday, Nov. 11, 1985.

Caryl Yokale and Christine Reaburn presented the program the first half of which was a report on the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) Convention which they both attended in London last June. Mrs. Yokale outlined the convention agenda and made mention of innovative programs being offered by other Provincial WI's. In Nova Scotia a "Buckle Up Baby" project is sponsored whereby baby car seats are rented out. They are also the network through which the Farm Women's Conference is organized. British Columbia WI's support the children's hospital and are currently conducting a promotion to increase membership and number of branches. One of the projects undertaken by FWIC is participation in the International Peace Garden which straddles the border between Manitoba and North Dakota.

Fourteen workshops on a wide variety of topics such as women—how to protect yourselves, family violence, financial management dollars and sense, quality of life for seniors and water-endangered vital resource were briefly summarized. All of the resolutions except one were from the western provinces and showed concern for reducing advertising of beer on prime time, family law (in respect to divorce), nuclear arms limitation, preservation of seed varieties, sentencing of sex offenders and restriction of pornographic material.

Mrs. Yokale concluded her report on the FWIC convention by referring to the guest speaker Ellen McLean, World President Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW) who spoke about her travels to women's rural groups throughout the globe. Mrs. McLean also pointed out how ACWW helped to fund these groups allowing them to conduct nutrition courses, buy sewing machines, hold learning seminars and gain a clean supply of water.

Mrs. Reaburn then presented the link between WI members and the UN. When WI members pay their fees a percentage goes to ACWW. ACWW has consultative status at the UN as a non governmental organization (NGO). They were one of the first international organizations to gain this status, and through the years have sat on various committees, been part of seminars, conferences and forums. ACWW has representatives in New York and Geneva who keep a two way communication open between the UN and ACWW. The number of UN bodies with whom ACWW works has grown over the years, and now includes FAO in Rome, UNESCO in Paris, UN Environment program in Nairobi, UN Development program and UN Fund for Population Activities in New York and of course UNICEF. They also take part in the activities of ECOSOC's various commissions on Human Rights, Status of Women and Social Development.

The Save Sight project which began as a resolution at the ACWW Triennial Conference at Oslo in 1971 was taken up by UNICEF and by governments. This little project which started in Madurai (India) has led to a whole series of programs in different parts of the world.

ACWW has played an active part in a number of UN campaigns, Freedom from Hunger, International Women's Year, and International year of the Child.

In July, 1985, ACWW was represented at Forum '85 in Nairobi, the delegation was led by the President Ellen McLean. ACWW ran one of the workshops at the Forum titled "Rural Women as Entrepreneurs, Producers and Managers." One of the Canadian representatives at the Forum was Beatrice Reeves of P.E.I. President of FWIC.

A quiz on the UN and ACWW was conducted by the President. Elaine Hennessy, President Greenwood WI extended thanks to the Westmeath members for their hospitality and friendship.

The November meeting of the WI will be held on the 20th at the home of Myrtle Bromley when the program will feature the Branch Tweedsmuir History.

## FAMILY PAGE

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