

Courses Available For WI Members

BY CHRISTINE REABURN
Of The Observer

WESTMEATH — Keeping in touch with all levels is an essential part of Women's Institute life. And so it was at the November meeting of the Westmeath branch hosted by Myrtle Bromley.

Reports were given on the Eastern Ontario Women's Institute Convention held in late October by delegate Myrtle Bromley. The members were informed on courses, workshops and seminars which will be available over the next months. One workshop of interest will be held in Ottawa March 6 and 7, on business ownership for women.

Starting February 28 there will be a weekend retreat for 25 Eastern Ontario farm couples at Glen House in Gananoque organized by Ontario Ministry Agriculture and Food.

Members were also informed about an agricultural resource kit available for use in schools and WI's will be looking into this to see that schools in their area have access to this kit.

The outcome of resolutions presented were given and the area convenors reports were given to the branch convenors. Comments from the address of the Provincial President Charlotte Johnson stressed the need for WI's to merchandise the benefits of joining the WI, they have to sell themselves. Membership in WI is no longer purely from the agricultural sector, there is a growing urban membership which can be further expanded. The president also encouraged members to develop workshops on topics affecting women, the family, the community, work skills. Mrs. Johnson challenged the membership to be competitive and stake a place in the future.

District Director Christine Reaburn outlined the highlights of the Directors meeting stressing the importance of the community sponsorship in Haiti. This district Can Save project is supported financially by the 16 branches, and is aiding the peasants to plant trees. These trees are quick growing varieties which are ready for harvest in four years. The matured trees are reduced to charcoal which is sold and used as fuel.

The members supported the district's decision to sponsor a public speaking competition and suggestions will be taken to a committee meeting to be held shortly.

Tweedsmuir Curator Noreen Desjardins spoke on the history of the Bromley Line School SS No. 3 which had a long influence on the life of the community starting around 1844. James Bromley gave an acre of land fully cleared and soon a pine log building with windows on the east and west and a porch was completed. A home made table, chairs, double desks and a cupboard were the furnishings supplied. To the east stood the newly erected teachers home, a one room log structure and the first teacher was Miss Curran.

For forty years this building served the community, however in 1884 it was replaced by a brick structure. As time passed, more and more land was cleared along the Bromley Line and school attendance reach seventy students. Salaries also rose from the \$100 paid to the first teacher, to the \$1000 being paid in 1925.

Additions and improvements were added regularly, such as single desks and a well stocked library which made SS 3 a fairly well equipped rural school.

At the end of 1950 the Bromley Line school, Lapasse PS, SS No. 4 and Pleasant Valley PS, SS No. 5 were joined into the Township School Area No. 1 and from then until the students were transferred to Westmeath PS in 1964 a board of five trustees administered the three schools.

Three men held the position of secretary during these years, namely, John Wright, David Bromley and his son Milton.

The school was sold to Ambrose Laderoute who in turn sold to Joe and Louise Norlock who still reside in the 1884 red school house on the Bromley Line.

Ottawa, Saturday, October 19, 1985

Canada

International institutions now sterile: Lalonde

The Canadian Press

International economic and political institutions such as the United Nations have become "stagnant and sterile" and now serve as little more than places for countries to vent frustrations, former Liberal finance minister Marc Lalonde said Friday.

Lalonde told delegates to a conference on international law the weakness of the UN and the ascendancy of smaller regional centres of power around the world means further fragmentation of international institutions is inevitable.

These large institutions such as the UN, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are under pressure around the world by trends toward conservative values, regionalism, and decentralization, he said.

The big powers can choose to ignore the international institutions with little fear of reprisal.

A report prepared by a UN official criticized the organization for being ineffective in dealing with conflicts between countries and for having little impact in international aid and Third World development. Only 6.5 per cent of the world total for aid is administered by the UN, and that total is funnelled through 30 agencies.

Lalonde said he wouldn't even talk about UNESCO, the UN's education, scientific and cultural agency. The organization has been under siege for its alleged pro-Soviet political tilt and its questionable effectiveness.

The United States has withdrawn its heavy financial support, chopping more than 25 per cent from UNESCO's current budget.

And two other key UN agencies, the World Health Organization and the International Labor Organization, "have become little more than big bureaucracies," Lalonde said.

The development of the so-called UN years, such as the International Year of the Child and International Year of Youth, turned out to be "make-work programs for international bureaucrats that were dumped on the home governments with little reference to domestic problems."

And while some useful work is being done by such organizations as GATT and the IMF, they have evolved more into managerial organizations "and that's not where the action is," Lalonde said.