

# WI Branches Sponsor Public Speaking Contest

Sponsoring a public speaking competition is just one opportunity taken up by members of Westmeath Women's Institute. Gathering for their January meeting at the home of Caryl Yokale the branch heard details of this competition being run by the North Renfrew District Women's Institute (NRDWI).

Each of the 16 branches are asked to sponsor one competitor in each of the three categories. Category one; ages 6-8 who will speak on "My Pet" for 3 minutes, category two; ages 9-11 who will speak on "Peace" for 3½ minutes and category three; ages 12-14 who will speak on "Topic of Historical Interest in the area of North Renfrew (ie. person, place industry etc.,). Prize money in each category is \$25, \$15 and \$10 and each participant will receive a certificate. Westmeath Branch is actively looking for participants in all categories and the contact is branch PRO Christine Reaburn at 582-3550. Those sponsored by the branch will compete in the District event on April 12 at Cobden Public School.

Other opportunities offered to members were sponsoring the 4H club "Milk Makes It." The leaders workshop to be held Jan. 24 in Cobden. Also the senior course "Home Decor Planning", the workshop to be held Feb. 25 in Zion Evangelical United Church in Pembroke. Both these courses will be run by Ontario Ministry Agriculture and Food (OMAF).

District President Elma Waite of Foresters Falls was a special guest of the Branch and along with Caryl Yokale and Christine Reaburn discussed the proposed changes in the structure of W.I. The Committee Women's Institute of the Future (CWIF) presented proposals at the fall Provincial board meeting and those approved have been sent to branches. A five year plan starting in the fall of

1985 has been put in place whereby the meetings will be less structured and the amount of written reports greatly reduced. In 1986 nominees for a Provincial President Elect will be called from the eastern region and a Provincial Resolutions Convenor will be elected. April of 1987 a branch program convenor will be elected followed in May by a District program convenor and in the fall by an Area program convenor. The summer of 1987 will see a Provincial Convention held in North Bay to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the W.I. At this time votes will be cast for a provincial president elect. The fall of 1988 the president elect becomes the president and nominations for a new president elect will be called from the western region. By 1989 the new image and system should be in operation and an evaluation will be done in 1990.

This new outlook will promote a more professional image and the objective of WI is to be an educational organization for personal growth and community action. A new slogan is also to be used, W.I. - Women Involved.

The organization will still be non-partisan, non-sectarian and non racial and be open to all women and girls interested in the promotion of better living.

The District President demonstrated making silk flower trilliums and helped each member and visitor make one for themselves. Mrs. Waite had a supply of these trilliums at the National Convention of Federated Women's Institute of Canada (FWIC) last year and they proved extremely popular. The Westmeath ladies were keen to learn the technique.

The February meeting will be held on Feb. the 19 at the home of Ellie McBride when each member will wear a valentine creation. The program will be based on Citizenship and World Affairs.

## FAMILY PAGE

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