



VIVIAN SKINNER OF ST. PAULS INSTITUTE planned the bus trip to the official opening of the provincial office near Guelph and beside Vivian is Donna Willows, president of South Perth Institute in front of the new headquarters.

Oxford North District W.I. holds fall meeting

By Ruth Skillings

Brown's school was the setting for the Fall Board meeting of the Oxford North District Women's Institute.

Forty-nine persons came together first for a lunch of fruit bread and cheese with time for fellowship. A number of displays were up, showing activities of the summer.

Annie Uren played the piano for the singing of the Institute Ode to open the meeting and O Canada at the close. President Marlene Matheson opened with a reading 'When I'm a Grandma'.

Fran Rutherford, secretary of the Oxford 4H Council, was introduced by Marlene. 4H work is looked after by the councils now, very little connection with OMAFRA.

She gave the list of 4H Clubs that are available for young people 10 to 22 years, they cover many different areas, where young people learn to do by doing. The large age span has been posing some problems, so they are running some junior and other senior clubs, which members seem to find more suitable.

Concern was raised that homemaking clubs are not stressed or as readily available as before. Everyone needs to live in a home so those skills are important to every person.

Fran mentioned the supporters and friends of 4H that provide monies for members to attend leadership schools, 4H camps and exchanges. In other times, it was only the children from families who could afford to pay their way that could go, now there is help for others. Twenty-one Oxford 4Hers attended a leadership course this year.

Gives final report

Laurine McIntosh, Provincial Board Member for sub-District 23, gave her final report as her term ends shortly. W.I. members are urged to write to local Boards of Education including Family Studies courses in the curriculum. The education committees are being requested to have more emphasis on family skills and a little less on crafts.

All young people should be made aware of scholarships available for 4H members. Also there are scholarship for W.I. members who are going back to school and upgrading their skills. Irene Richardson won one of those scholarships last year.

It is possible, with two weeks notice, for branches to visit the head office of FWIO and hold their meeting there. After July 1/95 there will be a \$15 charge, but free until then.

November 10 is Ladies Day Luncheon at the Royal Winter Fair, total cost including Horse Show is \$45. The Irwin Family from Kintore is providing the entertainment this year.

Anna P. Lewis has been nominated to the Agricultural Hall of Fame. Laurine thanked Oxford North for their enthusiasm and support and goodbye.

Ruth Matheson, curator, thanked the branches for supporting Linda Ambrose, when she was in Oxford North, by bringing their Tweedsmuir Histories and members to talk to her. A great Tweedsmuir Workshop this August. Your Tweedsmuir Histories are as good as you make them. We are urged to keep a section on quilts.

Chris Wiffen reported for PRO, advertise your meetings before they happen and report on them in an interesting way after they happen. A number of ladies reported that their papers weren't interested. We are fortunate here to have a paper that is.

With much discussion, it was decided to continue CanSave support for one overseas project and one Canadian project. As our number of branches decrease and the cost of projects goes up, the amount needed from each branch does get pretty high.

Education Workshop

The Education Workshop nearest here is at St. Pauls Community Hall on Nov. 28, either afternoon or evening. Offered this time is stained glass sweatshirts, (you bring your own sweat shirt, preferably a dark colour) or making gift bags.

Those attending Geneva Park gave their highlights, in short form and also the Official Opening of the Head Quarters, Marlene had them documented by pictures on her displays.

Oxford North's 90th Anniversary is 1995, a committee of Vivian McDonald, Linda McCorquodale and Evelyn Arthur had some very imaginative ways to celebrate sometime in June. Branch presidents to bring preferences to Marlene at London Area Convention which is at Mt. Brydges in October.