

## Greetings from the FWIC President

*It has been said that November and January are the longest, darkest and loneliest months of the year for many who face mental health issues. The commercials for Bell's Let's Talk on the TV bring a ray of hope to those who are suffering. Reach out to family and friends every single day - they may need an encouraging word and your voice could be the ray of sunshine for the day.*

*We have just had our Executive Officers participating in the second Skype call on Saturday, January 21st for 4 1/2 hours. They have come out of their comfort zone to hook up to modern technology and I think you are awesome! Discussion included finances, moving forward with the Board Restructuring Ad Hoc Committee, IPG Scholarship, FWIC 100th Anniversary, WI Logo, rebranding and launches. As you can see, we have lots of exciting things being worked on. Our next Skype call will be March 4th.*

*I declare February as WI Month. How will your branch celebrate February 19th, Founder's Day or Adelaide's Birthday on February 27th? Send us your photos and we will display them on our website and Facebook pages. Tie blue & gold ribbons to your mailbox or vehicle antenna for the month of February.*

*WI...Women Inspired to make change count!  
WI...Proud of our past, Preparing for our Future!*

*Linda Hoy*  
President FWIC



## International Peace Garden 2017 UPDATE

*The International Peace Garden Scholarship is on hold for 2017, due to a low number of nominations from the provinces. Plans are underway to re-envision the program. Stay tuned for more details!*

## Dates to Remember



### February 2017 - **W.I. Month**

- Founders Day February 19<sup>th</sup> (1897)
- Adelaide Hunter Hoodless 'Canadian Woman of the Year' Winner announcement
- **Adelaide Hunter Hoodless' 160<sup>th</sup> Birthday** February 27<sup>th</sup> (1857)

### February 1, 2017 - **FWIC Membership Fees Due**

- Fees due from the provincial offices

### March 31, 2017 - **Erland Lee Award**

- Nominations from provinces due to FWIC

## A New Look for the WI Movement



The FWIC Board, with support from Provincial WI's and staff, spent last year preparing for a 'new' direction for the WI movement in Canada. Staff engaged in 'LaunchPad,' a social business program at Laurier University in Brantford ON. They conducted WI branch surveys and interviews with WI members at all levels to determine what members want to see for the future of WI, possibly helping to determine a new membership model for different demographics of today's women.

As a result, the Board commissioned third year Mohawk College students to develop a national WI logo that will be used by all WI branches across Canada. The national office recently received a Queen's Patrons' Fund grant to help in funding logo launches and developing our new look for the WI. Stay tuned for updates on logo and local launches across the country.

The FWIC Board has also begun work on restructuring the national organization and the WI in Canada by establishing an adhoc Strategic Planning Task Force. Items for consideration include reexamining the purpose and function of the national organization, Board restructuring to meet today's needs, national issues pertinent to all WI members, membership recruitment and national partnerships.

## **FWIC Executive Committee 2015-2018**

### **PRESIDENT**

Linda Hoy  
Chair: Education and Extension; Personnel  
[lhfwic@gmail.com](mailto:lhfwic@gmail.com)

### **PRESIDENT ELECT & BCWI Executive Officer**

Joan Holthe  
Committee Chair: Finance  
[threerivers@abnorth.com](mailto:threerivers@abnorth.com)

### **ALBERTA**

Diane Dammann  
Chair: Canadian Industries & Environment; Unity  
[pandd@wildroseinternet.ca](mailto:pandd@wildroseinternet.ca)

### **SASKATCHEWAN**

Karen Gerwing  
Chair: Agriculture  
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### **MANITOBA**

Liz Chongva  
Chair: International Affairs; Convention 2018  
[chongval@mymts.net](mailto:chongval@mymts.net)

### **ONTARIO**

Evelyn Peck  
Chair: Editorial & Publicity; Recruitment & Extension  
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### **QUEBEC**

Norma Sherrer  
Chair: Credentials; Projects  
[norma4qwi@gmail.com](mailto:norma4qwi@gmail.com)

### **NEW BRUNSWICK**

Holly Hersey  
Chair: Tweedsmuir History; Nominations  
[hersey99@hotmail.com](mailto:hersey99@hotmail.com)

### **NOVA SCOTIA**

Coni Murray  
Chair: Citizenship & Legislation  
[conimurray8@gmail.com](mailto:conimurray8@gmail.com)

### **PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

Doreen Cole  
Chair: Education & Cultural Activities; Fundraising  
[stanleybridgeschool@live.ca](mailto:stanleybridgeschool@live.ca)

### **NEWFOUNDLAND**

June Young  
Chair: Home Economics & Health  
[june.young@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:june.young@nf.sympatico.ca)

### **FWIC HEAD OFFICE**

Wendy Hamilton  
Executive Director  
[fwican@gmail.com](mailto:fwican@gmail.com)

## **Meet Your FWIC President Linda Hoy, 2015-2018**

*I have been a member of the Ascot Women's Institute for over 30 years. I have held all executive offices at the branch, county and provincial levels. In 2003 I became Quebec WI provincial president and also co-chaired the FWIC Convention in 2003. For the past 15 years I have been on the FWIC Board/Executive and chaired the Citizenship & Legislation Committee, Resolutions, Editorial & Publicity and Finance.*



*I have attended FWIC Conventions in Hamilton, ON (1997), Lennoxville, QC (2003), Red Deer, AB (2006), Charlottetown, PEI (2009), Sidney, BC (2012), Fredericton, NB (2015) and ACWW Conferences in Tasmania, Hot Springs, AK and Chennai, India.*

*It is a real honour to have been elected as President and to work alongside Wendy, Executive Director and Joan, President-Elect and the rest of the Executive and Board. I value your support and communication and am work to strengthen our organization and the ties we have made with government agencies, International Peace Garden and Vesey's Bulbs.*

*Let us all continue to work together "For Home & Country".*



**FEDERATED WOMEN'S  
INSTITUTES OF CANADA**

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## **FWIC Spotlight – Karen Gerwing Executive Officer, Saskatchewan**

I was born in Australia and immigrated to Canada in 1984. The following year I joined the Kelstern Branch of the Saskatchewan Women's Institute (SWI). I joined this organization because my mother and grandmother were members of the South Australian Country Women's Association (CWA) which is affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).



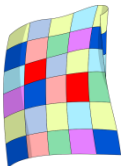
I currently live in Lake Lenore, Saskatchewan where I farm with my husband Jim. I also work part time as bookkeeper for our local Co-op Grocery store.

My involvement with WI has increased since joining the provincial board in 2004. I was the SWI representative on the University of Saskatchewan Senate for 6 years and I am currently the Provincial Vice President and Newsletter Editor.

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### **FWIC Committee Work (Norma Sherrer, WI Projects Chair)**

The national project for FWIC this triennium is "Adopt A Shelter". Please send me a report about what your province or branch is doing so we can see all the wonderful things that are happening at the local level.



Back in October, we notified everyone about making "Fidget Quilts" There has been little response, but we hope each province might produce a few quilts. Let me know if there is any further interest.

Another idea is to participate in the "Great Canadian Quilting Bee". Each person would make a quilt block and each block would have one piece of Canada 150 birthday fabric. It is hoped to make and donate 1000 quilts for kids at Ronald MacDonald Houses across Canada. For more information, please contact me at [norma4qwi@gmail.com](mailto:norma4qwi@gmail.com).

## **Mark Your Calendars**

March 8th 2017 – **International Women's Day**



- Theme: #BeBoldFor Change

April 2017 – **Erland Lee Award**

- recipients announced

April 30, 2017 – **Provincial Reports**

- FWIC Committee & Provincial Reports due

May 2017 – **'Preserving our HERitage: a Womyn's Perspective' Exhibit**

- A look at how women, specifically through the W.I. movement, have preserved our Canadian history

June 20-22, 2017 – **FWIO Conference**

- Pembroke, ON
- March 15 2017: Early bird registration

June 23–25, 2017 – **ACWW Canada Area Convention**

- Being held in Pembroke, ON
- March 15 2017: Early bird registration

June 25–28, 2017 – **FWIC Board Meeting & AGM**

- Being held this year in Fort Coulange, QC

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### **Provincial Dues & WI Membership**



Reminder that all provincial dues and membership information was to be submitted to FWIC by Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 (and Feb 1<sup>st</sup> of each subsequent year). Let the National office know if you need to make special arrangements. Thank you!

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### **Homestead Awarded Ontario 150 Grant**



The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead has received the honour of being awarded an Ontario 150 Community Celebration grant to help fund Addie's 2016 New Year's Resolution and the HERitage exhibit!

Thanks to this grant and all of the WI members across the country who donated to the project, the Homestead will be able to move forward with designing the 'Where's Addie' travelling exhibit. This will celebrate Addie's life, including the story behind her co-founding of the WI movement.

## WI Across the Country



### Quebec WI: Honouring Marion Ruddock

On October 21st 2016, on a wet and rainy Friday, around forty WI ladies assembled to show their appreciation and thanks to Marion Ruddock. Ruddock is a proud member of the Chateauguay-Huntingdon County WI, and has spent the last 25 years working tirelessly as Treasurer of the County. WI members gathered at her favourite restaurant, 'Citron et Basilic' in Huntingdon, Quebec.

Submitted by Carolyn Marlin, Convener of Publicity and Awareness of the Chateauguay-Huntingdon County



### British Columbia WI: Seasons of Giving

Many BCWI Branches celebrated the holidays by donating gifts to local families, or donating to organizations that support families in need.

The BCWI Triennial is coming up in 2017! It will be held at the Nechako Valley Secondary School in Vanderhoof, BC, from July 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Please visit their website at [www.bcwi.ca](http://www.bcwi.ca) to learn about their upcoming competitions and workshops.

From the BCWI Newsletter



### FWIO: Mark your Calendars

FWIO will host a 'Tea at the Lee' on Feb. 19th 2017 to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of Women's Institutes.

Eastern Area WI will host the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario Provincial Conference in Pembroke Ontario from June 20- 22, 2017. This will be followed by the ACWW Canada Area Conference from June 23 -25.

The ACWW World President, the USA Area President and the Canada Area President will attend both conferences. Members from Indiana Homemakers will also attend as part of an international exchange with FWIO.

FWIO will be launching their book 'Ordinary to Extraordinary' at the 2017 Provincial Conference. The 150 stories in this book document real life experiences of FWIO members as a project to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.



FWIO President Margaret Byl welcoming 2017 by representing FWIO at the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario New year's Levee. Margaret is pictured with Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell

Submitted by Evelyn Peck, FWIO



### Newfoundland & Labrador WI: Fashion Show & Charity Giving

Congratulations to the membership committee of the Gander WI, who organized a Fashion Show. They partnered with two local businesses, which provided lots of beautiful outfits. They were delighted to have Averill Baker entertain the attendees during the evening with her beautiful piano playing. Her mother-in-law, Violet Baker (mother of Senator George Baker) was the first president of Gander Branch. The event was an over-whelming success with over 200 in attendance. Well done ladies!

Many of the NLWI branches made generous contributions to charities and worthy causes, including Glovertown WI to the Make a Wish Foundation, Dunville WI to Daffodil Place, and St Philips to Bridges to Hope. Many branches also made significant contributions to Pennies for Friendship, and to scholarships at local schools.

From the NLWI Newsletter



### ACWW: Fundraising

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ACWW Projects Committee – a remarkable and inspirational achievement for all involved! ACWW reports that since the committee's founding in 1977, over 1000 small scale projects have been funded around the world.

The FWIC is proud to report that last year Canadian WI members contributed \$25,594 to ACWW Pennies for Friendship. What an accomplishment in supporting our international sisters beyond what we do for our own 'home & country' communities and organizations!

**Want to share your province's updates here?**  
**Email them to FWIC monthly at [fwican@gmail.com](mailto:fwican@gmail.com)**

# Updates from the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead



ADELAIDE  
HUNTER  
HOODLESS  
HOMESTEAD

## What's Up at Addie's Winter 2017!



### Upcoming Events at the Homestead

February 27<sup>th</sup> 2017

#### Addie's 160<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Good Friday April 14, 2017

#### Easter at Addie's

- Annual Easter Egg Hunt and family day

#### May 2017 – 'Preserving our HERitage: a Womyn's Perspective' Exhibit

- A NEW joint exhibit with the Brant Historical Society (BHS) and the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead
- Promoting WI involvement in capturing WI history and sharing it with future generations

May 3, 2017

#### 'Preserving our HERitage' Exhibit Launch

- Joint launch with the Brant Museum

May 13, 2017

#### Lynden Park Mall

- Promotion of the Homestead with other local museums

May 23, 2017

#### 'Preserving our HERitage' Open House

- Open House event as part of the 'Brant Museum Crawl'

May 28, 2017

#### Glenhyrst Family Art Day

- Family outreach for the Homestead



The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead in Winter

The Homestead recently celebrated our second annual "Hunter Family Victorian Christmas at Addie's" on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. Volunteers in period dress portraying members of the Hunter family were distributed throughout the Homestead. Each told their story of their respective character as visitors toured the home. Jane Hunter (Addie's mother) gave spinning wheel demonstrations in her room, while Lizzie and Seth Charlton (Addie's sister and her husband) waltzed to live carolers in the dining room. Even Father Christmas dropped in!

The event was well received by guests of all ages!



Images right to left: volunteers dressed as the Hunter family; Father Christmas; young Addie at her desk in her room.

## What's New!

Recently, the Homestead has begun the transition to a 'living museum' and family enrichment centre, encouraging visitors to actively engage with period items on display in the home. This new vision will encourage guests to connect with Addie's story like never before. The Homestead hopes to expand their programing area, collections storage facilities, and build an outbuilding for rentals and heritage workshops.

This is no small undertaking, and will require grants, partnerships with the community, sponsorships and donations. If you are interested in being part of this exciting project, please contact Wendy Hamilton, Executive Director at [development@adelaidehoodless.ca](mailto:development@adelaidehoodless.ca)

Learn more at [www.adelaidehoodless.ca](http://www.adelaidehoodless.ca) or follow the Homestead on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



## Celebrating Addie's 160<sup>th</sup> Birthday



The Homestead would like to invite Women's Institute members and organizations across the country to help us celebrate Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, co-founder and inspiration for the Women's Institute movement, on what would be her 160<sup>th</sup> birthday.

For this historic event, we challenge 160 donors to light 160 candles across the country on Addie's birthday cake!



As the Homestead (Addie's birthplace & childhood home), transitions to a living museum and family enrichment centre, we need ample supplies, such as costumes for our interpreters, historical tables and chairs for families and children to sit on while they work on crafts or partake in historical dinners on site. Among the items on Addie's wish list is a set of blue willowware dishes, helping 'set the scene' for our historical meals to be used for serving families and children.

To help light up Addie's birthday cake, please consider making a donation. This can be done online (link below) or through the mail.

Throughout February, the Homestead will be posting trivia and fun historical facts about the WI, Addie, and Victorian birthdays! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to join in the fun!



**#Addie150**

Please send contributions to:



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless  
Homestead  
P.O. Box 209  
St George, ON N0E 1N0



<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/addie-160/>



## WI Conferences, AGMs & Conventions!

What better way to stay connected with the goings-on of provincial & national WI's, and our international affiliation with ACWW then attending some of the many conferences, AGM's and conventions being planned across the country for 2017. These are great opportunities to network, share, and grow together!

MWI: May 5-6, 2017

**Manitoba WI Conference**  
Russell, MB

SWI: May 26, 2017

**Saskatchewan WI Convention**  
Foam Lake, SK

QWI: May 26-27, 2017

**Quebec WI AGM & Convention**  
Centennial Ballroom, MacDonald College,  
St Anne de Bellevue, QC

PEIWI: June 3, 2017

**PEIWI Convention**  
Credit Union Place, Summerside, PEI

FWIO: June 20-22, 2017

**FWIO Conference**  
Pembroke, ON

ACWW: June 23-25, 2017

**ACWW Canada Area Convention**  
Pembroke, ON

FWIC: June 25-28, 2017

**FWIC Board Meeting & AGM**  
Fort Coulonge, QC

BCWI: July 5-8, 2017

**BCWI 37th Triennial Convention**  
Vanderhoof, BC

WINS: August 2-3, 2017

**WI Nova Scotia Convention**  
Cape Breton University, Cape Breton, NS

**Comments? Questions? Concerns?**

**Contact us!**

[fwican@gmail.com](mailto:fwican@gmail.com)

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