

Peggy Knapp speaks at London¹⁹⁹⁰ area WI convention

Ilene Chesterman of Tillsonburg submitted a second report to the *Voice of the Middlesex Farmer* about the London Area Women's Institute (WI) 76th convention.

"Make a World of Difference" was the theme of the convention held at the South Huron Recreation Centre in Exeter. President Laurine McIntosh of St. Marys pointed out that Women's Institute members can make a difference and can have a positive impact on environmental issues in their homes, in their communities, in their country and around the world.

Peggy Knapp, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario (FWIO), spoke of her visit to Britain where she participated in the 75th anniversary of Women's Institutes there. She also told of changes that will take place in the FWIO when the contract expires with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food in 1992. Life memberships will be discontinued after FWIO's 100th anniversary in 1997 and fees paid to the provincial office by branches will be increased until that time.

Knapp also presented a FWIO life membership to Janet Hieplieh, a past FWIO president.

Barbara Shipley spoke on her literacy display and the concerns of shopping if one is unable to read. It's estimated that nine per cent of our population needs help in understanding product labelling and seven per cent do not read at all.

Resolutions convenor Irene Richardson reported on resolutions sustained at the provincial level -- religious education in schools, support for hospital nurses, prevention of child abuse, elimination of PCB's, reduced packaging and mandatory recycling.

Maryn Pardy Awards were presented to Karen Spierens, Patricia Van Asten and Theresa Knox. The Federated Women's Institute of Canada Past Presidents Essay Winner, Cathy Marshall, received an engraved pen for her efforts. Triennial Tweedsmuir Competition winners were Anna Crawford (Model WI), Jean McBay and Dorothy Dobie.

The 90th Anniversary Education Scholarship for a WI member went to Marg

gram coordinator; Jean Ratcliffe of RR 1, St. Marys, Tweedsmuir curator; Ruth Matheson of RR 3, Embro, assistant curator; Dorothy Elliot of RR 2, Thorndale, auditor; and Mrs. Jim Gumb of RR 2, Thorndale, auditor.

The provincial board directors are: Marg Harris of RR 1, Ilderton, Sally McIntyre of Dutton and Irene Richardson of RR 4, St. Marys. The alternates are: Glenna Ladell of RR 2, Ilderton, Eleanor McMillan of RR 2, Dutton

and Norma Howe of RR 1, Embro.

Mrs. D. Vicary of RR 3, Shedden was appointed to the Tweedsmuir curators committee along with Mrs. H. Sloan of Wallacetown. Irene Hansford of Putnam

was appointed as the London Children's Hospital representative. Appointed to the Western Fair Association were: Mrs. D. Fletcher of RR 1, Ilderton, Mrs. W. Laidlaw of RR 7, London and Betty Lawson of RR 8, London.



¹⁹⁹⁰ PROVINCIAL DIRECTORS -- Three new board directors were chosen at the London Area Women's Institute convention held in Exeter. From left, were Sally McIntyre (Elgin East, Oxford South and Elgin West), Irene Richardson (Perth South, Huron South, Huron West and Oxford North) and Marg Harris (Middlesex East, Middlesex West and Middlesex North). Harris was also awarded the 90th anniversary education award for the southern region.



GUEST SPEAKER -- Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario president Peggy Knapp discussed ecology with Ted Blowes. Blowes, a geography specialist and a former mayor of Stratford spoke at the London Area WI's 76th convention. ¹⁹⁹⁰

More Soil Conservation



THE WINNER -- Biddulph farmer Wilf Riddell (left) has something to smile about as he picks up a check for \$1,000 from Middlesex County representative Bob Hodgins. Riddell is the 1990 Conservation Farm of the Year winner for the county. (Staff Photo - Jeffrey Carter)

Wilf Riddell wins conservation title

The 1990 Conservation Farm of the Year winner is a Biddulph Township farmer who's shown he's "willing to learn by his mistakes and isn't afraid to admit it," said Agriculture Representative Don Agar. Cashcrop farmer Wilf Riddell accepted the award at the Middlesex Soil and Crop Association's annual banquet in Komoka, last Thursday.

Agar said Riddell is a leader in conservation tillage. He shares his ideas, both good and bad, with those that ask him and speaks at many meetings to promote conservation tillage methods.

Riddell is so committed to the conservation tillage techniques that he's sold all his conventional equipment. For the past five years, he has had a Tillage-2000 project located on his farms and plans to carry on experimentation despite the program being over.

In accepting the award, Riddell concluded that he wants to make sure the land is "there for our kids and our grandkids."

Riddell, along with four other farm operations which entered the competition, received Ontario Soil and Crop Association gate signs. Rick McCracken of Caradoc Township, the father-and-son team of Murray and Ron and McRae (Lobo Township), Len Duynisveld of West Nissouri and brothers Tom and Rick Harris of London Township, all received the gate signs. In total, nine farmers entered the prestigious competition this year.

McCracken planted 3,000 trees seven years ago and has no-tilled much of his cashcrop land over the past few years. Murray and Ron McRae have used a soil-saver since the late-70's, planted windbreaks, practiced minimum tillage to accommodate a hog operation and have utilized other conservation techniques. Duynisveld has been practicing manure management and crop rotation for many years, planted oilseed radish after wheat for a couple of years and has experimented extensively with no-till systems. Tom and Rick Harris practice pasture and forage rotation on their dairy operation and have no-tilled both corn and soybeans for the past five years. (Agar suggested area farmers should drive by the Harris operation around planting time this spring to watch the pair plant soybeans in eight-inch and 12-inch rows using a conventional corn planter.)

The judges for the competition include Middlesex County's agricultural committee chairman and representatives of the winners from 1989 and 1988.

The competition is sponsored by the Middlesex Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Middlesex County puts up \$1,000 in prize money for Conservation Farm of the Year Winner.

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