



ELGIN WI MEMBERS SEE FILM ON ANNIVERSARY

Over 70 women attended the social evening sponsored by the Elgin Women's Institute Rally in Southwold Public School, beginning with a dessert luncheon.

Mrs. Sylvia Cerna, president, welcomed the group and turned the meeting over to Mrs. Hilde Morden, song leader, and Mrs. Shirley Johnston, pianist, for a singsong and lively introduction to the 90th anniversary song.

Mrs. Betty VanPatter introduced the special speaker Mrs. Marcie Johnston, Listowel, secretary, Federated Women's Institute of Ontario. Marcie used a video of the 90th anniversary of FWIO interspersed with dialogue highlighting speakers' presentations, a panel discussion "Emerging Force," and other entertainment.

73RD LONDON AREA W.I. CONVENTION

Sharing and Caring was the theme of the 73rd Annual Convention of the London Area Women's Institute held October 15th and 16th at St. Marys Community Centre. In attendance were 291 on Thursday and 228 on Friday.

Guest speaker at the Thursday evening banquet, Major Paul Murray told of the work of the Salvation Army to help the homeless. He stated that most of the homeless are under 25 years of age and that homeless women and children as well as men are on the increase in Canada. In April of this year 100,000 were homeless in Canada. Poverty is a worldwide problem and 1987 has been designated International Year of Shelter for the Homeless.

The London Area Women's Institute presented the Maryn Pardy scholarships to three young people - Catherine Sutherland of Middlesex County and Susan Moodie and Heather Gillett both of Oxford County. All three girls are currently pursuing university degrees, Catherine in Science, Susan in nursing and Heather in Child Care.

A 90th Anniversary Scholarship was given to Mary Alice Roth a Women's Institute member who is working on her B.A. in Education.

Margaret Munro, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario reported on her activities as President. Lira Ryan will replace Joyce Canning as Co-ordinator of Rural Organizations at Guelph until the winter of 1988 while Mrs. Canning works with Agriculture in the Classroom. A Leadership Development Seminar will be held in Kingston May 13-15 for Public Relations Officers or Program Co-ordinators. The theme is to be "Pollution Probe."

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada 1988 Convention will be held in Newfoundland on June 23-27. Ontario will send 150 delegates.

The Women's Institutes of Ontario have donated \$50,000 to the University of Guelph to help with the construction of a Nutrition Laboratory there.

Video presentations on Lobbying, New Family Law Act and Going it Alone with Confidence are available through O.M.A.F. offices. These presentations were videoed at the 90th Anniversary Convention held in North Bay in July.

Mrs. Munro also spoke of visiting with the women of China. The Chinese women wondered why there would be divorce in Canada when couples are allowed to choose their own mates.

Convenors Muriel Lewis, Jean Roberts, Dorothy Dobbie, Joyce Morgan and Lois Elliott reported how Caring and Sharing fits into the various topic areas.

Three Resolutions brought before the general assembly, one on transportation needs of rural disabled, one on specific equipment needs of disabled adults and the third on testing immigrants for AIDS, were sustained at the Area Level.

Perth County presented a comical skit on A Day in the Life of four rural women.

The Election of Officers was conducted by the Ontario President Mrs. Margaret Munro. New Provincial Board Directors and Alternate Board Directors for both Subdivisions 21 and 22 were elected.

WINTER PICNIC HELD IN IONA

The first picnic of 1988 was held at Iona Hall, Monday, Jan. 11th when the 14 branches of Women's Institute, Elgin West District attended their annual Winter Picnic—a pot-luck supper and entertainment. Iona Station and Iona branches hosted the evening.

Pres. Mrs. Sally McIntyre introduced special guests: Elgin Past Pres. Pauline Lindsay, Oxford South; Pres. Mrs. Linda Hammond and Elgin Rally Pres. Mrs. Sylvia Cerna. Each brought greetings from their groups. Miss Valerie Clark, Rural Organization Specialist, spoke of projects being considered in the ministry office.

For the program, each branch presented a short skit, song or talk on the theme "The Winter Olympics".

Miss Toni Merks of Dutton, was a special guest being one of the fortunate few chosen as torch-bearer. Toni, wearing her official track suit, told of her feelings the day she carried the Olympic flame. Her presence added an unique touch to an evening of fun and entertainment.



Skit—"The Winter Olympics" put on by West Lorne W.I.
Mary Lippold, Shirley Walker, Kay Attridge



Marybelle Cook, Leola Lawrence, Mary Lippold

Ninety year-old Women's Institute up with the times

For 90 years Women's Institutes have provided rural women with opportunities to broaden their knowledge and abilities through 114 branches in the London area, so have been a motivating force in their communities.

Concern not only for themselves but for the rural community has led to donations in excess of \$1,000 to various projects and organizations needing financial assistance throughout the year.

The work of the WI member does not stop there. They spend hours as 4-H Club leaders, adult workshop leaders, helping at senior citizen homes, assisting at museums, helping at fairs,

working on agriculture in schools, or wherever needed for the betterment of their communities, and their province.

A prime example of this is the Dr. Monteith Medical Centre in Shedden, which started when Shedden WI approached its local council about the need for such a facility.

Contrary to what some people say, the WI in the London area is continuing to attract new members. This despite rural populations declining.

Younger members are not always able to participate in all community activities, which means greater loads in

accomplishing community work falls to older members.

However, younger members are participating in meetings where their personal growth is served by up-to-date speakers on a variety of timely and interesting topics. A sample of some programs the past year have been: financial crisis in farming, raising and cooking rainbow trout, the crisis over water - on which our means of existence depends, "Syn-crude" the Canadian tar sands, solar fabrication, nutrition, PRIDE, work of the citizenship court, Family Law Reform Act, Children's Hospital, Prince Edward Island, etc. Each branch plans a varied program to suit members' needs and interests.

Many from London area took part in the Free Trade seminar organized by FWIO where its affects on the rural community were discussed.

The Elgin WI held a very successful Community Outreach seminar with a variety of workshops, so there will be another in '88.

The WI is also working hard on the Butler Project. When finished every school in Ontario will have a copy of the Ross Butler farm animal prints, plus copies of all the animals associated with farming.

This program will come with information that can work agriculture into all facets of the school curriculum. This committee had a very successful display of Ross Butler's paintings at the London, Art Gallery, combined with a display of children's art work depicting agriculture, and animals for children and adults to look at and touch.

Everything is not serious in WI branches. They participate in tours to points of interest as well as in cultural aspects of Ontario by attending plays at Blyth, Grand Bend, and the Grand Theatre.

The vision put forth 90 years ago is very much alive and active in the London area.

Geraldine Campbell,
PRO, London Area WI

Elgin West W.I.

Mrs. Sally McIntyre, Elgin West District Women's Institute president, convened the Fall Board Meeting at Wallace-town Community Hall on October 6, 1987. Announcements were made concerning the Elgin County Rally at Southwold School on October 20 at 7:30 p.m.; the Rally meeting at the Elgin County Museum on November 7, when awards will be presented to the prize-winners of the safety poster contest; and a member's workshop to be held at Paynes Mills on January 19, 1988.

Mrs. Betty VanPatter, provincial board director, gave her final report to the group, as her term will end this fall, and a new director will be chosen at London Area Conference at St. Mary's, October 15, 16. Mrs. VanPatter announced that Valerie Clark will be the new Rural Organization Specialist for Elgin. She stressed the need for an increase in our givings to the Pennies for Friendship fund, and mentioned that the Women's Institute is the only women's organization with a booth at the Royal Winter Fair.

Mrs. V. McMillan reported that the Daffodil Tea had been successful, with total proceeds of \$2,443.50, an increase from the preceeding year. River Road W.I. will host a coffee break at the home of Mrs. Curtis Campbell on November 10 from 9:30 - 11:30, with proceeds in aid of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gerhig's disease).

Mrs. Nelson Johnston, R.R. 1, Wardsville, was elected as new district secretary.

The Winter Picnic will be at Iona Station on January 11, 1988, with a pot-luck supper at 6:30 p.m.

WIs writing their MPPs letters re: post offices

Thousands of women across the province could soon be writing their members of parliament in support of rural post offices.

The campaign, begun by the Wallacetown Women's Institute, was taken up at the Elgin West District Women's Institute after a meeting last month, says District President Geraldine Campbell.

300 MEMBERS

The 14 branches which make up the Elgin West District include about 300 members, and while not all will write in, "we are all concerned about local post offices," she said.

The effort could be adopted province-wide by the provincial executive of Women's Institutes, after a May meeting of the Districts.

"There is no province-wide effort, as far as we know," Mrs. Campbell said.

"But we will pass the message on and hope they do it."

RECOMMENDATION

Late last year, a report from Canada Post recommended the elimination of some rural post offices as a cost-cutting measure.

"But when you live out in the country, mail is a very important part of life," Mrs. Campbell said. "Particularly in the winter time, you do not want to have to drive into the city, or two or three miles down the road, to get the mail.

THE ELDERLY

"Many of our members are elderly, we don't want them to have to drive all that way," she said.

Although Mrs. Campbell said she is not sure what affect a write-in campaign will have on local politicians, "at least they will know what rural families think about it."

LOCAL WI MEMBERS ATTEND GARBAGE SEMINAR

Concern for the environment, concern for the future of rural Ontario, concern at the needless waste of garbage and the thought that something must be done now by the women of rural Ontario, led over 400 women mainly Women's Institute members to attend a conference dealing with these topics.

Titled "Educate/Initiate", the three-day conference, organized by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario held at Queen's University, Kingston, May 13th-15th, 1988, provided the opportunity to learn many aspects of waste management and recycling. As well, the workshops helped members gain new skills so they can go out into the community and help promote the various ways garbage can be better utilized.

Keynote speaker was the Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment for Ontario. On the panel discussing ways garbage can be used effectively were: Al Symmonds, Assistant Regional Director of the Environment, Kingston; John Hansen, Executive Director Recycling Council of Ontario; Pat Salter, Deputy-Reeve Township of Peel, a Women's Institute member and Elizabeth Munt, Co-ordinator Conserve, Kingston.

Among those participating in the conference were: Hilde Morden, FWI Program Co-ordinator, Shirley Johnston, Elgin West Pro, Julie Morden, Clathan W.I., Carolyn Smith, Highgate W.I.

RINSED, DELABLED FOOD TINS CAN BE RYCYCLED WITH POP CANS

A market has been found for clean, delabled food tins, township Councillor Graham Warwick announced at the April session of council, the information being gleaned from one of two meetings the three-municipality Recycling Committee held reently.

So he urged all involved in recycling to rinse their food tins, delabel them and include them with pop cans for collecting in Rodney and West Lorne, or for township people taking recyclable materials to the landfill site.

No chemical, oil of paint cans are acceptable, having to be disposed of seperately, because they have contained toxic material.

Two litre plastic pop containers can now be recycled, but no other plastic containers, because there is no market for them yet. However, in the near future they will be recyclable and compressed into wood-like building materials.

THE WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE 1988-1989

Honorary President: Mary Kasza
President: Mary Liepmann
Vice President: Leola Lawrence
Secretary: Kay Attridge
Treasurer: Mary Lippold
Agriculture & Canadian Industries: Marion Hauser
Citizen & World Affairs: Mary Lippold
P.R.O.: Sandy Reid
Tweedsmuir History: Shirley Walker
District Convenor: Mary Liepmann
Alternate: Mary Lippold
Elgin Museum Rep.: Twila McWilliams
Pianist: Shirley Walker
Auditors: Hazel Stalker, Betty Humphries
Elgin Manor Rep.: Hazel Stalker
Programme Co-ordinator: Marion Hauser
Elgin W.I. Rally Rep.: Mary Lippold
Education & Cultural Activities: Kay Attridge
Resolution Convenor: Leola Lawrence

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SECRETARY: Kay Attridge
TREASURER: Mary Lippold
AGRICULTURE & CANADIAN INDUSTRIES: M. Hauser
CITIZENSHIP & WORLD AFFAIRS: Mary Lippold
P.R.O.: Sandy Reid
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY: Shirley Walker
DISTRICT CONVENOR: Mary Liepmann
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ELGIN MUSEUM REP: TWILLA McWILLIAMS
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THE WEST LORNE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, 1988-1989

The West Lorne W.I. begins another year with 26 members under the continued capable leadership of our president, Mary Liepmann.

Carolyn Smith gave a very informative talk on "Recycling" at the May meeting.

The third annual Garage & Bake Sale was held at the home of Mary Liepmann on May 14th.

The 80th District Annual was held in Grace Anglican Church Hall on May 18th, hosted by West Lorne W.I..

The June meeting was held at the Embassy Restaurant, Glencoe. Cindy Walker gave an informative talk and slide presentation on her trip to Europe with the band and choir "Canadian Youth on Tour".

A Tweedsmuir Workshop was held in Dashwood in August. Many house-log books were on display from different branches.

On August 11th ladies from West Lorne W.I. along with ladies from other branches of Elgin took a bus from Payne's Mills Hall to the "Lambton Playhouse" to see "Merci Beaucoup".

Kathy (McGregor) Smith gave a very informative and interesting talk on the growing of mushrooms at the September meeting. She prepared several samples, both cooked and raw for the members to taste.

Peggy Mitchell showed the ladies techniques in making a Christmas table centrepiece at the November meeting.

A Christmas cookie exchange took place at the November meeting.

Christmas boxes were packed for shut-ins at Mary Liepmann's on Dec. 12th.

The annual Christmas party was held on Dec. 6th.

The West Elgin District Women's Institute Winter Picnic was hosted by Clathran Women's Institute and held at Kintyre Presbyterian Church on Jan. 9th. Most of the branches put on a skit, song or poem on "Recycling".

Wally Pfaff was the guest speaker for the February meeting. He is the field supervisor for 17 post offices. His talk proved to be very informative on matters regarding the post office.

A Community Outreach Seminar was held at Southwold Public School on Feb. 25th. Several ladies from West Lorne W.I. attended and found it very interesting and informative.

ELGIN WEST DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

On Tuesday, October 17th, 1989 about 50 members of the Elgin Women's Institute gathered in the auditorium of the Southwold School for their Fall Rally.

After a social time spent in visiting, having a cup of coffee and dessert, members turned their attention toward the chair lady for the evening, Francis McCallum, President of the Rally Committee.

The program took the form of a Talent Showcase. Each of the II branches represented, chose to represent their members in a unique way. Included in the showcase were six displays. One member of each branch set up each display, very capably, commented and described in detail their display. Subjects on display were dolls, craft work, Japanese china, picturesque birds, Christmas crafts and decorated baskets.