



Ambulance Service Executive

The 1991 executive of the Halton Hills Ambulance Service was selected last week. The executive includes (left to right) Ron LaSalle, recruiting director; Bob Raine, social director; Dave Burton,

educational services; Jackie Henselwood, secretary-treasurer; Susan Raine, social director and Doug McLeod, president. (Herald photo)

Women's Institute backbone of rural communities

What is the oldest rural organization in Ontario that is non partisan in its appeal to all parts of the province? In what organization can you discuss during the year any topic from soil erosion, to Buffalo Farming, to fertilizer to potatoes, to handling farm machinery and all topics in between. Surprise it is the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. Somehow many people have forgotten that the backbone of the rural community in Ontario is FWIO and that although their name does not imply it, FWIO does deal with all aspects of farming particularly as they affect women. A look at the range of agriculture topics discussed, the field trips undertaken by the various FWIO branches would amaze you in their scope. The FWIO has never forgotten that as an organization its roots were started from a men's farming organization. Erland Lee, who was Secretary of the South Wentworth Farmer's Institute, invited Adelaide Hoodless to speak to their ladies night in Feb. 1897. The members of the Farmer's Institute were not unanimous in the decision to invite a woman to speak to them, but Erland Lee persisted. As a result of the efforts of Erland and Janet Lee and Adelaide Hoodless, the Women's Institute was formed.

That spirit of overcoming obstacles remains today. The Oxford County Women's Institute members have persisted in a project, overcome numerous obstacles and are now successful. They have just supplied the over 5,000 public and separate schools of Ontario with a kit of true type farm animals. At this stage arrangements are being made with the Band Councils to supply the Native schools in Ontario with the same kit. Many of the pictures are from a series of paintings by the well known Oxford Agriculture painter Ross Butler, whose wife has been a very active WI member in Oxford County. Ruby Butler has been the WI representative to the Oxford Farm Safety Association. These kits contain copies of some of the

original paintings as well as up dated versions, approved by the various Breed Associations. Also in the kit are a series of activities the children can do that will help them understand what the real farm animals are like and not just cartoon characters.

The First Lady of Agriculture in Ontario, this year, is Evelyn Freer, President of South Western Area WI (Kent, Lambton and Essex) as well as a former FWIO Board Director. This year the International Plowing Match is being held in Lambton County and the tented city is on the Freer Farm. Evelyn's husband will resign as the Mayor.

The cradle of Agriculture in

Ontario is the 4H Programme. As well as donating money to assist the programme, last year the WI members gave 27,500 hours of volunteer help. The benefit will be seen in years to come. Many young people in Ontario have had their education assisted by WI Scholarships.

As a provincial organization, with over 20,000 members the FWIO is associated with OFA and with no other farming group. This association has been on-going for many years and will continue to benefit all who live in Ontario.

Next time you think of agriculture, Ontario and women think of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

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Performing group parodies free trade

By LISA BOONSTOPPEL-POT
the Herald

If you believe the Free Trade agreement is hurting Canada, you might want to join a performing group of union members from the Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) Union who will present a street theatre parody of the agreement in front of Garth Turner's constituency office in Georgetown on March 15.

'Little People's Theatre' is the name of the performing group which will be travelling across Southern Ontario beginning on March 12 to inform people how free trade has effected lay-offs and plant closures.

From Windsor to Georgetown, when they'll present their play at 9:30 a.m., the group will travel until March 16. On this day, the CAW, along with representatives from all of Ontario's unions, will gather for a mass rally at Queen's Park.

"We want to make people aware that 226,000 jobs have been lost since free trade," said Susan Mortimer, chairperson of the Peel-Halton CAW local. "It's a different way to lobby the government."

To make their point, the play will have three booths set up in front of Garth Turner's office. One will have a Brian Mulroney figure in it handing out pink slips. Another will have George Bush handing out green cards and the third booth will have the Mexican leader telling people how wonderful Mexico is and how employees work there.

The Mexican booth indicates the CAW's strong opposition to North America signing another free trade agreement with Mexico. "If that happens, things will get worse," said Ms. Mortimer. "The average Mexican makes \$4 a day and we can't compete with that."

She said the CAW is lobbying for plant closure legislation which would protect workers when plants close down and, require the plant's explanation of why they're closing or moving

out of Canada.

Moreover, she says the CAW wants Prime Minister Mulroney to call an early election. "We want him to call a federal election now."

By-standers at the show will be able to join in and show their support by signing a life-size card designed by the group.

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CARRIER OF THE WEEK BOYS - GIRLS

Graham, 7, a Grade 2 student at Harrison Public School in Georgetown has been delivering the Halton Hills Herald for almost a year and a half.

He delivers 60 papers on Wednesday and Friday.

With the money he earns as a carrier, Graham has been able to purchase a 12-speed bike for himself.

Some of Graham's hobbies include baseball, skiing, skating and swimming.

Graham's ambition is to become a teacher.

For his efforts, Graham will receive a large pizza courtesy of Pizza Hut in Georgetown.



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