

WI resolution calls for equitable education for rural students

KIRKTON—"Working together, shaping tomorrow's world" was the theme of the London Area Women's Institute 84th Annual Convention at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre on Oct. 22 organized by Huron South W.I.

More than 170 women from Middlesex East and Northwest, Elgin County, Perth South, Huron South and West and Oxford Districts attended the day-long program.

The morning included WI business aspects. In the afternoon, the guests heard three speakers. O.P.P. Constable Tracey Coglin spoke on safety, Funeral Director Ruth Townsend spoke on grieving and Heart and Health expert Deb Campbell presented 'Nutrition on

your plate'.

Fern Dougall gave a presentation on her trip to the A.C.W.W. conference in South Africa.

The delegates passed a resolution on the potential closing of rural schools initiated by Motherwell W.I.

The resolution states: "Whereas Provincial funding to District School Boards is based on Provincial averages and the Provincial Government's Education Funding Formula does not take into consideration the unique geographical challenges and needs of smaller schools, rural Ontario is severely disadvantaged.

Whereas the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario believe that all District School Boards need more help to keep rural community

schools open versus larger concentrated urban centres, due to the fact the population of rural communities is spread out over a large geographical area and the distance between schools are greater.

Therefore be it resolved that the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario urge the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training to give separate consideration for District School Boards, under the School Accommodation Funding Formula so as to allow District School Boards to run rural schools efficiently and keep rural schools open, resulting in rural students receiving an equitable education in their community schools."



New executive

The executive for 1998-99 posed during London Area Women's Institute 84th Annual Convention, held at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre on Oct. 22. Front row, from left are: First Vice-President Fran Hyatt, Past President Gladys Egelton, Provincial President Arthena Hecker, President Pauline Lindsay and Second Vice-President Eleanor Williams. Back row from left, Provincial Advisory Council Subdivision 18 Willa Johnston, Treasurer Chris Wiffen, Tweedsmuir History Curator Jean Leitch, Assistant Tweedsmuir Curator Helen Van Brenk, Membership Organizer Glenna Ladell and Public Relations Officer Margaret Armstrong. Several executive members were not present for the photo.

The London Area Women's Institute held their 84th Annual Convention at the Kirkton-Woodham Community Centre in Kirkton, Ontario with Huron South and Huron West Hostesses.

Over 270 members and guests, were in attendance with the theme "Working Together Shaping Tomorrow's World." The Presentation of Flags by Margaret Dale and Delores Shapton was followed by the District banners to the skirl of bagpipes by piper Carl Mills.

Maitland W.I. conducted an "In Memorium" service following the formal opening.

President Gladys Egelton, in her opening remarks, urged everyone to communicate more in our communities and get to know our neighbours.

Resolutions Convenor Delores Shapton presented a resolution dealing with the Government's Education Formula regarding the closing of rural schools. This resolution was carried.

Members were also updated with respect to the many changes taking place at the Provincial level by F.W.I.O. President Arthena Hecker. The new structure of the Provincial Board will be made up of only the President, the President-Elect, the Past President and eight Board Directors.

Alternate board directors are now known as the PAC (Provincial Advisory Council). Six new Branches have been formed, which includes 399 new members. London area is now Subdivisions 18 and 19. Margaret Dale gave a presentation on the Adelaide Hoodless Home.

F.Y.I. (For Your Information) began the afternoon with presentations from O.P.P. Constable Tracey Coglin, Funeral Director Ruth Townsend and Heart and Health representative Deb Campbell.

Displays included those by the Tweedsmuir History Children's Hospital, A.C.W.W. Conference - South Africa, Membership Organizer, Quillows, Handkerchiefs and Public Relations.

Reports were then given by Public Relations, Tweedsmuir Curator, Membership Organizer, Children's Hospital and the Western Fair Association.

President Gladys Egelton reported on Conference '98 in Belleville and Fran Dougall reported on the A.C.W.W. held in South Africa.

The Maryn Pardy Scholarship went to Trent University student Kerry Humphrey, while the Dorothy Fitcher Scholarship went to Kings College student Andrea Wills.

Bell ringers, the "Joy Bells" from Mitchell entertained.

In the evening, Guest Speaker and author Gisele Ireland, in keeping with the convention theme "Working Together Shaping Tomorrow's World," spoke to us and told us that for one hundred years we've been doing just that. She gave many hilarious examples of this in her own life and everyone felt that her warmth and humour added to the success.

Gifts were given to retiring President, Mrs. Gladys Egelton and Secretary, Mrs. Doris Spence. Gladys then presented the gavel and pin to the incoming President Mrs. Pauline Lindsay.

1998-99 Executive

Past President - Mrs. Gladys Egelton; President - Mrs. Pauline Lindsay; Vice Chairs - Mrs. Fran Hyatt and Mrs. Eleanor Williams; Secretary - Mrs. Dorothy Sutherland; Assistant Secretary - Mrs. Mary Nicklas; Public Relations - Mrs. Margaret Armstrong; Program Convenor - Mrs. Shirley Towers; Resolutions - Mrs. Gladys Egelton; Tweedsmuir Curator - Ms. Jean Leitch; Assistance Curator - Mrs. Helen VanBrink; Membership Organizer - Mrs. Glenna Ladell; Provincial Board Director for Southern - Mrs. Donna Willows; PAC Subdivision 18 - Mrs. Willa Johnston and Mrs. Glenna Ladell; Subdivision 19 - Mrs. Donna MacPherson.

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The funding formula for schools is changed: WI responds to the provincial gov't.