

# Across the province, Women's Institutes keep active

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) is an educational organization for personal growth and community action. During the semi-annual Provincial Board meeting at Bond Place Hotel, Toronto, activity reports showed that FWIO is also an organization that relates to and interacts with other groups studying the same concerns.

Upon request, FWIO presented a brief on "Future Directors for Ontario Agricultural Industry" to the task force of Ontario Institute of Agrologists.

Ruth Grose, provincial agriculture convener, represented FWIO at the Farm Women's Program Planning Day. After much discussion, those attending agreed there was a need for a conference for farm women to develop an action plan which would create a better understanding between consumer and producer. Mrs. Grose also represented the organization at a seminar on "Safe Use of Pesticides" sponsored by the Canadian Agricultural Chemical Association with representatives from government, special interest groups, community interest groups, producers and academic / professionals.

Charlotte Johnson, provincial president, attended the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues when concerns such as child care, pensions for women, pay equity, transition houses, crisis centres and women business owners were discussed. The group decided that no one issue could be given priority — they were all equal concerns. Later Eileen Junkin, regional vice-president, represented FWIO at another meeting of this group when the discussion centered around the "green paper on pay equity."

Barbara Temple and Winnie Wilson, FWIO provincial board directors, attended the Royal Agriculture Winter Fair Association of Canada board directors' meeting. The Women's Institute was the only women's organization represented. FWIO volunteers will staff a promotional display booth at the Royal Winter Fair again in 1986 from Nov. 13 to 22.

Jane Hawkins represents FWIO on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Eight outstanding agriculturalists will be inducted into the Hall of Fame Gallery at the Ontario Agricultural Museum, Milton on June 8, 1986.

Although FWIO did not have their candidate selected for 1986, they can be justly proud that five of their candidates have been inducted since the first unveiling in 1980. For 1987, FWIO has nominated Mrs. J. R. (Dorothy) Futcher as a candidate for recognition into the Hall of Fame.

FWIO volunteer members will act as hostesses on special activity days in the designated WI Hall within the Ontario Agricultural Museum at Milton.

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Women's Institute members in Ontario continue to develop good programs, encourage leadership and study topics relevant to the concerns of the members. The year 1987 will mark 90 years of continuing progress.

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) sponsored the seventh seminar of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program at Geneva Park, Orillia. Charlotte Johnson, provincial president, was given the opportunity to address the program participants and their spouses on the theme "Dynamics of Change." She outlined the beginning of the Women's Institute; its growth through the years; the

opportunities given to women to develop; our involvements today and finally where we see ourselves in the future.

A Provincial leadership development workshop was held with the aim to help members become more effective leaders and more knowledgeable citizens. The opening session was planned to encourage and to instruct women in public speaking and in leading a group. The informational sessions were related to the topics financial planning and water — will we be another Ethiopia? The participants at this workshop are expected to return to their respective areas and development workshops on like matters.

As a result of a presentation to the FWIO Board meeting by Atomic Energy of Canada, regional meetings are being organized by the Women's Institutes on this topic of today.

Nora Barber, FWIO eastern region vice-president, coordinated a workshop on "Atomic Energy and Nuclear Fuel Waste Disposal" in Perth on April 10. Delegates to this workshop had the opportunity to listen, discuss and question

the two speakers from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Frank Finlay, head of the information centre at Chalk River, Ontario provided information on the natural sources and the uses of nuclear energy.

Ms. Jo Hillier, Pinawa Nuclear Research, Manitoba, presented information on Canada's nuclear fuel waste program. Included was a film "Planning for Tomorrow" which shows the many facets of research leading to the safe disposal of nuclear waste. Ms. Hillier will also address the same topic at another workshop in the northern region at Rainy River on April 28 and in the southern region at the WI London Area Convention when she will be the guest speaker at their banquet on Oct. 16 in the Ukraina Hall, London.

Through resolutions, the Women's Institute is continuously working on current needs and concerns. In response to a resolution passed at the annual board meeting in November, a delegation from FWIO has set up meetings with the three Provincial party leaders to gain assurance and a time frame for the positive action they had promised on behalf of

farmers. Questions will pertain to finance, marketing and labor regarding agricultural related programs.

An emergency resolution related to water pollution was sustained at the semi-annual board meeting. In this resolution "FWIO urged Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to give highest priority to the problem of ground and surface water pollution by toxic chemicals; specifically to improve funding for monitoring toxic chemicals in the environment and to develop more effective abatement measures."

The members were also encouraged to write letters urging the Prime Minister to continue with the efforts concerning acid rain problems between Canada and the United States.

The FWIO "Committee on Women's Institutes of the Future" presented their findings and the Constitution Committee is now incorporating those sustained recommendations into the Constitution and the By-laws. The organization is looking forward to exciting and challenging times in the next decade.