RURAL WOMEN CONFERENCE DEEMED A SUCCESS

"Older Rural Women Speak the first conference of it's kind for the counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville resounding success. 130 The women attending the day long conference on October 31, at the Mariners Inn, Smiths Falls came away with feeling accomplishment and hope. They had voiced and shared their problems and concerns and had, together formulated some definite plans to continue these benefits into the future. Two of their number, Mona

Dier of Westport and Margaret Millar of Snow Road were panelist speakers and they focused on many of the daily needs of older rural women. Among these were the isolation with limited means of transportation and communication; lack of local nursing home care and assistance with home repairs. Mrs. Millar expressed the wish government officials that could come out, spend some time in a rural area to learn first hand of the difficulties facing rural seniors. Dier related that for decades the plight of rural seniors have been overlooked by other segments of society. The infra-structure of support has disappeared from the rural home with the demise of the family farm. Empty barnyards and untilled fields tell their own story.

Tarrant, Linda facilitator of the conference was a vibrant speaker, holding her audience captive with her timely remarks, quotations and sense of humour. She challenged all present to learn to adapt; challenge mediocrity; support innovation; develop ambitions and visionary goals; encourage positive attitudes and nourishing environments. During the afternoon session, Ms. Tarrant again addressed the gathering and spoke of the strong sense of renewal she was conscious of in the conference. She advised her listeners to commit themselves to each other. "Set goals, rekindle your enthusiasm", "You must have she said. a new vision and act with initiative. Don't kill a dream, execute it!"

As the participants filled out evaluation sheets and proposed solutions to the problems described at the conference, one could sense the enthusiasm that had been generated. Proposals were made for continuing this into the future, possibly by forming a steering committee from representatives of the 3 counties. Another similar conference in the coming months may also be feasible.

Greetings were given by Rev.

Dennis Drainville,

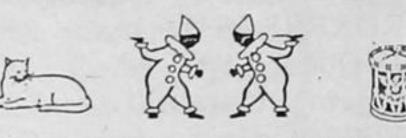
Parliamentary Assistant to
the Hon. Elaine Ziemba,

Minister of Citizenship with
responsibility for Human

Rights, Disabled Persons, Senior

Citizens and Race Relations.

Chairing the Conference was Dorene McManus of Portland and special guests were Professor Rhea Schulman, Officer for Senior Citizens Affairs; Juanita Bay, Senior Policy Analyst, Ontario Women's Directorate and Clair Miville, Program Consultant, Seniors Secretariat, Health and Welfare, Canada.
Lucille Bresee



NURSERY SCHOOL

For the month of November the boys and girls at the Elgin District Co-operative Nursery School did activities based on the themes "All About Me" and "When I Get Bigger". They learned how big they were, how much they weighed, where they lived and about One day the their senses. dressed in children came what they showing clothes would like to be when they They had some get bigger. The very interesting ideas. special guest on November 16th was Constable Paul Arnold from the Westport, O.P.P. He did each child's fingerprints and the children brought their fingerprint cards home. This valuable of piece information for parents to the frightening have with child abductions number of Thank you to that occur. Constable Arnold for his visit. Also during November, the photographer came and took

individual and group pictures of the children.

The colours blue and green

The colours blue and green and the numbers 5, 6 & 7 were talked about this month.

fundraising committee The would like to thank everyone supported the nursery who school by buying Christmas colouring books, baking at the Christmas Craft Market Your raffle tickets. greatly financial help is appreciated. Nancy Sheffield





