

Fighting for Rural Families

WI seeking changes in rural child care policy

Stories and photo
by RON PRESTON
Staff Writer

Once again the Women's Institute is fighting to improve life in rural Canada.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) is calling for changes in rural child care policy to reflect the "unique" needs of rural families.

In a recently-released report, the FWIC makes several recommendations:

*A special policy for rural child care that recognizes issues unique to rural families.

*Federal and provincial governments must examine the ways in which subsidies and allowances are allocated to child care services.

*To address the need for seasonal child care and the problems associated with the isolation of rural families, serious consideration must be given to various innovative approaches to rural child care.

*More flexibility in the provision of rural child care services so that spaces are not lost because of rigid adherence to overly strict regulations.

Margaret Munro is the immediate past-president of the FWIC in Ontario. She and her husband now live in Ottawa and help their son on the farm.

She was a member of the committee that created and later reviewed the 3,400 questionnaires distributed across the country. (Three hundred questionnaires were sent to each province except Ontario, which received 700.)

"The goal of the survey is

that when policy is decided about child care, the input from the rural area isn't there, so people tend to look at it from a city point of view, where there are already services or services can be made available much more easily than the rural areas.

"We felt the rural areas were just as important — and in some cases, more so — and that their views should be heard when policy is made on child care."

It was important to discover what services were already available, how rural families judged those services, and what they felt was needed.

"One or two things surprised us," Munro said. "Mainly the fact that people did not expect child care to be just given to them, universal child care where it's completely funded. They expect some kind of user pay, although they did feel that single parents or people below a certain level of income — and especially those people with children with special needs — should certainly be helped."

But one of the biggest surprises was that parents said they would be prepared to stay home rather than use daycare facilities if there was some sort of financial encouragement such as tax credits for the partner working outside the home.

And women who chose to stay home to raise their children want some respect from society as well. One survey respondent wrote: "I really feel that not enough emphasis is given to women and their work. I am an RN — when I work at the hospital I am a working per-



The Federated Women's Institute of Canada recently completed a three-year study of rural day care needs. Playtime Village Daycare Centre, located between Wheatley and Leamington, is one of the few rural day-cares available across the country. The report was funded by Health and Welfare Canada.

son, and if I have a babysitter, a house cleaner and a chore boy to replace me at my duties at home, they are considered as three working people.

"But if I stay at home — care for my children, clean my home, feed family and help do

farm accounting and banking, help at barn and on tractor, cut grass, plant and tend to flower beds and garden and do volunteer work for church, 4H, and community — I am not working, I'm just at home.

"I receive no money, no tax

continued.....

Just

credits, no respect. But my husband, my children and my home are receiving the best care by the best caregiver!

"I receive no money, no tax credits, no respect. But my husband, my children and my home are receiving the best care by the best caregiver!"

"As you can see, this has caused me much stress and by times, depression. Today's society with its increasing problems is screaming for caring women to stay home and work."

The change in the family structure has also affected farm families. No longer are grandparents living on the farm, available to watch the children while the parents work, she said.

Too often children face physical dangers when parents can't find adequate daycare. They are taken along on tractors or left to play at the end of the field near large equipment, "and a lot of them have no choice... (even though) they recognize it as not being good but they don't do it unless they really have to."

The report was completed late last year and presented to the federal government in early April but as of yet, there has been little political response from any party.

"I would hope it would generate discussion and I would certainly hope that the people making decisions on any kind of child care would take this into consideration."

Farmers have resisted outside interference but Munro said with both parents working "they are actually ready to take some kind of help."

FROM OUR READERS

W.I stories interesting

Dear Editor:

I would like to commend you for the very interesting articles about the Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Erland Lee (Museum) Home which appeared in the June 3 issue of Farming Today.

These write-ups would be of great interest to many of our readers; and in particular to Women's Institute members, as June has been declared "W.I. Month" by our Provincial Public Relations Officer.

However, I wondered if you were aware of the fact that the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada own and operate the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, St. George, Ont.

This home situated on the Blue Lake Road in the house in which Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, co-founder of the Women's Institute, was born in 1857.

"Strawberries and Roses" is the next public event to be held at the Homestead. This will take place on Sunday, June 23 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The home will be decorated throughout with roses, strawberries and cake will be served to visitors; Scottish Dancers will be dancing on the front lawn and other interesting events will be taking place inside the home.

"Christmas at the Homestead" will be held Sunday, Dec. 1 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will also be a public event. The home will be decorated in an old fashioned way and crafters will be present for demonstrations.

Sometime, perhaps you might wish to do an article on this old home which is being preserved by the Women's Institutes of Canada.

Mrs. Myrtle Stone
Secretary of the
Homestead Committee

—AYLMER EXPRESS—Wed., June 5, 1991



Elgin East District Women's Institute held for its 79th District Annual meeting on May 22 at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Corinth. The theme was, 'Today - A Legacy for Tomorrow.' Participants include, front from left: Sherrill Babbey, president of Oxford South;

Madeleine Jenkins, president of Elgin East; Eleanor McMillan, president of Elgin West. Back row from left: Valerie Clark, Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Betty Van Patter, Public Relations Officer, Elgin East; Hilde Morden, President of London area; Sally McIntyre, Provincial Board Director.

Women at the Royal

By Farm Life Staff

Although the emphasis this year is on youth, another special interest group will get a day of its own at the 63rd annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) will host the first-ever Women's Day at the fair, on Nov. 7.

The day will include a lunch and speaker, a fashion show, and admission to the horse show opening that night.

About 200 women, paying \$40 each, will hear Mavis Wilson, former minister of women's issues in Ontario, speak on the role of women in the '90s, says Peggy Knapp, FWIO president.

Right after lunch, the group will present a fashion show, featuring all-wool products, "to keep an agricultural theme," says Knapp.

"There are many women involved in food production and agriculture, but there isn't anything especially for women (at the fair), to focus on their role," says Knapp.

The institute would like Women's Day to become an annual event.

The FWIO will also add the Royal's craft booth to its list of duties. The organization will run different craft demonstrations every day, done by FWIO members.

The institute is applying for a grant from the ministry of Tourism and Recreation, Knapp says, but so far is paying for everything for Women's Day, the craft booth, and its own information booth.

Knapp estimates the institute will be using well over 120 volunteers for all the events.

Also new this year is the Agricultural Pavillon, exploring the history of farming in Canada, particularly featuring the contributions made by immigrants.

This year's fair will be held at Exhibition Place, in Toronto, Nov. 5 to 16.

Elgin East District W.I.

by Betty Van Patter

The Fall Board meeting of Elgin East District Women's Institute was held Monday, September 30 at Terrace Lodge, Aylmer.

The president, Madeline Jenkins was assisted by the Secretary, Shirley Bechard, and the treasurer, Berniece Taylor. All branches were represented with the exception of Eden.

The Janet Hiepleh scholarship winner was announced and she is Jennifer Louise Hoffer of Aylmer and a student at East Elgin Secondary School. The presentation of the scholarship will be made by the district president on October 25 at the school's commencement.

The 4H awards night is November 22 at Port Stanley Arena. There was information from London Area Women's Institute regarding the coming Convention on October 10 at Norwich Community Centre. There are several proposed by-law changes (one is the raising of the branch fee to the Area to be raised from \$10 - \$20.)

Betty Van Patter, district public relations officer, gave her report. A Women's Institute display had been set up at the local ploughing match at Fingal on September 7, manned by members from Elgin East and Elgin West branches. She announced the Out-Reach Seminar will be held at Southwold Central School on February 22, 1992 with the theme New Views for '92. The theme speaker is Johanna Tobin, a teacher/motivator using the theme "Turn Over a New Leaf".

There are six workshops with the following themes - Chewing the Fat - But Not Too Much, Goodbye Beige

Walls, Landscape Like a Pro, Earth Friendly, Look Out for #1 - Protect Yourself, and Awesome Jewellery - Make Your Own with Friendly Plastic.

The Rally Social '91 is October 22 at 7:30 at Fingal United Church. Dessert lunch will precede the program provided by Lorne Spicer on his "Tree" filming. The next Rally meeting will be November 2, 1991 at 1:30 at Elgin Pioneer Museum with the Safety Awards presented at 2:30. She mentioned thirty-six mugs have been presented to Elgin County Council promoting June as Women's Institute month. The Farm Safety Council of Elgin covered the expenses of this project.

This year F.W.I.O. will run the "Country Craft Section" at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, November 5-6. Members will demonstrate and display traditional and unusual arts and crafts. The F.W.I.O. will host Women's Day November 7 at the Royal. The Elgin East District are planning a Bus Trip to the Royal Winter Fair for November 7. Contact persons are Margaret Stewart, Berniece Taylor and Betty Van Patter.

The Federated Women's Institute report was given by Eleanor McMillan who is replacing Sally MacIntyre who resigned this summer. She reported a visit by the F.W.I.O. board to Erland Lee Museum to meet the new curator. On April 24, 1992 there will be a workshop at the Lee, the Women's Institute Days June 2 & 3 with the Victorian Tea August 24 and Christmas at the Lee December 4.

She announced the Canada

Packers Quilt Competition has been transferred to the Ontario Agricultural Museum at Milton. She announced the Breadmaking course for the leaders is to be November 19 at Yarmouth Centre United Church. A conference in '92 will be held at Lakehead University Thunder Bay August 6 & 7. The celebration for the 100 Anniversary of the founding of W.I. will be held June 21-30 at the Convention Centre in Toronto. Districts and areas are being asked to create banners for this occasion. The centennial plates will be ready in '94. The president elect of F.W.I.C. is Charlotte Johnson of Cockrane. Jackie Linde of B.C. is president of F.W.I.C.

A reception for the incoming F.W.I.O. president Margaret Eberle of Chatham will be held November 30 at Thamesier Lodge - Chatham.

F.W.I.O. would like to see 14 branches set up in Ontario this coming year. Hilde Morden will direct this project. Crafts to the F.W.I.C. conventions may be obtained only from the host province in the future as it was costly sending them from the other provinces. The Butler project is now on hold as the Ministry of Education requested the material be edited by their

French language expert.

The Elgin County Pioneer Museum report was given by Margaret Stewart. The coffee break is December 6 9:30-11:00 with Elgin East in charge of the lunch. Each branch was asked to try and have a table of baking or crafts that morning for sale in place of donations. Margaret will be returning in December having served her term and a new representative for Elgin East is required.

Hostesses for the coffee break are North Yarmouth and Sparta Sorosis. The delegates for London Area Convention October 10 are Madeline Jenkins and Pauline Lindsay. Pauline Lindsay will assist Jean Palmer the Scholarship committee for Elgin County. Grace Blewett gave a report of the Workshop she attended at Centralia.

Eleanor McMillan who is co-ordinating the Breadmaking Workshop will be assisted by Grace Blewett from Elgin East District.

The Winter Picnic will be held February 26, 1992 at Mapleton Church with Kingsmill-Mapleton and Corinth W.I. as hostesses. Elgin East District Annual is tentatively set for May 6, 1992 at Springfield United Church with Springfield and Sparta as hostesses.

1992

ST THOMAS TIMES JOURNAL

Elgin East WI fall meeting

SEPTEMBER 1992



Executive members of Elgin East Women's Institute were recently installed for 1992-93 including: President Madeleine Jenkins, seated; provincial board Director Eleanor McMillan, left; Past President Pauline Lindsay; and Secretary Grace Blewett. Elgin East has eight local chapters.

A CONFIDENT VETERAN VOTES



St. Thomas Bur

Progressive Conservative Ron McNeil, a 27-year Queen's Park veteran, was all smiles as the first to cast a ballot Thursday at the polling station near his farmhouse at Lyons. Placing his ballot in the box is deputy returning officer Eleanor Stover of RR 7, Aylmer.

J.A. / E.S.

Elaine is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Goble of Avon and a sister of David Goble of Mapleton.

Signpost June 1986

Local artist comes home for the Anniversary

Every so often we meet people who obviously are going to achieve fame and success. They project a great deal of confidence, but are also quite humble. They know who they are and what is important to them. One such person is Elaine Goble Rozon of Avon, a 1975 graduate from L.D.S.S. who was recently home for the school's 25th anniversary. Elaine is beginning to become prominent in the Canadian art world.

After graduating from high school, she attended York University for two years before going to Western during her final year, on an independent study grant. She moved to Ottawa after graduating university in 1978 and has lived there since. She married in 1981, to a native of Ottawa who is a systems analyst.

During her first five years in Ottawa, Elaine didn't pick up a paint brush or pencil. Instead she devoted her energy to her job as a civil servant. It has only been in the past year that she has gone back to art on a full time basis. This decision seemingly happened due to chance. While she was getting some of her art framed at the McPherson Gallery in Ottawa, the operator was impressed with the work and offered to give her an exhibition. She took a leave of absence from her job to prepare for this and enjoyed it so much she plans to resign soon.

Elaine categorizes her work as realism and, as can be seen from the examples, her art resembles vintage photographs. She specializes in pencil drawings, but also paints in oils. Each penciled work takes about three weeks to complete as compared to the two months it takes to complete an oil painting. Although she enjoys working with pencil more, it is less compromising work. If she makes a mistake two weeks into a drawing, she will throw it away.

Elaine credits her mother for being supportive in her pursuing a career as an artist.



Two of Elaine's pencil works based on people she is acquainted with.

Being an artist, Elaine works alone. She is more of an observer of society than a participant, but she doesn't mind this. She considers her work as play and must start early every morning so she can draw during daylight hours for best results.

Most of the subjects for her works are taken from old photographs. She does not copy these directly, but only uses the people in the picture and tries to display the most dominant feature of their personality.

Elaine feels that anyone who looks at one of her pictures should have instant recall of a person they once met, or have known. If they don't, then she feels she has failed as an artist.

She tries to be as objective as possible, and finds it difficult to use people she is close to as subjects.

Her works currently sell as high as \$2,000. During the next year, she plans to draw and paint pictures featuring people from the Amish and Mennonite communities. Her husband is very helpful in researching material from these two cultures.



Elaine describes herself as being insecure and in the background during her years at L.D.S.S.; but, she has managed to build a strong belief in herself.

She knows what she wants out of life, and with the encouragement of her friends and family, Elaine is emerging as one of Canada's most promising young artists.

J. G.
EJR

4.
Winners of the Junior Curling League



Bob Cooreman, left, president of the Aylmer Curling Club, congratulates the winners of the club's junior curling league including skip Mike Stover, vice Helma Wortelboer, second

Adam Craik and lead Bill Hooghiem, here with junior curling co-ordinator Claire Darroch. Since January 1, the rink won six games, lost one and tied three.

MAR 1987



Andy Hiemstra of The Flower Fountain, RR 4 Aylmer, holds a floral arrangement he designed that has been accepted as one of 15 finalists in a design contest sponsored by Flowers & magazine, published by Teleflora Wire Service. Mr. Hiemstra said he never ex-

pected to be chosen as a finalist out of the 400 designs entered by flower shops from across the United States and Canada. The finalists had colour photographs of their designs printed in a recent edition of the magazine.

Andy Hiemstra finalist in floral design contest

Andy Hiemstra of the Flower Fountain at RR 4, Aylmer said he was pleasantly surprised when one of his floral designs was chosen as a finalist

in a contest sponsored by Flowers &, a trade magazine published by the Teleflora Wire Service.

Mr. Hiemstra said this was the first time he had entered a design contest, and never expected to be one of 15 finalists out of the 400 flower shops that entered from across North America.

He sent in a colour snapshot of his entry, which was then used by the magazine to recreate his design.

A professional photographer then photographed the recreated design in colour. It was printed with 14 others in a recent edition of the magazine.

The winner will be chosen by ballots submitted by readers, and will be announced at the end of October.

Flowers in Mr. Hiemstra's design, based on the theme "summer romance", included exotic varieties imported from Europe such as liatris, callas, berberas, alstroemerias, kalanchoe and stephanotis along with freesias, sweetheart roses and assorted foliage.

First prize in the contest is \$1,000 and an engraved silver cup.

Mr. Hiemstra said that based on his success this year, he thought he would enter the contest again next year.

Congratulations Andy
of the
Flower Fountain
Aylmer Express
Sept. 1987

J.H.
E.S.

Edna Baxter Citizen of Year



Edna Baxter, left, is presented with the Rotary Club Citizen of the Year award by Rotarian Steve Warren during the 56th annual Farmers' Banquet, held last Friday at East Elgin

Secondary School. Mrs. Baxter is active in St. Paul's United Church, Terrace Lodge Auxiliary, and throughout the community. Stories and pictures are on pages 20 and 21.

Edna Baxter, a tireless worker in the community, was named Citizen of the Year at the 56th annual Rotary Club Farmers Banquet.

The banquet was held at East Elgin Secondary School on Friday, November 29, with 450 attending.

Rotarian Steve Warren, making the presentation, said the annual award was given "to persons who have unselfishly donated their time to make our community a better place to live." The selection committee considered consistent efforts over lengthy periods, and the voluntary nature of the activities.

He said Mrs. Baxter was very active in St. Paul's United Church in Aylmer, and was well known for the pies she baked. They were in big demand at the church's food booth during The Aylmer Fair.

Ethel Humphries of the church said Mrs. Baxter had also taught Sunday School; had been a Canadian Girls in Training and Explorer Girls leader; and had been president of the Friendship club, an interdenominational senior citizen's group.

Mrs. Baxter also led a Bible study group at Terrace Lodge, and is an active member of the Terrace Lodge Auxiliary.

J. St
EJS



Members of the 1988 Aylmer Fairboard executive are: past president Stephen McEown; president Gerry Vanderwyst; manager Diana

Anderson; first vice-president Mike Weber; and second vice-president Gerry Freeman.

1988



Mary, one of Aylmer's two swans, keeps a close eye on her four young cygnets, born about six weeks ago on John Maciulis's farm west of Aylmer. The four cygnets don't have names yet, and the parents are so protective

the young swans' sexes are not even yet known. In the fall the cygnets will have to be caught and their wings clipped if the town intends to keep them from flying off.

1991



John VanRoestel of VanRoestel Farms arranges produce for sale during the summer of 1991. The business, which

used to grow much of its own produce, now markets fruits and vegetables grown by other area farmers.

1992



Jamie Pake performs a solo number during Aylmer Figure Skating Club's annual winter carnival. Mr. Pake is the club's most successful male skater in competitions.



Megan Hiepleh of First Impressions Clippers makes first base just ahead of the ball Saturday morning in a match against the

Spicer Sparrows. The teams are part of the Four Pitch league for youngsters ages 7 to 9. The game was held in Balmoral Park.