

Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Celebrate 90th anniversary in North Bay

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario celebrated their 90th anniversary with a convention in North Bay, Ontario, July 6-9, 1987.

The theme of the convention was Building for Tomorrow. The convention was officially opened by Charlotte Johnson, past president, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Keynote speaker at the official opening ceremonies was R. Alex Sim, author of The New Rural Community. Mr. Sim raised several questions about the future of the rural community in Ontario.

Margaret Munro, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario spoke of the challenges facing rural women in the 80s. When we improve the quality of life for women, we improve the quality of life for everyone, she said. She defined the Women's Institutes as educational organizations dedicated to personal growth and community action.

Rosalie Wysocki, a leader in the field of personal development, addressed the delegates. She outlined the qualities for personal success and stressed the importance of a positive attitude in our daily

lives.

Libby-Lu Allen of the Jamaican Federation of Women and a recipient of an Ontario International Scholarship spoke of her efforts to improve education in Jamaica. She expressed appreciation to the women's institutes for their support.

A panel - Rural Women - An Emerging Force was moderated by Peggy Knapp. Members of the panel were Joyce Canning, Rural Organization Co-ordinator, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Dianne Harken, Women for the survival of Agriculture; Carol Hyde, President of the Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario; Rebecca Johnson, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

An evening program consisting of skits, musical and visual presentations featured highlights of the history of the women's institutes.

The third day of the convention featured workshops on such topics as program planning, the new family law act, investment opportunities, personal development and lobbying.

The 90th anniversary banquet held in the Memorial Gardens,

North Bay, featured an address by Dr. Ellen McLean, president of the ACWW. Dr. McLean highlighted her experiences travelling on behalf of the rural women of the world and of the efforts of women in the Third World Countries to improve their environment.

Among the 1000 participants in the convention were the following Women's Institute members from this area: Mrs. Roberta Atwell, Mrs. Stella Bent, Mrs. Jeanne Coulthard, Mrs. Marlyn Cross, Mrs. Elizabeth Deslippe, Mrs. Mary Fallon, Mrs. Doris Foster, Miss Sheila Greason, Mrs. Evelyn Haves, Mrs. Nettie Hogg, Mrs. Helen Holden, Mrs. Muriel Lewis, Mrs. Beverley Matheson, Mrs. Ruth Matheson, Mrs. Vivian McDonald, Mrs. Irene McGuffin, Mrs. Marie McGuffin, Mrs. Edythe McIntosh, Mrs. Laurine McIntosh, Mrs. Kathleen Patience, Mrs. Irene Richardson, Mrs. Florence Riddell, Mrs. June Rogers, Mrs. Helen Shute, Mrs. Ruth Skillings, Mrs. Marjorie Spearin, Mrs. Doris Spence, Mrs. June Stewart, Mrs. Dorothy Switzer, Mrs. Jessie Thornton and Mrs. Beth Wills.