

Mountain musings

by Shirley Mills

I received the following notice from Doris Scharf of South Mountain:

"It is with regret that we announce the South Mountain Women's Institute was disbanded as of April 5, 1988. Thanks go to all the members who have served this community well over the last 52 years."

It does seem a pity that an organization which has been part of the community for such a length of time should disband. Although not large, the members sponsored a floor hockey team, a Christian child, took part in the local fairs, 4-H or other community events. It was a non-denominational group and it offered educational courses for rural women who did not have all the facilities available in a city. Its absence will be noted.

W.I. community workshops were most successful

by Dorothy H. Winmill

Despite a low attendance and a full day of heavy rains the June Community Workshops on "The Challenge and Fun of Waste Management" held in North Dundas District High School on June 10th were most successful.

The exceptional leadership organized by the Women's Institute Districts from across the eastern half of Eastern Ontario Area was the key. Every single one of the nine workshops had extremely well informed, sincere people at the helm. They were able to put across their information capably and in an interesting and exciting way. There were some splendid discussion periods included as well.

These leaders included Marook Zidhwa, Recycling Education Officer, Waste Management Branch of the Ministry of Environment in Toronto; Gordon Winter, Master Gardener and Vice-President of the Ontario Horticultural Society; Linda Dunn, Deputy Mayor of Cumberland Township; David Graham, waste disposal manager for Goulbourn; Jean Boyd, a teacher at St. Lawrence College and member of the 1000 Island and Ottawa Valley Quilters Guilds; Pat Ager, well-known handcraft leader; Wayne Kine of Toastmaster International; Martha Webber, Botanist and leader of Ottawa Valley field trips; and Dorothy Wilson, professional "demo" person in food preparation subjects.

Subjects included the protection of the environment; making handcrafts with recycled items; quilting

and its history and use in recycling; how to deal with your garbage can contents; shopping with waste management in mind; composting; waste disposal; making tasty items with leftover food items; and all kinds of information dealing with the 4 R's, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover, which are fast becoming a necessary part of our lives.

The delegates and staff, numbering approximately 140, expressed many opinions on their evaluation sheets. 97% agreed the Workshops were useful to them and 45% said they were extremely useful. The majority of the comments were very encouraging.

One person wrote: "I am going home with a satisfied feeling that there are many things I can do, and will do, to help the environment. It was a very well-spent day. Excellent!"

Another said, "I think the idea of this type of get together is very useful for our communities and

helps spread the information. I have really enjoyed my day and found it all very interesting. It turned out much better than I ever expected."

The brown bag lunch was felt to be a great idea, a real time saver and very adequate. It also provided a relaxed opportunity for delegates to socialize and compare notes.

The Child Care Facility was well run and appreciated by users.

The one common criticism was "Not enough time"; "There were so many new ideas to try and absorb in such a short time. Time went so fast it was so interesting."

One delegate closed her evaluation with these words: "Hopefully we will not put more effort into spreading awareness of better use of waste, reduce, reuse, recycle and recover, and keep our planet from being polluted and destroyed. Let us be leaders in this matter!"

Discover Dundas

by E. Ruth Algire

WINCHESTER — Colorful, beautiful, exciting and delightful are just some of the adjectives that have been used to describe the set of slides the Dundas District Women's Institute has put together to mark the 100th birthday of OMAF.

Scenes of farms, orchards, animals, farm machinery, etc. from the four townships of the county have been arranged in a Kodak carousel with commentary on a tape cassette. The show has already been presented several times, and

may be borrowed by any responsible group or school.

A slide projector which will take a Kodak carousel will be necessary. A cassette recorder can be used for the commentary or it can be read from the script which is provided.

For booking, call one of the following members of the committee: Mrs. Garnet Empey, 652-4258; Mrs. Clair Algire, 535-2022; Mrs. Russell Marcellus, 448-2605; Mrs. Norman Gibson, 258-2066.

Dundas District Women's Institute offers this show free of charge.

Ontario Women's Institute to recognize environmental efforts

Workshops, briefs, surveys, composting, public meetings and recycling are a few of the challenges taken up by Women's Institute members in Eastern Ontario over the past two years.

Not only were Women's Institute members in Eastern Ontario initiating projects, so too were members right across the province.

That 1988 challenge of 100 projects by 1990 was accepted, so far 250 projects have been reported.

Workshops taught good buying practices to reduce packaging, for example, buying food in bulk where practical; to take their own bags to the supermarket; to take their own mugs to meetings and to help eliminate styrofoam; to use newspaper, especially the comic section to wrap gifts and to make Christmas gift bags from material for re-use, again and again.

Women's Institute members petitioned their municipalities to initiate recycling and composting. Many individual members joined local waste management groups and the Recycling Council of Ontario to stay informed.

Branches held public meetings where discussions were held on landfill sites, reduction of waste and the better utilization of resources.

Being aware of the need to care for the environment, trees, shrubs and gardens were planted. Garbage bins were provided at public buildings and recreational facilities.

FWIO has had the environment as its focus since 1988 when members were encouraged to "Let's Practice the 4Rs of Waste Management". This theme

was fully explored at Conference 88 in Kingston with keynote speakers and workshops. For 1989/90 members studied "Women and the Environment" with the purpose of studying the condition of the air, water, land, plants, wildlife and natural resources.

For 1990/1991 the area of study will be "Women and the Environment - Family and Community", yet another environment. Members will use this theme to explore a whole range of topics, such as, violence, drug abuse, health care and recreation.

The environment in its many forms will be the FWIO theme through the 1997 when the organization celebrates the centenary of its founding in February 1897.

The Weekly Advance, Wednesday, June 6, 1990

Women's Institute pass resolutions

With a theme of Women and the Environment for the year, it was natural that some of the Resolutions sustained at the Annual Meeting of Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario held recently in Guelph, dealt with this topic that affects all who live in rural Ontario.

FWIO passed two resolutions that dealt with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), one asking that the Ministry of the Environment enforce legislation to eliminate PCBs and another asking that the Federal Department of Justice and the Ontario Attorney General prosecute politicians who allow infractions of the Environmental Protection Act 1982 pertaining to PCBs.

As many of the members of the FWIO live in rural and agricultural areas where many land fill sites are almost full and new sites are contemplated for local garbage as well as sites for Toronto's garbage, the topic of waste was addressed. FWIO would like the Minister of the Environment to legislate a drastic reduction in "packaging" and also to enact legislation to stop the use of styrofoam and plastics for meat and vegetables sold in stores. One

WI branch donated WI mugs to their local Township Council to stop them using throw-away styrofoam mugs and another WI branch who does a lot of catering has gone back to using china dishes instead of plastic throw-away ones. Just an example of practical application of what they mean.

The FWIO is not only concerned with landfills and recycling in their own back yards. Last year they passed a resolution asking for mandatory recycling in Ontario. This year they are asking the Federal Minister of the Environment to establish guidelines for waste disposal apart from landfilling; to enact legislation making a consistent, efficient and uniform recycling program in each province and territory across Canada. This program must be designed to make full and optimum use of all recycling technology currently available to ensure that Canada remains an environmentally safe country for our future generations.

An organization that was started over 90 years ago is proving, once again that its motto of "For Home and Country" is true as we approach the 21st century as it was in the past.

1940

According to the last 1931 census, Dundas County with an area of 384 square miles had a population of 16,098. That is an average of 41.92 people per square mile, the fourth smallest county in the

province. It is doubtful the next census (1941) will show much of an increase. At present it stands at 16,150, according to various assessment rolls. At Winchester was more thickly populated in 1901 than it is to at 1,040 residents.

The Weekly Advance, Wednesday, July 12, 1989

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We are sorry to report that the Mountain Women's Institute is disbanding. This organization has always been vitally interested in women's activities and concerns and it is a disappointment to the members that the group will not be continuing. The Mountain branch has, however, a number of copies of the Tweedsmuir History of Mountain which was compiled by Eva Simms and published in 1982. These are available for sale at \$10 a copy and anyone interested should contact Bessie at 989-5631 or Mildred at 989-6075.

The Winchester Press Wed., Oct. 2, 1991

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The Weekly Advance, January 3, 1990