

MAR 22/89
District W.I.
annual meeting
coming in May

(The following report has been provided by Barbara Stones, public relations officer for Lincoln District Women's Institutes.)

The annual meeting of Lincoln District Women's Institutes will be held May 17 at Jordan Station United Church with the Louth Branch as host.

Silver Lake Country will provide the luncheon entertainment through song and story as they relate the contributions of the farmer.

Revisions to the district bylaws were reviewed at the recent spring board meeting and will be voted on at the District Annual. A committee has been formed to plan a district get-together for the summer. Anyone with suggestions is asked to contact Doris Dennis, Jerinne Porteous or Barbara Stones as soon as possible.

There has been a good response to the sale of Lincoln District's 'Treasured Recipes' cookbook. More than 500 books are still available and, at \$5 each, they make a nice speaker or hostess gift.

A Hoodless-Lee scholarship is available in our subdivision for a student in family and consumer affairs at the University of Guelph. Those who know of anyone who may qualify are asked to contact the extension office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for an application.

A reminder was given to continue submitting items about branch activities to the Home and Country magazine. Even though the magazine now has fewer pages, the editor still wants to know what the branches and districts are doing.



A FAIRYTALE WORLD MAR 25, 1989
An ice storm on Friday night left every shrub and weed and tree covered with a thick layer of ice. When the sun came out on Sunday, every field and orchard was filled with a rainbow of colors as the sunshine turned each icy branch into a glittering prism.

On the move

MAR. 1989
Women's Institutes offer courses

More than 900 women have participated in the Farm and Home Landscaping courses run by Wellington and Halton County Women's Institutes, according to a recent information release from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

The programs replace similar programs run for years by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which had provided adult courses on a variety of subjects. With their restructuring, the courses were no longer available, so the Women's Institutes in Wellington and Halton Counties hired a consultant to design and conduct the program.

Women's Institutes in Grey and Bruce counties are also developing a similar course on Cooking for One.

Although not a money raising organization, in 1988 Women's

Institutes donated more than \$800,000. One of the ways they raise money is shown by West Oxford Women's Institute's 21st Annual Maple Syrup Festival to be held April 1 and 2 at the Jakeman Family Farm, Sweaburg.

This festival was started in 1967 as a Centennial project and has been going on ever since. Visitors to the festival will not only sample maple syrup, but will also have a conducted tour of the maple syrup operation and a chance to purchase local crafts.

Last year, almost 1,000 women joined Women's Institutes, the largest rural women's organization in Ontario. Through belonging, they now join a network of more than 1,000 branches in Ontario, plus a network of branches through-

out Canada.

As well, they belong to the International network of farm and rural women, called Associated Country Women of the World. The ACWW will be having its 19th Triennial Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, from September 22 to October 1, with a theme of Partners in Progress.

Waste management—recycling, the Women's Institute theme for 1988-89, has provided the opportunity for Women's Institute members to participate in displays, prepare briefs for councils, and to speak to other groups.

The theme for 1989-90 will be Women and the Environment, a theme that will apply to all who live in the rural community, whether actively involved in farming or not.

Ice storm cuts power for up to 20 hours

by ARIELA FRIEDMANN

Mother Nature once again dashed hopes for an early spring as the Niagara region was hit with a weekend ice storm that left homes without power and roads covered in treacherous ice.

The Lincoln area office of Ontario Hydro was kept busy scrambling around the clock as ice-covered tree branches fell across wires, leaving about 7,000 homes without electricity, some for as long as 20 hours.

"I would say 100 percent of the problems were caused by ice on the trees coming down on our conductors," said Bob Beringer, area line foreman for Lincoln area hydro. "We had no broken poles and no burned out transformers."

The 7,000 homes left without power were scattered throughout the area, said Mr. Beringer, making it more difficult for line crews to quickly restore electrical power. The most affected areas were South Pelham and Jordan, he added, where some homes were without power for up to 20 hours.

In order to restore power to all the affected homes, hydro crews worked straight through the night, from 4 a.m. on Saturday to 5 a.m. on Sunday, he said.

Two additional hydro crews were also called in from London, Ontario, he added, and they arrived around 12 p.m. on Saturday to help battle the ice buildup.

"The crews went that extra mile during the storm to help

the people," said Mr. Beringer. "They only had three meal breaks in that length of time, which is going beyond what is required. They just kept on working until they had everyone's power back on."

A forestry crew from Middleport, near Hamilton, was also called in to help Lincoln area forestry crews look after "trouble spots." The crews worked from 9 a.m. Sunday to 12:30 a.m. on Monday, he said, as they tackled spots where heavy tree limbs had come down on lines.

"I would say 98 percent of the people without power were excellent," said Mr. Beringer. "They understood our problems and knew we were doing our best to solve everything. We appreciate their understanding."

The last bad ice storm experienced by Lincoln hydro was back in 1976, he added.

According to Curt McConkey of the Niagara District Weather Office, the past weekend's ice storm was unusual for this time of year.

"It's not normal. It's unusual to have that amount of freezing rain," he said of the one inch of freezing rain that came down.

The ice storm was caused by a warm front from the southwestern United States which mixed with a cold front on the lower Great Lakes, he explained. The ice storm stuck most of southwestern Ontario from Toronto to Windsor and all of the Niagara region.