

The Women's Institutes celebrate 100 years of giving to the world

Hundreds of Branch Banners and thousands of miniature lights from the approximately 2,000 delegates of the Women's Institute from across Canada and around the world helped Canadian members usher in their second century. Pageants, parades, bus tours, choirs, speakers, fashion shows, panels, banquets, a multicultural concert at the Hamilton, Ontario Convention Centre, and an Interfaith Service made the week of June 15 to June 22 an unforgettable experience for the double event.

Under the direction of Adelaide Hoodless, an activist Hamilton socialite and Erland Lee, a prosperous Stoney Creek Ontario farmer, the first branch of the Women's Institute was initiated on February 19, 1897. One hundred years later it remains an organization devoted to developing informed, responsible citizens, encouraging good family life skills, initiating programs to achieve common goals and leadership development.

One lady at the event is celebrating her own 100th anniversary this year. Helen But Upper Saunder-Baufelt, a long-time W.I. member from Thorold, Ontario, born in 1897, attended the opening ceremonies. Saunder-Bauflet said has never ceased praising the Women's Institute for their good work.

Under the umbrella organization, the Associated



100 YEARS STRONG - Women's Institute media representative Valerie Lodge and public relations officer Mary Janes chat with motivational speaker Norman Rebin at the organization's centennial celebrations held recently in Hamilton. Rebin, a futurist and authour, was the kick off speaker for the five-day event.

(photo by Pam Wright)

Country Women of the World (approximately six million women in more than 60 countries), projects continue to help women improve their living conditions. Lyndsay Hacket-Pain, World President of the ACWW stressed the fact that the role of the ACWW is to "help women to help themselves" by offering relatively modest but practical support to rural communities, requesting whatever the donees can offer and often receiving matching

funds from specialist United Nations and other aid agencies. The Convention theme "Indebted to the Past; Committed to the Future" formed the basis of addresses by all the guest speakers. Motivational speakers Norman Rebin and Rosalie Wysocki reminded members to scheme, dream and redeem as they enter their second century and that it is out attitude that affects our altitude. Dr. Linda Ambrose, author of the recently published

For Home and Country, the Ontario Women's Institutes History, encouraged the Women's Institutes in their future plans and was present to autograph copies of her book. The keynote speaker for the convention, Dr. Roberta Bondar, when recounting her lifetime of achievements including her participation in the space program, stressed the importance of setting adventurous goals, always

path and keeping enthusiasm alive, she advised. And when a goal is reached, she said, our views change and we soon realize that the achievement is not an end but a beginning.

During the convention, Charlotte Johnson, president for the past three years, turned over her presidential duties to Mildred J. Keith of New Brunswick. Active at the national level of the Women's Institutes for many years, Mildred was named to the 1997 edition of the "Who's Who of Canadian Women."

After a two-ballot election, delegates chose Faye Mayberry, a Red Deer, Alberta farmer and FWIC executive member as the president-elect. The other nominees were Margaret Munro and Joyce Johnson.

Action will be taken on all resolutions presented at the convention including:

- the request that Canada Post review addressed ad mail rates;
- the request that Health Canada to set safety standards for cooking pots;
- the effort to set a minimum standard for print size of medicinal containers and to ensure a list of ingredients on the labels of all imported liquid-filled products such as paperweights.
- asking, through a letter and petition, that the quality of health care be preserved