

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



Margaret's Message, Submitted by President, Margaret Byl

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

I am usually sitting at my desk at home when I share my thoughts with you, but today I am writing my final letter from the President for the WI Connections at my desk in the National Office at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead in St. George, Ontario.



As usual, I like to search online for important or interesting days to remember, some of which include September 2nd, Labor Day; the 13th, International Chocolate Day (as a chocaholic, I kind-of like this day); and September 21st, International Day of Peace, when the United Nations invites people and nations to honour a cessation of hostilities and to raise awareness about peace through education. Something this world is sorely in need of.

September 17th to the 19th will bring a deep sense of joy and a touch of sadness as well. Joy, because we will celebrate a hybrid National Convention in Truro, NS where I will be able to have my first in-person meeting with the majority of the Board of Directors. WI members will be able to mingle and catch-up on old times and meet new members and those that are not able to attend in person have the opportunity to join the festivities on a virtual platform.

There have been many challenges over the past 6 years, (3 as president-elect and 3 as president). Staffing changes both in the National Office and at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and of course, COVID-19. We met them all head-on and found, ways, working together, to cover them including having the Board of Directors meet monthly, online, via Zoom.

I recently came upon my inaugural speech of July 6, 2021, given at the 22nd National Convention broadcast from the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. In that speech, I thanked Joan Holthe for her tenacity, level-headedness, and leadership ability. No truer words can be spoken. I also reflected upon my words spoken in 2018 in Winnipeg at the 21st National Convention, when I was accepted as your President-elect. I mentioned how I thought that Climate Change could be an issue and that we needed to be mindful of the changes that could be coming. I raised the question, "What can we do now to keep our planet safe for our children and grandchildren?" and that there were many issues that our organization should be looking at from Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Mental Health Awareness and more. It is interesting how things can change so quickly in such a brief period of time. From coast to coast to coast, these concerns affect each of us.

I am most grateful to the Board of Directors, the Outreach Committee & Communications Committee members for taking up the gauntlet and pursuing solutions to those concerns through online workshops, round-table discussions, information sessions, keynote speakers, leadership workshops and so much more.

One of my fondest memories, of which I am grateful for, was the opportunity to represent the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada at the ACWW Triennial Convention in Malaysia to help address issues and concerns at an international level. It was nice to see and meet with so many WI members from across Canada attending there.

I did have the opportunity to meet with some members from across Canada who were able to join in person as well as online at the 2022-2023 AGM which was held at the "Homestead". We had a few technical glitches, a severe thunderstorm, and some great fun as well. Thank you to all that were able to attend.

The 23rd National Convention Planning Committee are working extremely hard to ensure that your visit, in person or online will be a memorable, fun, and exciting time as well.

I am finishing my letter from my Home Office where I wish to thank Lynn MacLean, for her support, tireless hours and outstanding work that she has done as your president-elect and Chair of the Outreach Committee as well as Angela Scott, Communications Chair for the amazing job editing the WI Connections and coordinating with Eleanor Lilley who does a super job with social media. Thank you, ladies, for linking FWIC with our members across Canada! Linda Mason,

FWIC Treasurer and staff member Samantha Schibler for keeping track of the ins and outs of business. Nancy Carubba, Museum Manager has done a super job bringing the story of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, co-founder of the Women's Institutes movement to the public. Her tireless work does not go unnoticed. A debt of gratitude goes out to each of these ladies and to the entire Board of Directors for working on behalf Women's Institutes, because "WI Cares." My family, particularly my husband of 52 years, Lane, who has been my rock, sounding board and most fervent supporter. So, it is with my deepest gratitude that I humbly want to thank you all and look forward to celebrating with you at the 23rd National Convention in Truro, Nova Scotia on September 17 – 19, 2024!

It has been a pleasure and an honour to have been the National President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

Safe travels, keep well.

Yours for Home & Country,

Margaret

I leave you with the same quote that I had recited on July 6, 2021 –

**"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is Success" – Henry Ford**



Ellen's Corner submitted by Dr. Ellen S. McLean

I don't know if it is age related but I am having a difficult time keeping up with time. The end of August is fast approaching. Commercials are for Back to School Sales and Labour Day Sales, and I feel that Canada Day was just a couple of days ago! But I also am very aware that the days are getting shorter, some of the flowers are looking a little tired and the tomatoes are ripening, just some of the indications that summer is coming to an end. Summer 2024 will be remembered as one of heat waves, heat domes, record temperatures, tornados, torrential rains with severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, evacuations from homes and communities with the devastation, heartache and hardships resulting from wild fires, and our hearts go out too all those who have experienced such disasters.



September will be with us and our Nova Scotia Women's Institute members are looking forward to welcoming members from across Canada to our province and the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada convention. It will be very special since that hasn't been our privilege and pleasure since 1994. As the time approaches, I can't help but think back to that time and how much has changed since then. In 1994 we met at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Using all the facilities from the residences, the dining hall and the gym for the meeting sessions. A.C., as we always called it no longer exists, it is now Dalhousie University's Faculty of Agriculture. At that time our provincial office was at the College, and this was our W.I. home. It was a time before the use of the Internet, and there were a lot of phone calls and letters. I remember that all registrations were sent to the office, but a couple of times a week I would drive to the office and pick up all those letters and look after registering the participants and sending by Canada Post acknowledgement that the registration was received. If I remember correctly there were about three hundred and fifty registered for the whole event, plus a number of day visitors. And my memory also recalls that it was a great convention!

But that was back then and now it is 2024. Our provincial units have had their annual general meetings or conventions, and I am sure that we are all facing the same challenges. I have to be very honest and confess that I came home from our convention earlier this month trying hard to be positive and full of hope.

But hearing that more Branches have disbanded this past year and though there are some Branches that have acquired new members, others have not. I try to decide why is this happening. Is it because the trend is the same for most organizations like the WI, whether it be in the church, the Fire Department auxiliary, or the retired teachers' association, the Local Council of Women. to mention a few. And then I speculate about who in our community is going to do the things that our WIs do if they are no longer there. I hope that there will be some time at our upcoming Convention for us to discuss this as we plan for the next three years.

And of course, if we have fewer Branches and fewer members in our provinces this has an impact on our national organization. I regret that my return to my corner after the summer has a sad note, but I can assure you that I am looking forward to meeting in person rather than virtually for our convention. We have so much to celebrate. I recently received a brochure from the Canadian Red Cross asking for a much-needed donation and volunteers. Words on that brochure immediately made me think of our Women's Institutes in the past and moving forward, "Women are stronger together: join us and make a lasting impact".

CIAID MILE FAILTE. ONE THOUSAND WELCOMES TO NOVA SCOTIA!

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Sailing Into the Future With a Recipe For Success

Bring your RECIPE to Nova Scotia!



Do you have a favorite recipe? Want to share it? What is the story behind the recipe?

If you are attending the National Convention in Truro this September, please bring the recipe on a small card. There will be an opportunity to share your recipe during the convention and the recipes will be collected.

23RD NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024 VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Have you attended a FWIC national conference in the past?

Would you like to attend again but are concerned about being away from home?

The solution is to attend virtually. A technology company has been engaged to ensure that our online participants will be able to see and hear. You can choose to attend one day or both

Cost is \$40/day.

The Virtual Attendance form is available on the FWIC website.

**The last day to register for virtual attendance
is September 15, 2024**

Addressing Food Waste

submitted by Marie Kenny, ACWW Area Canada President

Did you know: Working together can reduce food waste?

Give this a Try: As students head back to school, working together in selecting, preparation, and packing lunch can be a way to reduce food waste. Over the summer when doing picnics with our grandchildren, I have found when they helped me get the items together and prepare them there was a lot less food waste than if I prepared and just served a picnic lunch. People tend to like things they helped make and children are no different. And, the best part is all the laughter and fun as you enjoy the time together.



Some lunch box tips from lovefoodhatewaste.ca

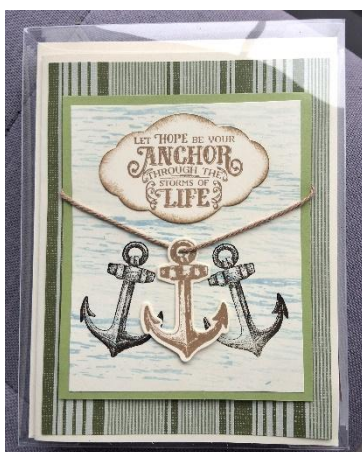
- Pack reusable containers with lunch and have children bring home leftover food and drinks. Asking why some food went uneaten will help you offer the right foods in the right amounts next time.
- Sometimes small changes like cutting foods into smaller pieces can make a lunch more appealing.

Thank you for working on this ACWW Resolution, I know that even the smallest steps will make a significant difference.

FWIC AUCTION ITEMS at FWIC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024

FWIC will hold its annual auction during the National Convention in September in Truro, Nova Scotia. This will be a "Penny Auction". You can buy a length of tickets and put them in the bucket beside the item.

Pictured below are some of the items that will be available

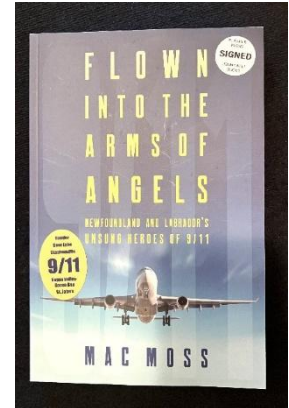


6 pack of mixed nautical cards, blank inside





Left-Six placemats yellow with blue printed material
Right- signed copy of book Flown Into the Arms of Angels.



Left- Anne of Green Gables Chocolates, square tablecloth and a miniature tea set.



Right- Summer tote bag



.Left- Square tablecloth, Anne of Green Gables chocolates and Laura Secord tea bottle and boxes of tea.

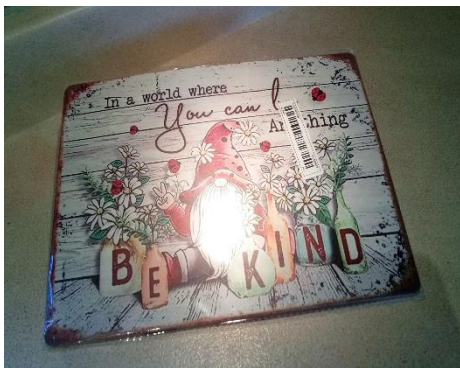
Right; Jean Bag with NLDog on Front and decorative pocket on back.

The bag is lined with NLTartan.





Left: Wallet and change purse
Right: Slate Nova Scotia coasters



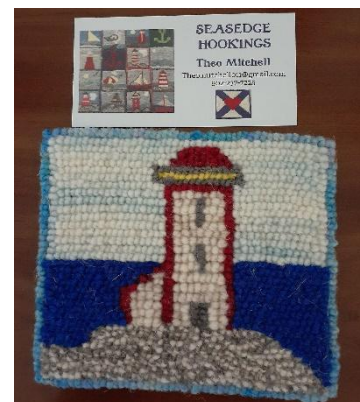
Left: "Be Kind" sign



Right: What a wonderful World Sign



Left: Anne of Green Gables Chocolates, square tablecloth and a fancy plate.



Right: Seaside Hooking – lighthouse



Placemats from Quebec: a set of 4 placemats with a small centrepiece with a sea coats theme. They are washable and can go in the dryer.

A tote bag, 15" x 16", fully lined with an inside pocket, double zippered pocket outside, and a zippered top closure. Made of embroidered denim with a vinyl bottom. The bag is also washable but because of the vinyl can't go in the dryer.



It is a small, quilted blanket for either a baby or as a lap throw. It is 36" x 45", with cotton on the top and fleece on the back. It is washable and can go in the dryer.

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Update,

submitted by Marie Kenny, Area Canada President. canada@acww.org.uk



I hope this finds you well and enjoying the cooler evening with their magnificent sunsets. Cecil and I have been enjoying watching our grandchildren preparing for the upcoming school year ahead; some heading off to University to being classes, others to numerous levels learning from Kindergarten to High School. Having twenty grandchildren certainly gives us the joy of experiencing many seasons of education, and friendships.



On August 7 and 8th I attended the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia Provincial Convention. The Theme was "Learning, Sharing and Improving the Quality of Life for All." Margie Taylor, ACWW Society Coordinator for WINS and I did a shared presentation on the many aspects of the work of ACWW including a video presentation on ACWW Projects. It was an interesting, exciting and inspiring couple of days. Congratulations to Jacqueline Melvin on a wonderful convention and the very best wishes to new President Margie Taylor and her Board. I look forward to our continued working together! September 17-19 I will be attending the FWIC/WI Canada Triennial Convention. This will also be in Nova Scotia. I am delighted to be invited as part of the Convention Agenda. FWIC/WI Canada is a category one society of ACWW. ACWW Coordinator continue to meet the third Saturday of each month, beginning in October the schedule will invert back to the original plan where Coordinators and their Area President will have opportunity to meet separately to share information, updates, and concerns.

In working together, we will continue to empower women to take their place in decision-making in their communities, promote the rights of all women, and be a supportive network for knowledge sharing.





FWIC WI CANADA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know that FWIC has a YouTube Channel? Here you will find all the online events that have been held over the last three years.

To access it, open YouTube on any device and in the search bar type in FWIC WI Canada. Scroll down until you find the FWIC crest (shown below). Click on the symbol and it will show the ten videos we have published over the last three years.



The most recent video from FWIC WI Canada is Agriculture in the Classroom and Food Waste which was recorded on April 29, 2024. It is about an hour in length. It contains great info on how BC does Agriculture in the Classroom as well tips on how to reduce Food Waste.

For quick access to the latest video, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/q38SnwP8k98>

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead submitted by Nancy Carubba

DATE/TIME	EVENT	WHAT TO EXPECT	COST
Sat. Aug 3 rd 10:30 am - noon	Creative Writing 101	Writer In Residence Dr. Michael Williams leads a creative writing techniques class. Learn the craft of writing from a published author.	\$35.00 includes instructor led workshop and home baked treats and coffee.
Mon – Fri. Aug 5 th to Aug 9 th 8:45am – 3:00pm	Kids Day Camp: A heritage homestead where kids are free to explore nature and history. For kids age 6-10yrs old.	Drop off at 8:45 am begins a fun day that includes: kids pioneer activities, outdoor games and adventure. Guest instructors on nature, theatre and music, a creative craft and awesome snacks and refreshments.	\$200.00 per week per child. Register at the Homestead.
Sat. Aug 10 th 10:30 am - noon	Modern Day Homesteading – peach and pear preserves.	Amy from “Our Old Farm” shows us a modern take on traditional preserving. Take home your preserves.	\$35.00 Includes supplies, snacks & refreshments
Thurs. Aug 15 th 7:00pm – 9pm	Ave. of Music concert at the AHHH pavilion.	Come and enjoy the music of Matt Campbell! Bring your own lawn chair and stay for a bonfire.	\$10.00 per adult. Kids free. Tickets through Eventbrite or the Homestead.
Fri. Aug 23 rd Doors Open at 6:00pm Event from 6:30pm – 8:30pm	Meet Celebrity Chef Melinda Paletta Host of “Da Butcher’s Daughter” & “Basil & Sage TV” Cooking Shows.	Chef Melinda will share her love of “Southern Style Comfort Cooking.” Enjoy a casual three course family style dinner and refreshments followed by live guitar music and a bonfire.	\$55.00 per person Tickets on Eventbrite or email info@adelaidehoodless.ca

DATE/TIME	EVENT	WHAT TO EXPECT	COST
Sun. Aug 25 th 2:00pm – 3:30pm	Doggie Fashion Show and Pet Photography. Registered doggies will compete in an outdoor canine fashion show and will be judged to win prizes. Located at the Homestead Pavilion	A panel of judges will judge doggies on their “swag and wag” to select a winner who will be awarded a great prize. A professional photographer is on hand for pet photography. Pictures can be viewed on a digital gallery	\$20.00 registration fee. Registers your dog and includes photographer’s sitting fee. Audience tickets \$10 / adult. Kids free. Tickets through Eventbrite or through the Homestead.



Other Revenue

Date/Time	Event for rental
Aug 10,17,24	Sat morning yoga
Aug 5, 12,19,26	Monday evening line dancing
Aug. 24th	Local union retirees’ picnic
There were 15 tours conducted in Aug 2024 (since last report)	

Other Activities

- Thank you, letters are being, delivered to the donators for the St George wall mural that features Adelaide Hunter Hoodless.
- The Fall 2024 program is being finalized.
- The Brant County Manager of Tourism and Heritage, Zach Gable and the new Heritage officer met with Nancy and Margaret for an assessment of “pain points” as a follow up for the new Brant County Heritage strategy launched in March 2024. We had an open, transparent and productive discussion.
- The AHHH has approval to investigate promoting itself as a venue for weddings on wedding wire. North America’s biggest wedding event sites. Nancy met by phone with wedding wire and learned that (although officiants pay \$93 per month to have a promotional page) venues have to pay \$300/month. This cost is because wedding venue’s are the highest searchable parameter and make the most profit from weddings. A venue also must pay for a year/ month to month agreements are not possible. This restriction is cost prohibitive. We as a not-for-profit organization can get a “free page” but it is not assigned an algorithm which means it will only show up on a search if a searcher looks for it by name. The adapted strategy includes that Nancy’s officiant page be modified to offer the homestead by name as a potential venue. We can start the free page and promote links to it on social media.

Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada

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“ How can there be too many children? That is like saying there are too many flowers. ”

St. Teresa of Calcutta

EWTN.com