

London area WIs hold 89th convention

By Ruth Skillings

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL ARGUS

London Area Women's Institute held its 89th Convention at the Embro-West Zorra Community Centre on Tuesday, Oct. 7. It was one of those beautiful days for travelling, giving an attendance of 221 ladies, who enjoyed a day with information, fun, good food and good friends.

Ladies were greeted at the door by Margaret Armstrong and Ruth Matheson. Registration was looked after by secretaries from seven districts, Middlesex East, Middlesex Northwest, Elgin, Perth South, Huron South, Huron West and Oxford. Braemar and Anna P. Lewis Branches provided coffee and muffins to get everyone ready for the meeting.

Princess Elizabeth Branch opened with a sing song, led by Louise Baird accompanied by Marlene Matheson. Flags were presented by Fran Hyatt and Pauline Lindsay. Seven colourful District Banners were marched in and stood around the room for the day.

Ilene Chesterman, Oxford's 1st vice president extended a warm welcome to everyone. In Memoriam was given by Jean Brumpton Brach. Seven District presidents answered the roll call which included kilometres walked for the 'Peggy Knapp Challenge', which totaled 91,832 km. The oldest walker was 96, closely followed by a 93 and 91 year old, they are congratulated.

President Eleanor Williams gave her address noting that many are in the sandwich generation, with older parents needing care and children are still at home also needing attention. Life is not a race, take it slower and take time to enjoy the little things that really matter.

Salford Branch with Jean Roberts took us through Light and Lively, just getting everyone up and moving. FWIO president

Dianne Orr addressed the group, introducing us to Julia Annett, who is the new ROSE program manager, her salary is paid for two years by a large Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. She has just graduated from the University of Guelph with a major in gerontology. One of her first activities is a new Rose Program brochure.

The third Phase of 'Focus High for W. I.' is for ACWW projects and will be taken to the next Conference, March 2004 in Hobart, Tasmania. Christine Reaburn is running for Canada Region president.

Provincial Convention will be in Oshawa at the Durham College Centre in June 2004. The 230 war stories collected to date will be in a book for the Convention, where the W.I. tartan will sell for \$40 a metre, a big saving. The position of Program Co-ordinator is now called ROSE Co-ordinator and is held by Gillian Catto from Whitefish, Ontario. Gillian suggests Branches hold an Australian evening in February next year.

ROSE stands for Rural Ontario Sharing Education and it is any program where the community is invited to attend. The first phase was health issues, but phase 2, 'ROSES are Blooming', is expanding the issues that can be covered.

HIV/AIDS worker speaks
Terry Pook spoke on her work with HIV/AIDS in London Clinic Care Program, which covers an area from Owen Sound to Lake Erie, Kitchener to Chatham. She was given an award for her work in this area. She also worked with nurses in the Caribbean where there is 6 to 8 per cent HIV positive patients now. They are very dedicated but have few resources. Drugs will slow the progress of HIV and AIDS but will not cure the disease. One in 620 people in Canada are infected, 1 in 250 people in USA. 10% are over 50



The 2003-2004 London and Area Women's Institute executive are, from left, front row, treasurer Grace Campbell, secretary Mary Nicholas, president Eleanor Williams, first vice-president Glenna Ladell and second vice-president Anne Innes. Standing, from left, PRO Ruth Skillings, past-president Fran Hyatt, assistant Tweedsmuir curator Janet Gibson, Tweedsmuir curator Bessie Thompson, program co-ordinator Mary Veenstra, assistant secretary Sheila Greason and assistant PRO Laurine McIntosh.

years, half of new patients are women. It is transferred by unprotected sex and blood, not by casual contact.

Dec. 1 is World AIDS day. Stephen Lewis has done much to raise the awareness and the needs of people in Africa, he is campaigning for a change in the patent laws so generic drugs can go to Africa. His web site is stephenlewis-foundation.org.

Heather Wolfe spoke on Osteoporosis, she is a doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, prevention and healthy lifestyle. Osteoporosis is known as the silent thief, 1 in 4 women over 50 are affected, 1 in 8 men also.

Reports by Conveners were handled by Anne Innes, 2nd Vice president. Time to sing with Louise Baird and Marlene Matheson, then special entertainment with George and Janet Quinn from Kintore.

P.A.C. reports were given by Ruth Axford and Vivian McDonald. Board Directors Carol Force and Glenna Ladell gave their reports. New P.A.C. members elected were Subdivision 18 Ruth Axford, alternate Joan Mansell. Subdivision 19

Marlene Archer, alternate Vivian McDonald.

Dianne Orr conducted the election of Officers. Invitation for 2004 given by Jane Dearing and Wilma Higgins, Oct. 5 at the Goderich Community Centre in Holmesville.

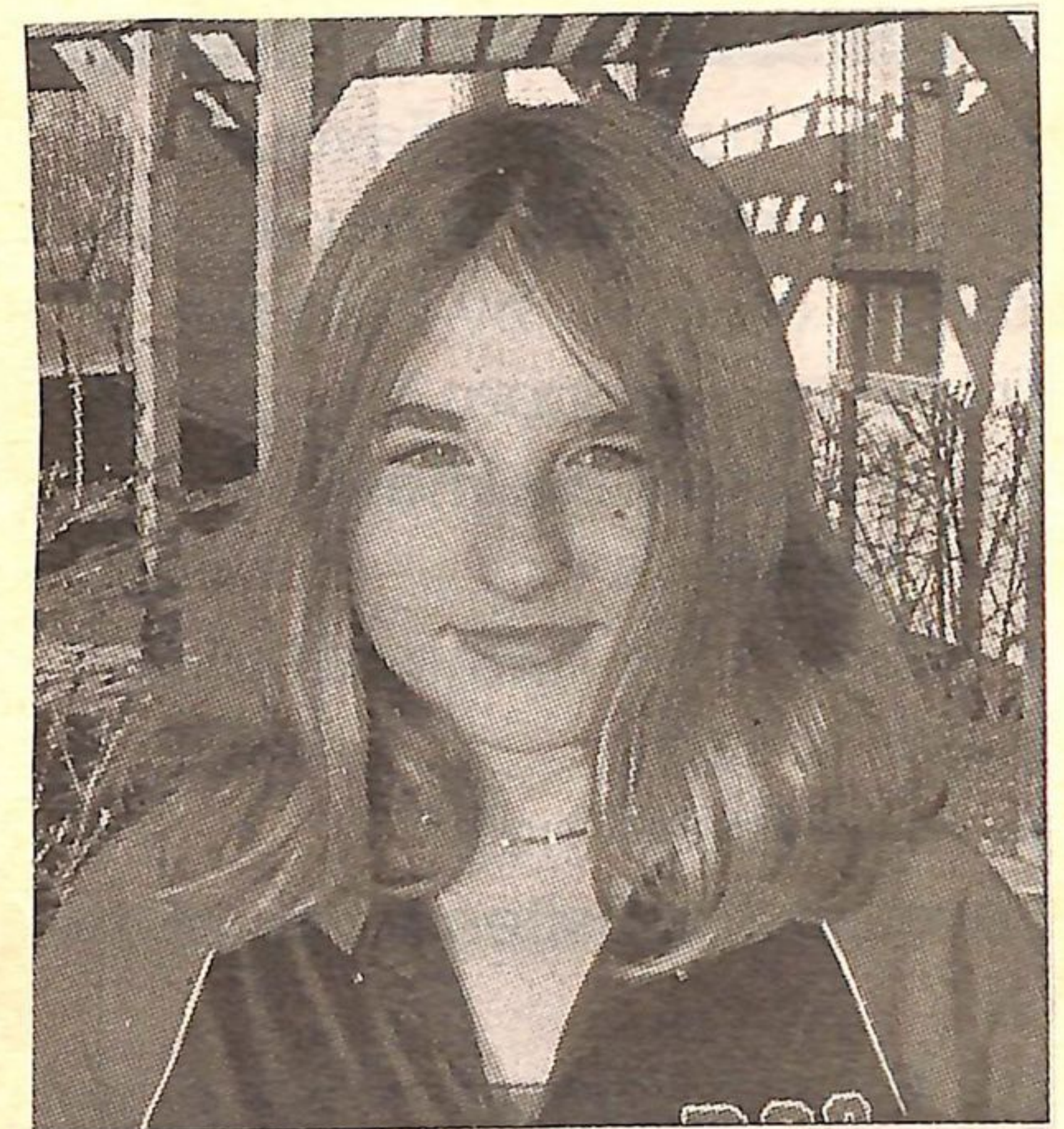
For the evening session the head table was piped in by Scott Matheson and another great meal by Janice's Fine Country Catering. Greetings were brought by Margaret Lupton, Zorra Councillor. Evening speaker "Gumdrop" also known as Patricia Freeman, who spoke on clowning and her

work as a Care Clown in the Stratford Hospital.

The winner of the Maryn Parly Scholarship was Mallory Peternel from Iona Station in Elgin District a

Granddaughter of Grace Campbell. She is studying Pharmacology.

Presentations were made to those retiring from the Executive.



Holly Vanstrien

Age: 13

School: Holy Name Grade 8

Born: London

Favourite Band: AC/DC

Favourite Subject: Gym

Worst Subject: Math

Favourite Teacher: Mrs. Poel

Ambition: Nurse