



Linda Hoy, Ruth Blenkhorn and Marie Kenny at FWIC Convention

FWIC Convention 2012

The 19th National Convention of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) was held June 12-16, 2012 in Sidney, British Columbia. The Convention was a tremendous success as women from across Canada gathered to participate in both social and business sessions hosted by members of the British Columbia Women's Institute.

The theme for the Convention (and the past triennium) was "Coast to Coast ~ Women's Institute Alive and Well" and this was evident for anyone who attended any of the numerous activities.

Speakers included:

Ruth Blenkhorn (President of FWIC) presented an enlightening Power Point presentation during the Opening Ceremonies on the many highlights she experienced during the triennium.

Marie Kenny (who was installed as President of FWIC in the Closing Ceremonies) spoke on her participation as a Canadian delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women held in New York from February 27-March 9, 2012. The theme of the event focused on the **empowerment of rural women**.

Catherine Stevenson (curator of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead) outlined the numerous activities that have been held at the Homestead during the past triennium, as well as the restorations completed recently.

Margaret Yetman (Canada Area President of ACWW and a Past President of FWIC) showed a Power Point presentation entitled "Empowering Women Worldwide." She further expanded on the various activities of the Associated Country Women of the World.

Linda Wegner (an accomplished researcher, writer and public speaker) described her **Three Essentials for Success**: a compass (use your values and past to set your direction); a bucket with a long rope (to nurture and sustain who you are) and a large bottle of glue (stick to your integrity, stick to your purpose, stick with each other and work things out).

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From the president's pen



As I sit here in my office on this beautiful fall day I cannot help but think where did summer go! For me it certainly has been the very best summer of my life, with so many blessings. From the Sidney Convention, celebrating the 99th Anniversary with WINS, to special family time -I have many precious memories to hold onto.

The Convention in Sidney BC certainly was a tremendous success as women from across Canada gathered for the National Convention of FWIC.

It was a delight to see so many WI Friends, to reconnect, to hear reports of all the work that is happening in each province and to celebrate the impact that this organization is having in strengthening families and communities. Many Provincial WI's have embraced the need to get "back to basics" and be that strong leadership role model so desperately needed to bring about change in areas of health, environment, and family life.

I am excited about the future for Women's Institute, locally, provincially and nationally. We have an incredible history of accomplishments, a rich legacy of achievements and a brilliant future with endless possibilities.

In the next three years, as your National Board of Directors, we will need your prayers and support as we move forward taking steps to strengthen our organization. **Together we will embark on new initiatives and build on existing legacies.**

We have a strong foundation and as we strive to re-energize FWIC we will face challenges, but each one will be an opportunity **to grow, to rethink and to develop an even more effective unified voice for women across Canada.**

I know the new Board Members, both Executive Officers and Provincial Presidents will bring their valued input and diverse leadership skills to the table. I welcome Linda Hoy to the role of President Elect and know she will be a delight to share leadership with.

The Executive will meet in November in Ottawa. We are hoping to meet with representatives from the Status of Women and Environment since a number of our resolutions focus on these areas. We have received an invitation to tour Rideau Hall and will also attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

My hope and goal over my term is to strengthen communication between the national and provincial levels. I also will be working on enhancing ways provinces can share ideas more effectively with each other by developing a more transparent line of communication.

In concurrence with the Citizenship and Legislation Committee, letters have been sent to the appropriate recipients in response to the resolutions passed (see page 5) and resolutions re-affirmed at the Convention.

October 11th is the launch of the International Day of the Girl (see page 8). As part of ACWW, it is important for us to realize that we are an essential part in developing policies and protocol for women world-wide **to have a voice and to make that voice known.**

The future of **Women's Institute lies in each of our hands**, we have been passed a **brilliant torch and it is our responsibility to pass it on** to the next generation so the lives of our children and our children's children will be as rich and as blessed as ours.

I ask you to work with me to make our communities the best places to live, as we work together for Home and Country.

Coming together is a beginning.

Keeping together is progress.

Working together is success.

Henry Ford

Marie Kenny

Executive Committee 2012-2015

President – Marie Kenny
2 Cudmore Lane
Brackley, PE C1E 1Z3

President-Elect – Linda Hoy
77 Rte 105
Cookshire-Eaton, QC J0B 1M0

Executive Officers
Joan Holthe
Site 8, Comp. 16, R.R. 2
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4E8

Diane Dammann
P.O. Box 204
Alliance, AB T0B 0A0

Ellen Stachiw
194 5th Avenue North
Yorkton, SK S3N 0Z6

Ann Mandziuk
P.O. Box 264
Minnedasa, MB R0J 1E0

Joy Trimble
P.O. Box 263
Orangeville, ON L9W 2Z6

Glenna Geer
87 Law Ave.
Hampton, NB E5N 5C2

Coni Murray
997 Hwy 311
North River, NS B6L 6H4

Carol MacLellan
R.R. 4
Hunter River, PE C0A 1N0

Barbara Taylor
251 Tolt Rd.
Portugal Cove-St. Philips, NL A1M 1R1

Educational Committee Chairs

Agriculture - Coni Murray
Canadian Industries (Envir) –Joy Trimble
Citizenship & Legislation – Barb Taylor
Education and Culture – Ellen Stachiw
Home EconomicHealth–Diane Dammann
International Affairs – Ann Mandziuk

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Editor - Barbara Sheardown

OFFICE REPORT

The FWIC office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30am -4:30pm (Ontario time). The curator will be at the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead on Tuesdays and other times during the week, depending on events scheduled.

FWIC's contact information:

**P.O. Box 209
359 Blue Lake Road
St. George, ON N0E 1N0**

**Phone: (519) 448-3873
Fax: (519) 448-3506
Email: fwican@gmail.com
Website: www.fwic.ca**

Adelaide Hoodless Homestead: Same address as FWIC

**Phone: (519) 448-1130
Email:
adelaidehoodless@gmail.com**

**Website:
www.adelaidehoodless.ca**

ITEMS FOR SALE

*(Order from FWIC Office)
(postage to be added to items)*

FWIC Bag Hanger <i>(also available from Provincial Offices)</i>	\$5.00
FWIC Card Holder	\$5.00
FWIC Pin	\$8.00
FWIC History Book <i>Women's Institutes of Canada-The First One Hundred Years</i>	\$15.00
Adelaide Pewter Keychain	\$12.00
Pewter Ornament of Homestead	\$10.00
DVD of Homestead	\$5.00
Homestead Pin	\$5.00
Homestead Hasti-Notes	\$2.00

PRESIDENT-ELECT



Cooler nights and the changing of the leaves reminds us that change is all around us and is part of life. Change and communication are the two words that come to mind since the FWIC Convention 2012 held in Sidney, BC. Times change. People change. Needs change. Change is inevitable and we must embrace it, ignite the spark that I have seen in so many of you and communicate those changes with each of you. Together we can "go places" by following the S-curve of progress.

We had a fabulous time in BC and I would like to thank the BCWI for all their hard work in putting it together. Having co-chaired a FWIC Convention in the past, I know what is involved. BRAVO on a job well done!

I had the opportunity in August to present the Erland Lee Award to the Quebec recipient, Mel Dustin. Mel has been a willing helper to the Hatley-Stanstead Women's Institute. Over the years he has been the caretaker and maintenance man at the historic Mansur red brick schoolhouse. Appropriately this presentation was done at the Stanstead County WI Tea Room on the Ayer's Cliff Fairgrounds, where Mel has also helped with the care of this special room filled with memories since it was inspired in 1929 by the then County President, Mrs. Daintrey. Congratulations Mel.

Linda Hoy

ACWW REPORT

WOMEN WALK THE WORLD

On and around April 29, 2012 will be remembered as the time women around the world walked for ACWW. Canada Area was included in those who participated in this special event. The purpose of the Walk was to raise the profile of ACWW while at the same time to raise additional needed funds for the work of ACWW. The Walk indeed was a great success; raising to date the amount of £3,513.26. Canada Area groups enjoyed their Walks in many different ways while at the same time had fun and fellowship raising \$2600.00 to promote the valuable work of ACWW.

The following thank you letter was received from Lisa Barker, ACWW Office Manager:

"I write on behalf of the Central Office team, to thank you for the cheque of £850.00, we received 27th July 2012. Congratulations to all the members in Canada who participated in Women Walk the World, and raised this amazing amount. Please extend our thanks to all the WI's who took part and gained sponsorship. This is a most welcome contribution to our funds. We appreciate their generosity and support of the work of ACWW."

ACWW CANADA PROJECT

A sincere thank you to all those who have contributed to the Area Project entitled "Climate Change and its effects on Women and Agriculture-Women as Change Agents" carried out in the Caribbean, Central and South America Area. Since only contributions of \$8000.00 have been received to date, an additional \$2,000.00 is needed to complete the Area's commitment of \$10,000.00. Area members wishing to contribute to the project may send your donations to Canada Area President, Margaret Yetman, 10 Barbour Drive, Mount Pearl, NL A1N 2H8.

*Margaret Yetman
Canada Area President*

FWIC CONVENTION 2012



*Kenny Podmore, Sidney's Town Crier
welcomes everyone during the Opening Ceremonies*

Speakers continued...

Peter Legge (*professional speaker, author and Chairman & CEO of Canada Wide Media Ltd.*) spoke on **Make Your Life a Masterpiece –Take Control of Your Canvas of Life for Success**. He explained that you can't win every race, but you can't win unless you participate. We have control of one thing in our lives, that is our thinking, and you would be amazed at what the mind can see.

Elaine Froese (*speaker, writer and farm family coach*) stressed the need for all women to be **money smart** regardless of their age and the importance of open communication on this topic.

Rose Lopetrone (*an RN who was diagnosed with heart disease*) spoke at the **Red Dress Gala**, which celebrated FWIC's national **Women's Heart Health Project**. Rose recently launched the first Women's Heart support network in Canada.

The **Interfaith Service** included six speakers of different faiths –Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Baha'i and Christian. Each spoke of the need for respect and tolerance for every religion.

Another highlight of the convention was **Tour Day** followed by a salmon dinner at Sooke and entertainment. Convention participants also enjoyed a variety of **Workshops**.

The winner of the Quilt Draw was Marjorie Chester, PEI.

Thanks to the British Columbia WI Convention Planning Committee for all their efforts in organizing the convention and welcoming WI members from across Canada. Also thanks to the many sponsors for their support of the convention.

PRESENTATION BY SHIRLEY WI PRESIDENT AT FWIC CONVENTION

Hello, my name is Stephanie Croft and I am the President of the Shirley Women's Institute (BC).

Over eighty-five years ago, eight local women got together to hold the very first Shirley Women's Institute meeting. Though the branch had few members, it was the first organization in Shirley and it filled a void in the community.

As the years went on, the Shirley Women's Institute (WI) took on many local issues. Perhaps the most notable accomplishment of the Shirley WI was its prevention of the combining of Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day in 1926. Starting with a simple resolution, this movement gained national momentum, inducing the federal government to make November 11th its own public holiday.

Despite all of its accomplishments, the Shirley WI was growing older, along with its membership, and very nearly met its extinction last year. A few of us caught wind of this and took steps towards reviving this pillar organization in our community. We started this year with only eight members, as in 1924, but are already growing. We are proud to have members ranging in age from their twenties to their eighties,

Perhaps what is most appealing about the concept of the Shirley Women's Institute is its purpose to serve rural women in their desire to be more self-sufficient through healthy food production and preservation. We feel that, in the last couple of generations, there has been a real disconnect between the transfer of knowledge of the age-old ways of healthy living and

today's modern society. Many of us did not learn from our parents how to grow, make and preserve food or how to make household cleaning products from safe ingredients or how to produce handicrafts. Many of us feel that the impact of our "disposable" society is taking its toll on our health, our environment and our values. And so, we feel there is a movement among younger generations wishing to learn the more eco-friendly, health conscious, sustainable ways of living of past generations. And this is what the revived Shirley Women's Institute strives to do: share knowledge on healthy living practices and support community.

With this purpose in mind, we intend to hold regular information workshops and support charities and causes relevant to our community. We've started doing some fundraising, including hosting a table of homemade items for sale at the Shirley Market once a month. And while doing these things, we hope to provide a source for women in our community where they can connect with each other, create friendships and provide support for each other. And as it was in the early years, many members in our group come to the meetings and events with their babies and children in tow.

At the BCWI AGM on Monday, I heard many voices speaking of their concerns about the lack of new membership and about the difficulty in finding younger women to join. My advice to you is this: don't wait for these younger women to come to you. Many of us in our group had never even heard of the WI. Go to them - because they're out there. You'll find them at your local farmers' market, your local fairs and your local schools. And what will appeal to them is your activism, your environmentalism and your desire to pass on the knowledge of self-sustainability.

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

(The following essay was the 1st prize award winning entry in the Senator Cairine Wilson Competition –announced at the FWIC Convention 2012)

This is February 2011 and my TV is turned to the world news. As the announcer speaks, I can hear and see the emotion in his voice and in his facial expressions. The people in Egypt are demonstrating; gathering in the streets demanding the resignation of their leader and a free vote election. How lucky we are to live in a democracy where we have a say in who runs our country and how it is to be governed. Uprisings of this sort are unheard of. Our freedom of choice is a result of our right to vote, but do we take advantage of this great privilege.

Looking back, it seems to me that we have always had this right but that is not so, especially if you are a woman. In 1878, the suffrage movement was established in Canada. Women fought long and hard for equal voting rights with men, both federally and provincially. Dr. Emily Stowe and her supporters campaigned by means of petitions, lectures and demonstrations over a period of four decades. Public opinion and hostile politicians did not prevent them from pursuing their goal and on January 18, 1916 (the same birth date as mine but twenty seven years later) Manitoba was the first province to have women gain the right to vote.

Today we take that privilege for granted. Everyone favors democracy but won't take time to vote. Voter turnout has been on a steady decline since 1958, especially by our youth. If the youth, who are the future leaders of our country, do not take an interest, it is up to us to act on their behalf in order to have a safe and healthy future for our children and grandchildren.

Many people have lost faith in the government and do not vote. We hear the familiar comment "Why vote, he/she won't be elected anyway." By not voting for those we consider most deserving we may allow corrupt individuals to hold positions. When we investigate and vote for the more qualified, we are setting an example for others. How would you feel if a

candidate you did not approve of was elected in your area by a one vote margin and you had not cast a vote? How important would your ballot have been then?

We must observe those who offer themselves as candidates for federal, provincial or municipal elections and vote for those whose election issues show concern for education, employment, environmental concerns, fossil fuel consumption and health, including reproductive rights.

The election process has been made much more convenient for the voters. Ballots may be cast by mail for those who cannot get out to vote or by means of an advanced poll for those who will be out of the country on election day. Employees are given time off to cast a vote and in certain provinces voters are offered transportation to and from the polling station.

"Voting" is defined as "an expression of opinion or will." These opinions are expressed at our school board elections, senior groups, condo committees and our all important Women's Institutes. We have been voting since we were young children but never realized it. Remember your mother saying "Where shall we go this Sunday, to the park or out of town for the church fair?" If you did not vote by choosing where you wanted to go you had no right to complain about the result.

The following two quotes emphasize why we should vote:

People often say that in a democracy decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, this is not quite true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote; a very different thing.

Walter H. Judd

Those who stay away from an election think one vote will do no good. It's but one step more to think one vote will do no harm.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The next time an election is being held in your Women's Institute Branch or at your provincial or national convention, think about the purpose of your vote and what a great privilege it is. You decide how your organization will operate, and who will preside over the business. Exercise your right by marking your ballot, standing to be counted on the ballot or letting your voice be heard. Better still, allow your name to be printed on the ballot and be sure to cast a vote for yourself.

Helen Biggs

*1st Mount Pearl Branch
Newfoundland & Labrador*

RESOLUTIONS

Passed at Convention 2012

1. DEEP SEA OFF SHORE OIL OR GAS DRILLING (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

RESOLVED that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request the Federal Ministers of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Industry Canada and Natural Resources that under no circumstances will deep sea oil or gas drilling be permitted to take place off the Pacific Coast, in the Arctic Ocean or be further expanded in the Atlantic Ocean.

2. CLEAN WATER - SHALE GAS EXPLORATION (QUEBEC)

RESOLVED that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request the Federal Ministers of Industry Canada, Environment Canada and Natural Resources to formulate and enforce laws that create a moratorium on natural (shale) gas exploration and exploitation.

3. BANK CHARGES IMPACT ON NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (QUEBEC)

RESOLVED that Federated Women's Institutes of Canada request all Charter Banks and Credit Unions to review and immediately revoke fees for all non-profit organizations.

FWIC AT RIDEAU HALL

COMPETITION WINNERS (Announced at the FWIC Convention)

Tweedsmuir Competitions:

Cultural

Development of a Program
–Mary M. Nickerson, Nova Scotia

Handicraft

Crib Quilt
–Joan Griffith, Quebec

History

Essay –“History of WI in Your Province”
–Dianne Kowalchuk, Manitoba

Senator Cairine Wilson

Competition

Essay –“Why Should I Vote?”
–Helen Baggs, Newfoundland &
Labrador



*Ruth Blenkhorn, David Johnston and Marie Kenny
at Governor General's Caring Canadian Awards in April 2012*

**Plan now to attend the next
FWIC Convention
June 9-13, 2015
Fredericton
New Brunswick**



Annual Award Erland Lee Award of Appreciation

Erland Lee Award Winners

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada is pleased to announce that the following men received the Erland Lee Award of Appreciation in 2012.

Peter Darby from Alberta

Melvin Dustin from Quebec

Stuart Hemmings from British Columbia (*This award was presented to him by Ruth Blenkhorn at the FWIC Convention in Sidney, BC*)

Ernie Titus from New Brunswick

This prestigious award is presented by FWIC to a man who most exemplifies those qualities of Erland Lee which led to the founding of the Women's Institutes, an organization which spread across Canada and grew to include millions of women worldwide.

Regulations:

- A certificate is to be presented to a gentleman who has made an outstanding contribution to the Women's Institute movement.
- Nominations can come from the branch, district/county, provincial or national level. Each province is entitled to one nomination per year, except Ontario, which is entitled to two because of the size of its membership.
- Specifics of the nominee's contribu-

tion to Women's Institutes must be included with the nomination letter and **forwarded to the provincial office for approval.**

- Once approved by the provincial office, the gentlemen's name to be sent to the national office. It must be received no later than **March 31** of each year. A cheque for \$15.00 per certificate, payable to 'FWIC,' must accompany the nomination. This cost is the responsibility of the nomination body.

A certificate will be forwarded to the province from the national office, along with a brief resume of the significant contributions of Erland Lee in forming Women's Institutes of Canada. Presentation of certificates is the responsibility of the nominator.

From the Homestead

Curator's Report



*Madison Kohli and Victoria Campbell
with children from the Summer Camp*

At the Homestead this summer I had the joy of running the children's summer program. The children who participated were enthusiastic and energetic. We played games, made crafts, talked about Adelaide, and even explored her house a little. All of our activities were accompanied by our themes for the summer: Tea Time with Addie, Wild World of Sports, Addie's League of Superheroes, and Super Swamp Sleuths. This year we also ran a special camp sponsored by the St. George Lions Club. This camp was theatrical based; the children worked on a presentation throughout the week and then presented it at the Homestead's Annual Summer Fete. This summer was enjoyable and I hope to be back next year making the summer program more and more fun.

*Madison Kohli
Summer Education Co-ordinator*

This summer, I have had the pleasure of working as the Homestead's Museum Assistant. During my time here, I had the opportunity to work in many different areas of the Homestead's operation, including historical interpretation, research, and event planning. I greatly enjoyed giving tours of the Homestead. Visitors consistently expressed their appreciation for the details and artifacts

that fill the house. Many times, household objects at the Homestead prompted visitors to share their own memories, such as using a wringer or their stories connected to artifacts such as the Singer sewing machine. I always learned something new from the visitors.

In addition to giving tours, I also responded to research requests, including inquiries about Adelaide's role in the formation of the Victorian Order of Nurses and the growth of the Women's Institutes. Another role was assisting with the Homestead's Summer Fete. I helped coordinate volunteers, prepare the Homestead and picnic shelter for visitors, and create a display for the upcoming exhibit on the life of John Bray, a veteran of the War of 1812, who also built the house that now stands as the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. My most recent project has been cataloguing artifacts. I have learned much about museum accessioning practices through this process.

I am very thankful for this work experience. As a history student, my summer at the Homestead has brought many elements of my studies to life. I look forward to visiting the Homestead often as I continue my studies.

*Victoria Campbell
Summer Museum Assistant*

I am pleased to report that all is going well at Adelaide's Homestead! We keep very busy with events, programs and ongoing activities.

Our Summer Fete has become a yearly event, funded in 2012 by the County of Brant. This year it was held on August 12 and was a great success. I was quoted in a local newspaper as saying, "It's a type of garden fair one would have in late summer to celebrate the end of the harvest. We have modernized and expanded it a bit but we're aiming for that feel."

The paper went on to describe the event: "Fiddle music was in the air as volunteers dressed in period garb entertained and educated visitors... children were encouraged to try their hand at yarn spinning, rope making, ice cream churning and watercolour painting. For sale were fresh beans, blueberries, strawberries and cobs of corn that would have been produced on the land in 1852 when Adelaide's father, David Hunter, purchased the homestead on what is now Blue Lake Road."

Players from Ichthys Theatre Company of Brantford mingled with the crowd dressed as Anne of Green Gables characters. Children who attended the Homestead's first 'Addie's Actors' drama camp (funded by the St. George Lions) contributed a short performance. Women's Institute members offered fresh-baked cookies and tours of the Homestead. It was a wonderful event, and we were thrilled with the public's response.

We continue to host individuals and groups from near and far. Our recent guests have included: several university women's groups, a retired Telegraph Operator's group, a group from Brant Community Living and several area church groups. In a few weeks, we will be hosting a large group of ladies that are visiting from the UK.

Most museums report that fewer schools visit their sites than did in years past. This trend is propelled by increased costs for bussing as well as concerns about liability. In response, the Homestead has developed workshops that can be presented in the classroom setting. I have delivered these workshops to schools in and around Brantford. Some teachers use parent drivers to bring students directly to the Homestead.

Homestead continued...

We have been very fortunate recently in receiving many generous grants from the government and the private sector. We have recently received funding from the 'Ontario Trillium Foundation' to repair our cornice returns, to repoint our foundation, to replace the porches and to perform archeological investigation. We look forward to seeing the results!

In addition, we received federal funding for our upcoming exhibit entitled 'John Bray: To, Through and Beyond the War of 1812.' John Bray was the builder of the Homestead, but also fought with the Norfolk Militia during the War of 1812. The exhibit has four segments and each is housed within one of partner sites - the Waterford Heritage and Agricultural Museum, the Elgin County Museum and Archives and the South Dumfries Historical Society. Each of the four displays will

give information about the period in John Bray's life during which he lived in that part of Upper Canada. Visitors who travel to all the sites will be tracing the course of John Bray's life, 200 years later. We are very excited about this exhibit and about the partnerships that it has engendered.

The Homestead's membership program remains popular. We currently have 41 'Friends of Adelaide.' All members receive our quarterly newsletter, free admission, discounts on souvenir purchases, and notification about upcoming events.

Finally, I must give my sincere thanks to all members of the Local Homestead Committee for their tireless support of the work that we do here at the Homestead. Without them, most of the achievements of the past year would not have been possible.

Catherine Stevenson
Curator

Application for "Friends of Adelaide"

(Homestead Membership Program)

-receive bi-monthly newsletter, event announcements
and a discount on gift shop purchases

Name:

Address:

Postal Code: Phone:

Email:

Membership Dues only \$15.00 per year. Send to:
Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, PO Box 209, St. George, ON N0E 1N0

Federated News Subscription 2013

(Federated Women's Institutes of Canada's newsletter)

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Individual subscriptions - \$5.00 each

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Please make cheque payable to Federated Women's Institutes of Canada and mail to
P.O. Box 209, 359 Blue Lake Road, St. George, Ontario N0E 1N0

STRONG GIRLS, STRONG CANADA: LEADERS FROM THE START

This year's theme for Women's History Month gives Canadians the opportunity to recognize girls as leaders and celebrate the leadership roles girls have played in Canadian history. From girl guides to hockey players, and from entrepreneurs to community organizers, girls have been *Leaders from the Start*.

There is a growing recognition around the world that support for girls and their basic human rights is key for healthy communities. In other words, *Strong Girls* will help build a *Strong Canada*.

The United Nations has declared October 11, 2012 as the world's first *International Day of the Girl*. This day aims to make a difference in the lives of girls as citizens and powerful voices of change within their families, their communities and their nations. The Government of Canada led the international community in establishing this day.

For 20 years, Women's History Month has showcased the vital role that women and girls in communities across Canada have played in shaping our country's history. During October, girl's roles and achievements in Canada's history and development will be highlighted as well as the challenges and opportunities girls have faced over time.

WI Week

The week of
February 17-23, 2013
has been proclaimed WI Week.

February 19th will be
recognized as **WI Day**.

Sticker on envelope with Federated News indicates year/s your subscription covers.

Deadline for articles for the
Spring/Summer Issue of the
Federated News is February 1, 2013.