

SCHOOL QUEEN



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Value Of 4-H Clubs Stressed By Honour Student

A first class honors student throughout her four high school years, Betty Conway of Kincardine District High School, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Conway, R.R. 5, Kincardine.

Betty, a grade 12A student, has won county honors in the 4-H Homemaking Club. She is a member of Chalmers - Zion Young People's Union.

Since Betty hopes to become a home economist, it is only natural she should write about the value of 4-H Homemaking Clubs.

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by Betty Conway

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
My health to better living, for my club, my community, and my country.

The 4-H pledge is repeated by more than 11,000 members of homemaking club in Ontario each year. I am one of these members.

The 4-H club movement in Canada is a nation-wide program for rural young people from the ages of 12 to 26. Together with the assistance of volunteer leaders and local organizations, the programs are directed in the provinces by the extension branches of the department of agriculture.

My sister was involved in one form of 4-H program — the homemaking club — before me, and I found myself eagerly anticipating the day when I, too, would join. At the age of 12, bewildered and a little hesitant, I joined my first 4-H homemaking club. The wool

skirt which I sewed as a project at that time amply displays the unskilled hands which would be trained in future projects. Since then, I have completed two clubs each year. Having already received county honors for six projects, I am determined to achieve provincial honors for the completion of twelve.

If, as Herbert Spencer has said, "Education is a preparation for complete living," then homemaking clubs make a contribution to that aim. 4-H homemaking clubs have taught me how to plan, prepare and serve nourishing, appetizing meals. They have also increased my knowledge and developed my skills in planning, selecting and making garments, in caring for clothes, and in being well-groomed. I have received experience in public speaking by three-minute commentaries given several times at local Achievement

Days. In future clubs I shall study flower arrangement, etiquette, home furnishing, first aid.

Besides the apparent practical teachings of the homemaking clubs, they also have other important values. Those who sponsor the 4-H movement say that high school teachers have found students with 4-H experience to be more alert and co-operative. Certainly, many former members of 4-H will tell you that their interest in higher education was kindled in the 4-H club. I have found that these clubs have given me more confidence and the ability to meet and speak freely with strangers.

I have learned leadership by holding offices, conducting meetings; responsibility, by taking my share in the running of our club; co-operation, by working together with others to achieve our common aim. 4-H work has helped me to establish values to live by. It has brought out the best in me and all other members through the emphasis it places on the building of character and citizenship.

I believe these years I am spending in 4-H homemaking clubs are preparing me considerably for my future career in home economics.