



For Immediate Release

## Ontario Home Economics Association Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Professional Home Economists will gather in Toronto this weekend to celebrate the silver anniversary of the Ontario Home Economics Association (OHEA).**

The special celebration, entitled “**OHEA’s First 25 Years- Excellence in Home Economics**”, will be held in the charming atmosphere of Toronto’s Old Mill Inn on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Following the Annual General Meeting and “A Taste of Ontario” Anniversary Luncheon, participants will be treated to an address by **Keynote Speaker Anne Lindsay, P.H.Ec., CM.**, (Member of the Order of Canada). As a home economist, food writer and public speaker, Anne has helped countless Canadians to eat well, live longer and enjoy a healthier lifestyle. At this event, Anne Lindsay will discuss current eating trends of Canadians and her international recognition as a Professional Home Economist and Nutrition Expert.

Participants will renew their pledge to the *Ideals of the Home Economics Profession*, enjoy a display of memorabilia and participate in a fund-raising raffle. Proceeds from the anniversary event will be donated to the “**Breakfast for Learning**” Program ~ an excellent program near and dear to the hearts of home economists.

### **Ontario Home Economics Association, 1979 - 2004**

OHEA was founded in 1979. In November 1989, The Ontario Home Economics Act was passed by the Ontario Legislature granting the association registration status. This meant that every Registered Member of the Ontario Home Economics Association was and continues to be entitled to use the designation “Professional Home Economist”, and to use the initials “P.H.Ec.” following his or her name. Registered status signifies important protection of the public by ensuring quality professional home economics services.

In the 1990's, OHEA was actively involved with the curriculum renewal process initiated by the Ministry of Education and Training. OHEA members participated in the writing of the initial documents which gave direction and provided a model to curriculum writers. The need to give curriculum response with strength gave rise to the Family Studies Action Group.

In 2003, the Mutual Recognition Agreement was signed with the provincial associations of the other four regulated provinces (British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and New Brunswick), easing labour mobility by allowing registered members in any of these jurisdictions to have registered status mutually recognized.

Links with local home economics associations and expanded services for members were formalized in federated structure with the Canadian and all provincial associations in May 1991. Although, the Canadian association voted to dissolve in July 2003, OHEA has continued to link informally with the other provincial associations to provide a home economics perspective on issues affecting quality of life in Canada. OHEA is conferring with the Ontario Family Studies Home Economics Educators' Association, Ontario Home Economists in Business and Ontario Family Studies Leadership Council to develop an alliance by which to manage internal operating resources and to provide a unified voice on matters pertaining to individuals and families.

The Home Economics Association for Africa partnered with OHEA in 1987 to support the development of a sustainable organization for the African continent. The partnership was coordinated through the Canadian Home Economics Association with the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency. Conferences and workshops were held in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda. Efforts were concentrated on the re-conceptualization of home economics.

OHEA's newsletter, *NewsLink*, is published five times per year as the key communication among members. Through a Public Education Program, media releases are circulated throughout the province and posted on the website, [www.ohea.on.ca](http://www.ohea.on.ca).

Currently, OHEA is the largest provincial home economics association in Canada with about 350 members. Family Studies teachers, marketing managers, food product developers, community services directors, food stylists and writers, and credit counsellors are just a few of the roles that OHEA members have in today's business, government and education settings. Throughout its 25-year history, the Ontario Home Economics Association, a self-regulated body, has worked diligently to promote high professional standards among its members so that they, in turn, may assist families and individuals to achieve and maintain a desirable quality of life.

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**Anne Lindsay, P.H.Ec.,C.M, Member of the Order of Canada**  
*Photo by Doug Bradshaw*