

**O.A.S.W.T.
MET IN
GANANOQUE**

The Ontario Association of Superannuated Women Teachers of Gananoque and area held their October dinner meeting in Gracey Hall of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Gananoque on October 23 at noon. President, Betty James welcomed the large crowd present. Mary Townsend asked the blessing and a toast to the Queen was observed. Following a delicious meal served by the ladies of St. Andrew's, Marion Steacy thanked the ladies on behalf of the O.A.S.W.T. The head table guests were introduced by Betty James, President; Doris Potter, Past President; Margaret Courneyea, Secretary; Kathryn Scott, Pianist; Georgie Shanks, Treasurer; Teresa Donnelly, Vicepresident; Jo Ann Garrah, Guest Speaker; Dorothy Dodds, Press Secretary; Edna McCalpin, Telephone Convener; Gladys Folder, Insurance Convener. The guest speaker, a Rotary

exchange student to Belgium, Jo Ann Garrah, was introduced by Doris Potter. She mentioned that Jo Ann's parents were both teachers. Prior to an interesting slide presentation, Jo Ann told in some detail the process of becoming an exchange student. One must go through a series of interviews, be familiar with Canadian government problems and situations, be ambitious, hard working and curious. When away, your own country becomes different as seen by other person's views. She stated that Belgium had 9 provinces, four French, four Dutch and one bilingual. They are proud of their architecture, many have symbols on top of their houses. An interesting fact was that they preserve the outside of their older buildings and build new buildings inside the old ones. Mention was made of prevalence of much rain; many canals. Belgians eat well with five-course meals. Chocolate in many forms was a predominate

food there. Her slides showed many of the important places in Brussels, the narrow streets and pictures of her host families while there. An interesting feature of her discourse was the description of their school system. She answered several questions from the teachers. Kathryn Scott thanked Jo Ann and presented her with a gift. President, Betty James added her appreciation. Jo Ann presented her slides and talk in a very friendly, informal manner and her listeners enjoyed the ease of her presentation. Routine business period followed with Betty James reading a poem by a St. Catharines' teacher, "A Teacher's Day" which recalled to memory many of the mundane as well as interesting things teachers were called upon to do during the day, e.g. helping the wee ones get dressed for winter. Another article on The Rainbow was enjoyed by her listeners.

An interesting and concise report of the convention was given by Teresa Donnelly. Margaret Mathers is the archivist replacing Mr. E. Tye who is ill. At conclusion of the meeting draws were made for many items. The next meeting of the group will be the membership spring tea. Mention was made of the great need for beds for children around the world. This project "Sleeping Children Around the World" is being sponsored by Murray Dryden. The O.A.S.W.T are planning to help this project. Everyone seemed to enjoy this October meeting and the renewing of friendships after the summer.



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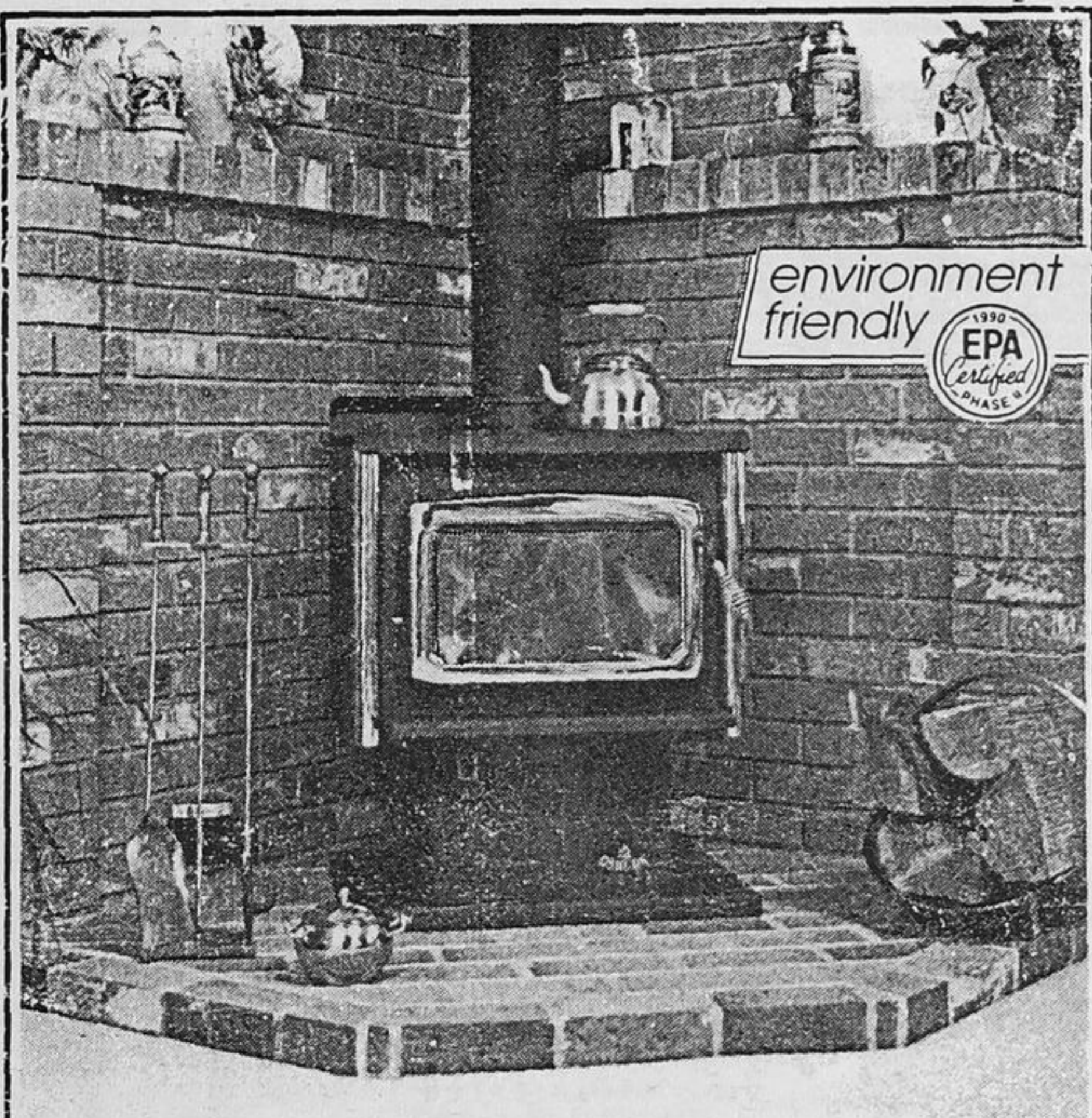
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