

London Area W.I. meeting

"Protecting the Future", the theme of the 72nd annual convention of the London Area Women's Institute, aptly describes the work that took place. A seminar on "How will Free Trade affect the Farm and Rural Families" was announced by Mrs. Charlotte Johnston, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario president, during her address. This is sponsored by the Ontario Women's Institutes and will be held on November 4th at Guelph. The results of this seminar will be forwarded to the Federal Government.

As part of the 90th anniversary of W.I. in 1987, a scholarship will be set up to help members fur-

ther their education. The other W.I. scholarships are awarded to 4-H members and college students.

The work of the Committee for Women's Institutes of the Future will be voted on at the Board meeting in November. Some of the changes will be immediate, the others gradual. This will assist the W.I. to face the next 90 years with the same vigor and enthusiasm as when they were started.

If you see Women's Institute members wearing hats of many colours to their next meeting it is because Joyce Canning and her team of Rural Organizational Specialists presented a workshop on effective thinking using colours. Yellow being positive and constructive, black being the devil's advocate or logical negative, green creative new ideas, concepts and approaches, and so on.

Erland Lee Museum Home committee told about the very successful Harvest Festival they recently held. This year it featured apples because the Erland Lee family was the first in Canada to export the "Greening" apple to England.

The theme speaker in the evening was Jo Hillier, Public Affairs Officer, for Atomic Energy Canada, Nuclear Fuel Waste Management from Pinawa, Manitoba. Her topic of "Nuclear Waste, your backyard or mine," presented the W.I. members with much food for thought. Nuclear energy was something that most people didn't think about until she mentioned that a third of the lights in the banquet hall were powered by nuclear energy. Canada is determined to put the nuclear waste back into the environment in a safer form than it was.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Maryn Pardy scholarships. For the first time a boy, Kizito Van Asten, from Rodney, was a recipient, the other two were given to Joan Vanderpol, Lakeside, and Caty Chazalon from Strathroy.

Beth Deslippe provided more information on how the Butler project is doing. This project started by the W.I. in Oxford County is going to place pictures of true type animals in all the schools in Ontario and then hopefully Canada. The Royal Winter Fair this year is saluting Mr. Butler and his paintings, and is also providing space for this project. The school children of the future will be able to appreciate the hard work of the W.I. as they will have an accurate picture of the farm animals. Some members already used some of the Ross Butler prints in agriculture displays in area schools during Agri-

Week.

The incoming president, Mrs. Irene Richardson, announced that a workshop, sponsored by the London Area W.I. would be

held on November 12th at Wildwood school at 7:30, featuring two topics "Financial Management for Rural Women" and "Water - a Valuable Resource."

The convenors, dressed in various national costumes, brought the message that the future is not just dependent on what we do in Ontario but that the other coun-

tries of the world have a part to play too.

The over 450 members who attended the convention heard many thought provoking comments, they were praised for what they have already done, but they also realize that there is much more to be done for Home and Country.

Kizito VanAsten first boy to win WI scholarship

Kizito VanAsten of Black's Lane and Queen St., made history this year, because of being the first boy to receive a Maryn Pardy Scholarship at the London area Women's Institute convention last Wednesday.

He has completed 17 4H clubs in eight years, and was a leader for two. At WESS he was active in the prefect program, ski and computer clubs, the tutor program, and intramural sports. He has been a Canadian math contest winner, three times and is in electrical engineering at University of Waterloo.

For him to be the first male to win the scholarship, the 4H program had to change from strictly home making and agricultural clubs to more general topics boys are involved in.

The other two scholarship winners were girls from Strathroy and Lakefield.

Elgin 4-H Award Night. . . .



WI SCHOLARSHIP -- Anita Dieleman (left), R.R. 1, Wallacetown, accepts a \$200 for the 60th Anniversary Scholarship from Betty VanPatter (right), R.R. 8, St. Thomas, provincial board director for the London Area Women's Institute. The 19-year old is in her first year at the University of Guelph where she is enrolled in the Bachelor of Agricultural Science program. Anita has received several other scholarships totalling \$2,400. She has been a 4-H member for seven years and has completed 18 clubs. She hopes to become a missionary to third world countries. The 60th Anniversary

Scholarship is one of four annual scholarships given out in Ontario. The other scholarships are the Dorothy Fletcher Ontario (started in 1950), the Florence P. Eadie (1963), the 60th Anniversary (1979) and the Hoodless Lee (1981). The scholarships are worth \$200 each annually and go to 4-H members for post-secondary school studies. They rotate each year among the four regions in Ontario. There are 27 districts, county and area scholarships in total given out yearly.

(Staff Photo - Heather Buchanan)

West Lorne W. hosts Elgin West WI's winter picnic

It was fitting that the West Lorne WI host the Elgin West District Women's Institute Winter Picnic at Grace Lutheran Church, Monday, Jan. 5th.

This is the 90th anniversary of Women's Institutes in Ontario, and 1987 is the 74th anniversary of the West Lorne branch.

To mark the anniversary, a decorated cake was prepared, and the honour of cutting it went to four long-time branch members: Mrs. Bertha Carter, Mrs. Bertha Cooper, Mrs. Wolfgang Liepmann and Mrs. T. F. Ripley.

District President Mrs. Geraldine Campbell was the presiding officer.

The Winter Picnic is an annual, informal occasion for Elgin West District branches to get together for a pot-luck supper, some socialization and a program.

This year's program was presented by the branches and was composed of songs, poems, readings, skits, all honouring the 90th anniversary.

To celebrate, a first-ever provincial conference will be held at North Bay July 5-9. Any member interested in taking a chartered bus to the conference should contact Mrs. Mary Gow.

Special guests were representatives from Elgin East and Oxford South Districts, Miss Bonnie Wilson, Rural

Organization Specialist, and Mrs. Betty VanPatter, provincial board director. Mrs. VanPatter presented the 60th anniversary award from the Federated Women's Institute of Ontario to Anita Dieleman of Wallace-town.

90th Anniversary

The 90th anniversary of Women's Institutes in Ontario will be celebrated in 1987. As part of the activities, a provincial convention will be held in North Bay, Ontario from July 6-9, 1987. The theme is "Women's Institutes Building for Tomorrow". The registration fee will be \$30 (non-refundable) and the deadline for registering is February 28, 1987. An assessment of .50¢ per member will be included on the fee sheets for 1987 to help fund the convention.

Each branch is to donate a craft article for the sales table — \$5.00 value and easily transported. Please send to Mrs. Edith Smith, R.R. #1, Utterson, Ont. P0B 1M0.

Some special guests will be FWIO Past Presidents; ACWW President; FWIC President and ACWW Area Vice President. Displays, workshops, bus trips, speakers, sales table, fellowship and fun will all be part of the program.

Members plan to enter the 90th Anniversary Logo Contest! Send entries to Mrs. Gwen Kennedy, Box 375, Burk Falls, Ont. P0A 1C0 by Sept. 1, 1986.



Four long-time members were present at the 74th anniversary of the West Lorne W.I. They are Vera Ripley, Bertha Cooper, Gertrude Liepmann, Bertha Carter.

90th anniversary of Ontario W.I.'s

"Building for Tomorrow" is the theme for the 90th Anniversary of the Women's Institutes of Ontario. To help mark this occasion, over 1000 members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) attended a Provincial Convention in North Bay, Ontario. The ninety years of achievements were reviewed, but more importantly, the theme of the convention was enlarged upon with speakers, workshops and a panel discussion.

Time is divided into three main parts - past, present and future. Each is a link in the chain of time which cannot be broken. These links are interdependent and equally important. "The future depends on the foundations laid in the past".

Ninety years ago, Adelaide Hoodless had a vision for an organization which would assist women in the efficient operation of their homes. Encouraged and aided by Erland Lee and wife, Janet, she gave impetus to form the first Women's Institute at Stoney Creek, Ontario on February 19, 1897. This worthy organization, now known throughout many countries, is Ontario's contribution to the world.

From that one Branch, with 75 members, there was a rapid growth. Branches increased in numbers across Ontario. By 1900, three years later, there were 33 Branches and 1602 members. Rural women were eagerly seeking information about conditions that affected their homes and families. By 1904, there were 149 Branches and 5433 members. This growth continued, then spread to the remainder of Canada. In 1919 both the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) were formed. By the zeal of Mrs. Alfred Watt, a Canadian, who organized the first Women's Institute in England and Wales, the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) was founded in 1933.

The motto of the Women's Institute, For Home and Country, evolved into programs that met the needs of the women of rural communities and villages. They eagerly learned about sanitation and health; nursing and home care; beautifying and decorating homes.

Women Institute members developed leadership and self confidence, the ability to conduct meetings properly and to organize events. They also learned to speak fluently and express their ideas clearly. They began to speak up about the conditions that affected their homes and families. They formulated resolutions to influence action regarding community concerns and social issues.

Communities thrived! Homes were beautified. The emphasis on nutrition created new foods, new recipes, new food handling techniques related to sanitation and storage. Women were exchanging information, sharing ideas and meeting women outside the home. They were learning and working together. As they travelled, they became more concerned about fashion, new materials and sewing methods and also interested in labour saving devices for their homes. "What has been called the "Institute Spirit" evidenced itself throughout the countryside of old Ontario".

The keynote speaker at the Convention was R. Alex Sim who recently completed research for his book, "The New Rural Community". He urged the W.I. members to ask themselves, "Where are we going?" He also stressed the need to again identify a vision.

"The rural community is a raft swept down a river of change", Sim said. "There is a lack of rapport, communication and neighbour interaction. Do you know who lives in those new homes on the concession? What are their concerns? What are their interests? Today's community occupies the same space but has no power."

Mr. Sim challenged the W.I. members to put community back into Ontario. Intensify their efforts to give leadership to the rural community. Unite those people and get them to look around and make decisions for themselves. Re-read the objectives of the Women's Institute which are -

- a) to assist and encourage women to become more knowledgeable and responsible citizens.
- b) to promote and develop good family life skills.
- c) to help discover, stimulate and develop leadership.
- d) to help identify and resolve needs in the community.

Then discover how you can bring it together. Rejuvenate the rural community!."

"The is a chance to renew old friendships, to make new ones, to communicate, to compare experiences and to reinforce and revitalize our beliefs in our aims and objectives", stated Mrs. Margaret Munro, F.W.I.O. Provincial President, as she addressed the convention.

"Our members may come in different sizes, shapes, colours and creeds with different opinions and from different localities but, we have at least two things in common. We are all active, enthusiastic, dedicated, interested members of the largest rural women's organization in Canada, with an impressive history and a challenging future. We are all VIP - Vitally Important People - vital to our families, vital to our various

communities, vital to our country and of course vital to the Women's Institute.

"The need for our organization is as strong now, maybe stronger, than it was 90 years ago. You are the roots of this organization. How we grow depends on you and your co-operation."

Mrs. Munro challenged each member to "volunteer for an office at some level of the organization"; "to knock on a few doors in the community and meet a new neighbour"; "to gain one new member in each Branch by the end of 1987".

"The mind is like a parachute, it only functions when it's open", explained Rosalie Wysocki, a leader in the field of personal development and one of Canada's foremost speakers on the subject. Relating to the topic 'Managing Change Positively', she stressed that a positive mental attitude is a priority for continued success and growth. Success is 15% technical training and 85% personal development. "It's your attitude not your aptitude that determines the altitude you reach in life." Each member was challenged to develop personally by setting two significant goals in her life each year, then take inventory on her birthday. Always remember that you have failures to achieve success.

F.W.I.C. President, Mrs. Beatrice Reeves from P.E.I. explained how she survived the cultural shock of moving from a large city to a rural setting. "The W.I. reached out and made me part of the community."

Throughout the past year, "free trade seminars" have been organized by the W.I. in every province and the results compiled into a brief.

In June 1988, the F.W.I.C. triennium Convention will be held in St. John's Newfoundland. At that time agriculture and public relations will have priority under the theme, "Shaping Out Tomorrows Today".

F.W.I.O. International Scholarship, established in 1962, is used to train young women from under-developed countries so that they may return and teach their own people. Members had the opportunity to meet the recent recipient, Libbylu Allen from Jamaica, when she told of her work in that country. Under the Jamaican Federation of Women, Libbylu co-ordinates early childhood education in 76 basic community schools with emphasis on sanitation, nutrition, teaching tips and motivation by example. F.W.I.O. supports Libbylu with a year's salary of \$2,000 and also provides \$1,500 for an assistant's salary.

A panel moderated by Mrs. Peggy Knapp addressed the topic, "Rural Women - An Emerging Force". The panel members stated their positions. Joyce Canning, Co-ordinator Rural Women's Programs, OMAF, "mandate is to develop and enhance the human resource skills of rural people so that they can provide effective leadership to the agricultural community in Ontario".

Diane Harkin, women for the Survival of Agriculture, "represent a new breed of farm women, a self help group

zeroing in on agriculture who study, research then lobby. There is a strength in a small, unstructured group that can act quickly".

Carol Hyde, Junior Women's Institutes of Ontario, "rural women have always been a force. Today these women are changing and are open to new ideas to help recreate a sense of community."

Rebecca Johnson, F.W.I.O. "feels that W.I. can cut across boundaries and barriers because the organization is open to all women - can unite a community by providing a common meeting ground. Evolution is occurring in our W.I., we must adapt to continue to attract women. We must develop a greater degree of efficiency, a positive mental attitude and continue to develop the women personally."

Brigid Pyke, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, "women have been a force in developing our country and are still a force to be reckoned with. There is room for more women on the OFA Board whose role is to safeguard farmers' concerns".

Because the Women's Institute is an educational organization promoting personal growth and community action, one day of the Convention was a focus on education. The members had the opportunity to become better informed as they attended 3/10 workshops - Program Planning; New Family Law Act; Travellers Beware; Doubling the Joy of Houseplants; Investment Opportunities; Going It Alone With Confidence; Developing the Winning Edge; Be Aware, take care; Live it up, life begins at 40; Lobbying.

Reflections and Visions comprised of skits, songs, poems and fashions provided an evening of entertainment and celebration and allowed the members to recall achievements and events of the organization through the decade.

The speaker at the closing banquet was Dr. Ellen McLean, President of Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) from Eureka, N.S. The Ontario Women's Institutes are indeed proud that a Canadian W.I. member is serving her second three year term in this office.

Dr. McLean urged the members to "look at the past, consider the present and prepare for the future. Everybody needs a bit of history to be conscious of the debt you owe to those who came before. This is a time of reflection, rejoicing and renewal."

The women's groups that form ACWW have different names in different countries, but, the nine million members in 66 countries are working and striving for the same thing - to improve the life of women and their families. Clean water sources; baby clinics; nutrition; sanitation and new latrines and many self help projects all lead towards this goal.

The Women's Institute at all times stresses high standards in studies, projects, courses aimed at improving home and family life; in developing leadership and in serving the community.

"By working together may the Women's Institute continue to flourish and may our legacy be a better world for future generations."