

# Grey-Bruce convention

SBVI-4

# Humans still number one: WI speaker

By ANN KELLY  
Family Living Editor

"The most important thing in the world is still human beings. No computer can take their place.

"Women's Institute must continue to awaken public awareness, must never lose sight of values and standards and must engage in stimulating, exciting, creative activities that will keep us thinking, working, experimenting and experiencing...by drawing attention to good nutrition, self education and good citizenship instead of being self satisfied, negative and doubting." These words were spoken by Mrs. Clarence Diamond of New Hamburg, president of the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario as she addressed delegates to the 20th Grey-Bruce area convention which opened Wednesday in Southampton.

"Some years ago it was said, If we give ourselves and our talents without the thought of getting something in return, we have taken the first step toward peace. What has this to do with the Women's Institute?" queried Mrs. Diamond. "That is what its volunteer members have been doing for over 81 years. What other organization has, as an objective, the development and the potential of its members, the nutrition and health of its family members, the record of community service and community betterment; has experienced the spread, not only through our own country but into over 70 countries of the world and now has a membership of over 8.5 million. Women's Institute has opened doors for thousands of women to share their talents and training with others at home and abroad, has created cultures to give character to women's lives, she said.

"In whatever marvels the earth may yet see, I firmly believe that the WI members, staunch and well informed, are capable and worthy to stand at the speaker's rostrum of the community and the world and help change the course of history, for family life only fails because humans fail," Mrs. Diamond said.

The speaker made reference to a remark attributed to Adelaide Hoodless, the founder of the women's institute, "No nation can rise above the level of its home." This bore out the theory that the family underlies the welfare of society. "That is still exemplified in the WI motto, for Home and Country," said Mrs. Diamond.

"Faith in our WI organization and what it has achieved in providing educational programs, helping people help themselves, raise standards of living, eat better nutritionally, become better informed citizens on current issues, is building bridges of understanding.

"In programming we have to take into consideration individual communities, resources in terms of people, talents and facilities, listen to ideas instead of being mouse-trapped by tradition and custom into thinking that only how and what we did yesterday is sufficient for WI today and tomorrow.

"The future of WI is not in the hands of fate, it's in yours and mine," she challenged. "We can't travel old courses, the ruts will be so deep we can't crawl out. If we project our objectives it will be an invitation for others to come and join us," Mrs. Diamond said.



WI CONVENTION — The two-day Grey-Bruce area Women's Institute convention opened Wednesday in Southampton. Above, left to right, discussing a report are: Miss Molly McGhee, director of WI home economics; Mrs. Francis Gemmell, outgoing president; Mrs. Kenneth Spence, incoming president and Mrs. Clarence Diamond, president of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

## Southampton hosting area WI convention

Learn and grow was the theme of the two-day Grey-Bruce area Women's Institute convention which opened in Southampton Wednesday.

Mrs. Richard Fenton, chairman of the Bruce County rally, extended a welcome. Greetings were brought to the women by Rev. Jack Walsh.

The president, Mrs. Francis Gemmell of Ripley centred her remarks on the theme, Learn and Grow and also on the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada theme for 1978-79, Strengthening the family unit.

"The Women's Institute is an organization dedicated to developing better, happier and more useful citizens and to help them acquire sound homemaking skills to create a healthy home background. It is up to us to carry on this organization.

"We as adults have to learn who we are, learn to be at peace with ourselves, learn the effect we have on others and open our minds to new experiences.

"Home life can be compared to gardening. The house is the soil in which young human life is planted. The parents are the gardeners.

"You've heard the saying, The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Take time to rock that cradle and hold the role as a mother in high esteem.

"The hand is the hub of your family circle which encircles your family and reaches out to your community and the world. Wield it well," she said.

Mrs. Gemmell outlined ways in which Women's Institute develops character and responsibility and strengthens the family.

Song leader for the day was Mrs. Laverne Broadfoot. Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock was pianist.

Reports were given by Mrs. Grant Grieve, Mrs. Orland Magwood and Mrs. Morris Rennie. Mrs. Percy Radbourne gave the Tweedsmuir curator's report. Mrs. Linda Tottenham reported for the junior institutes.

The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario board of directors gave a presentation, Let's plead our case.

Miss Molly McGhee, director of the home economics branch, reported on changes implemented and changes upcoming within the branch.

Miss Barbara DeVisscher and Mrs. Denise Edwards, home economists for Bruce and Grey Counties respectively, highlighted the 4-H work and short courses.

Bruce East district conducted the in memoriam. Entertainment was provided by Bruce Centre and Bruce north district. Mrs. Jim Hyatt of Oliphant, a life member before Grey-Bruce area came into being, read the institute alphabet.

Mrs. Francis Gemmell was chairman for the morning session. Mrs. Kenneth Spence conducted the afternoon session.

The opening day concluded with a banquet and variety program.