

The Women's Institute, in its 97th year is calling all women to come and meet their neighbors, make new friends, talk about their community, share ideas and learn new skills. The WI is an educational force which helps women to help themselves. It is open to all women, over the age of 16, regardless of creed, race or religion. It offers its members the opportunity to broaden their horizons and to expand their knowledge on various subjects and to learn new ways of doing things. Women's Institute, once a strictly rural organization, now invites all women who are interested in the environment, home management, municipal and world affairs to come together to learn about these things and much more, including how to survive the recession of the 90s. A force of 15 women has been trained to assist in organizing new branches of the Women's Institute in both rural and urban communities. For further information contact: Dorothy Beedham 342-5772.

EAST NORTHUMBERLAND FEB 8/94

Farmers must update pesticide safety courses

Agricultural News & Views

D.F. Young,
Agricultural Rep.

MEETINGS

Wed., Feb. 9 -

Northumberland Wheat Producers' Annual Meeting, 8 p.m., Ag. Service Centre, Brighton.

Thurs., Feb. 10 - Zone 10, Egg Producers' Marketing Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Best Western Hotel, Cobourg.

Sun., Feb. 13 - Ontario Berry Growers' Association's Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls. Phone 416-649-2101.

Tues., Feb. 15 - Turf, Tree and Landscape Pesticide Certification Course, 9 a.m., Ag. Service Centre, Brighton. Phone 519-674-5456.

Wed., Feb. 16 - Quinte No-Till Seminar, 9:30 a.m., Creekside Hall, Brighton. Phone 613-475-1630 for pre-registration.

Feb. 16 & 17 - Ontario Horticultural Conference, Regal Constellation Hotel, Toronto.

Feb. 16 & 17 - Ontario Corn Producers' Association's Annual Meeting, London.

Fri., Feb. 18 - 4-H Leader Appreciation Night, Morganston United Church.

Grower Pesticide Safety Courses

The Grower Pesticide Safety Course is a good example of what government, industry and farm groups can do to reduce the environmental con-

cern surrounding the use of pesticides in our environment.

The one-day grower pesticide safety courses, which began in 1987 on a volunteer basis, were so successful that, by 1991, the Pesticides Act made it mandatory for all farmers to become certified to use certain pesticides. Since that time, most commercial crop growers in Ontario have taken part in the one-day certification courses which now require renewal or recertification every five years.

Presently growers are required to produce proof of certification in order to buy pesticides scheduled as 1, 2 or 5 - this classification includes most farmer-used commercial pesticides on the market.

The courses are designed to increase the grower's knowledge of pesticide safety and, thus, lower the risk of personal injury and environmental damage.

Topics covered under the course include pesticide toxicity, poisoning, protective clothing and equipment, label interpretation, legal requirements for transportation, storage and disposal, and environmental concerns. The fee for the one-day course is \$40 which includes a Grower Pesticide Safety Manual.

Many courses are again scheduled across Ontario for the winter of 1994 as the original group come up for recertification. Two courses have been held in Northumberland and a third and fourth are scheduled for March.

Anyone interested is asked to register through the OMAF offices on a first-come, first-served basis.

Growers who feel uneasy about the certification process can take advantage of a free educational video tape which is also available through the OMAF offices.

A turf, tree and landscaped pesticide safety course is also being offered at various locations across the province this year. The course is aimed at unlicensed part-time seasonal employees of landscape and lawn care companies, golf course operators, nursery businesses, and grounds

maintenance firms.

In this area, the course is scheduled for Feb. 15 at the Brighton OMAF offices. Cost of the course, which is administered through the Ridgetown College of Continuing Education, is \$70 per person. In addition, there are a number of other resource materials available through the college in video form.

For registration and information on the various sources and videos, contact the Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology at 519-674-5456.

Junior Farmers' Fiftieth Anniversary

Many rural residents of

Ontario will have fond memories of their past affiliation with the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario.

This year the association is celebrating 50 years of activities at a gala banquet and dance, March 12, in the Grand Ballroom of the Americana Resort in Niagara Falls. The deadline for tickets is February 18.

The theme is "Reach Out - Make A Difference," as the organization looks ahead to plan the future.

The association is asking all members, past and present, for their support in raising funds for the 50th Anniversary

Endowment Fund. The fund serves as the association's charity for the 1994 year with the interest raised on the fund used to ensure the continuation of future leadership programs.

Contributors to the endowment fund will receive a tax deduction receipt and donors will have satisfaction in knowing they helped in building the future of rural leaders for years to come.

Banquet tickets for the 12 cost \$28. Those interested should contact Jody Wodskou, 485 Woodbine Avenue, Toronto, M4E 2H5, or phone 416-690-0385.

'Dog therapy' a hit at Golden Plough

By Bill Eekhof

Paula Collier's job is going to the dogs, but the 161 residents of the Golden Plough Lodge don't seem to mind.

As a staff member in the activation department at the home for the aged the Baltimore resident is regularly looking for ways to boost the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of the elderly residents.

For the last four years she has resorted to canine assistance with this task.

"To come into a facility like this is very traumatic. (Dogs) can really be an ice-breaker for people coming in," Mrs. Collier says.

The instruments behind this so-called "dog therapy" are her own dogs, Calhoun, a six-year-old Nova Scotia

duck-tolling retriever, and Axel, a seven-week-old, chocolate-coloured Labrador retriever.

She has the permission of Plough management to bring the dogs to work with her. She then arranges for one or the other to visit with residents throughout the day, then takes the animal home with her at the end of her shift.

While some may see the treatment as all bark, no bite, Mrs. Collier says she can vouch for its effectiveness.

The companionship of a dog cannot be underestimated, she said in an interview.

In Calhoun's case the elderly residents can pet, sit with, walk or just talk to him.

Mrs. Collier said there

can be a lot of positive reinforcement generated just from these simple actions. Dogs are attentive listeners and don't talk back, she said. As well, many of the seniors can relate to animals, having had pets themselves.

She said the presence of her dogs in the Plough is much more than just for visitation purposes.

Calhoun has proved a plus in residents' physiotherapy - something that can be difficult to get people to do. For instance, Mrs. Collier said it has proven easier to get residents to walk a certain distance if they have an incentive to do so, such as being able to feed or pet the dog at the end of their exercise.

Mrs. Collier said the selection of the dog for this

job is paramount. She will typically look for a young puppy that exhibits proper temperament and obedience. She is currently breaking in puppy, Axel, by taking it into the Plough and "socializing" him in the environment.

The training doesn't end there. She put Calhoun through extensive obedience lessons and even a dog therapist course through the American-based Delta Society. She expects to do the same with Axel.

Mrs. Collier doesn't see this form of animal therapy covering all the needs of the residents but says it does boost their self-esteem.

It could also become a more common feature in long-term care institutions in future, she said.

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