

# Women's Institute meets in Camrose



Flag bearers paraded the flags of Canada, Alberta, and the Alberta Women's Institute out of the meeting hall as the organization's annual convention at Augustana University College came to a close last Thursday.

by Dan Jensen

Approximately 200 delegates from over 100 Women's Institute branches across the province gathered for their annual convention, last week, at Augustana University College.

The June 11 to 13 event was the Alberta Women's Institute's second in Camrose. Before that, the organization held its conventions at Olds College.

Keynote speaker for the convention was Brenda Finley, of CBC TV, who spoke of her travels throughout European countries while covering important events.

Other speakers were Catherine Cole and Judy Lemar, who are compiling a history book on the Alberta Women's Institute entitled, *Our History Comes Alive*; Charlotte Johnson, president of Federated Women's Institutes of Canada; Peggy Knapp, Associated Country Women of the World area president (Canada); and Rose Bibby "The Hayshaker's Wife," who recited many poems about humorous farm incidents.

Delegates also had the opportunity to take in two enrichment seminars: *Researching and Writing Resolutions*, led by Aileen Kritzinger, and *Breast Cancer Info Link*, led by Joanne Pawelek.

Focus of resolutions discussed at the convention were the Red Deer River corridor integration management plan; discrimination against the elderly; the water management policy and legislation review; medical costs for self-abuse diseases; water and water management; and the Alberta Women's Institute's involvement in government policy making. Past resolutions by the Women's Institute have resulted in the provincial govern-

ment introducing mandatory child restraint legislation, upgrading the existing provincial pediatric cardiac facilities, and instituting a program to supply private line telephone service to rural subscribers at reasonable rates.

Tied into the convention was a handicraft display. Twenty-six branches entered 539 articles, with the Heather Brae Women's Institute receiving the award for best rug. Dora Courtney won in the over-70 group for her sewing, while Bertha Hartman took second place in the non-fiction category for her story, *The Legend of Dried Meat Hill*.

Alberta Women's Institute is a non-partisan and non-sectarian educational organization for women working under the motto *For Home and Country*. Its goals are to help discover, stimulate and develop leadership; to assist, encourage and support women to become knowledgeable and responsible citizens; to ensure basic human rights for women, and to work towards equity; to be a strong voice through which matters of utmost concern can reach the decision makers and to network with organizations sharing similar objectives; to promote the improvement of urban and rural communities; and to safeguard the environment. The 28 Alberta Women's Institute constituencies have 117 branches, and a total of 1600 members. The Ohaton constituency is made up of branches at Heather Brae, Round Hill, Ohaton, Loughheed, Argyle, Hughenden and Provost.

Alberta Women's Institute is a member of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, established by Adelaide Hoodless in 1897, and internationally, the Associated Country Women of the World.