FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO

In this time of crisis in the rural community, a crisis that affects the whole of Canada, it is comforting to know that in the midst of this there is an oasis. For over 90 years the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO; have been active in all aspects of their communities.

Over the past year the importance of FWIO has ably demonstrated. been The results of some of activities these were reported to the annual meeting of the Federated Institutes Women's (FWIO) held Ontario recently in Guelph. . Although not all branches reported their figures, over 60,000 hours were the given to 4H and schools. This does not include the work involved with the numerous scholarships that give students at all levels an opportunity to further their education. Among the guests at the Annual Dinner was Melinda McCoy, a post graduate student at the University of Guelph who is the Helen McKercher scholarship winner. Her thesis on looking at how the rural community is coping with the crisis will be of benefit to all work who in agriculture.

Women's Institute has a long tradition of being concerned with the teaching of agriculture in the classroom, and in many counties you will find the WI helping in various ways, and

now FWIO is a charter member of Ontario AgriFood Inc. All the schools in Ontario have received a copy of the Ross Butler Farm Animal paintings thanks to the Oxford North and South Women's Institutes.

Women and the Environment is the theme for Women's Institutes for the decade. During the year FWIO was honoured as the Outstanding Organization in Ontario for its work with the Environment. This Year the WI branches were asked to plant trees between April 91 and April 92. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources that would be enough for a potential forest. Halfway through the project, and everyone reporting yet, 49,000 trees have been planted and still counting. FWIO is the organization to get the job done.

Mabel Dougherty, Reeve of Onondga Township, Brant, who is also the Resolutions Convenor for the Onondga Branch, put forward a Resolution asking that people who misuse the "Slow Moving Vehicle" signs be fined. A

collection of photographs showing various misuses of the signs included being decorated for Christmas. FWIO believes that if you can be fined for not using the signs surely you should be fined for misuse.

A container with "Best Before" labels collected from local stores which demonstrated the need Before" the "Best for be in larger labels to in and print a more prominent Often place. they are impossible

to read, or half wiped off and in some cases

without a date. FWIO is an organization that was founded on food safety (pasturization of milk) even today they are concerned with food safety. their Hence resolution asking for the "Best Before" labels to be in larger print and in a more prominent place.

driven on a snowy Ever day, and found the directional signs on the road were covered with snow, or the traffic was heavy to see them. members have and result passed

resolution asking for signs all directional placed overhead be not on the road as all In are. some resolutions passed were by the FWIO Annual meeting. With over half a million volunteer hours to the rural communities, over 49,000 trees planted and still counting, educational projects to benefit all and resolutions that affect Ontario, rural of urban the WI members living Ontario are up to their motto of "For Home and Country".

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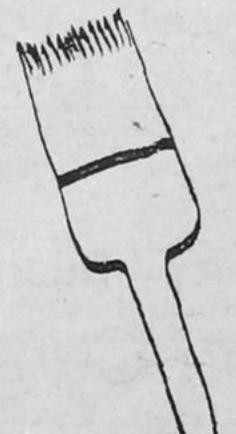
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