

WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

President's Message



To Improve is to change
To be perfect is to change often.

Winston Churchill

Joan Holtke, President

Spring!

New season, new life, new ideas for growth for our organization are on the way.

This is the start of a busy season, for everyone, I am sure, but please take time to watch the birds fly back, and the dandelions grow. Before I am off to check cows and see the babies pop out and enjoy the warm sunshine, I want to share some upcoming information with you.

Ladies I hope you all had an enjoyable, safe Easter with friends and family in your bubble. I imagine you have noticed an e-mail in your mailbox from FWIC that itemizes the resolutions to be passed at our upcoming triennial/AGM. You cannot imagine the flurry of e-mails and zoom calls, that Jill Copes and Lynn MacLean have shared. I am awed by their perseverance and dedication to get it "done right", this time. Especially for the compilation of the new constitutional/by-law wording. Time is flying and it will be time for me to compile an agenda and begin gathering reports for a triennial wrap up.

Just three months before an AGM and information will soon be circulated regarding resolutions to be passed, so watch for that in your mailboxes. Provinces will be looking for ten voting delegates each to represent them at our virtual program. Information will be circulated right away, and the reports from the provincial presidents, representatives, committees, and auditors will be available, hopefully, by mid June. Be honest about what is happening in your province because it would be appropriate that this disastrous year be recorded for posterity. A great group is making plans for those special days ahead. If there are questions or concerns about the handouts sent previously, please don't hesitate to call.

Recipe For Living

Submitted by Judy Page Jones

Measure life's shortenings, worries, hates and fears:

Especially those seasoned with tears.

Crush them into pieces so small, that a teaspoon of hope will cover them all.

Mix fresh eggs from the "Dove of Peace", with the milk of kindness and lightly beat.

And now the flower from your garden rare, dampened with charity, love, and prayer.

Assemble your contents with tender care...then place in the container of everyday wear.

For topping you must add sugar and spice; equal portion of courage and laughter is nice.

And to make this recipe really outstanding - bake slowly in the flame of true understanding.



Thank - you Margaret!

For the past few years Margaret Byl our President Elect has worked tirelessly on a special project called the New Horizons for Seniors – Learning from Our Elders.

After countless organizing hours she was able to organize over 19 workshops, many of which are permanently available via You Tube and Facebook.

Margaret, we salute you and say...

Well done! You rock Margaret!

Community, Culture & Heritage Committee - April, 2021 Update

Triennial Tweedsmuir Competitions & Senator Cairine Wilson Competition

Thank you for all of the submissions for the Tweedsmuir & Senator Cairine Wilson Competitions. The Committee will meet by zoom in the near future to judge the competitions.

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman Of The Year Award - This premier national award of Women's Institutes celebrating the achievements of Canada's most inspirational and influential woman recognize some of the top female leaders in Canada. The winner will be announced by President Joan shortly.

The New Horizon's For Seniors Grant Wrap-Up

22 events were planned, 19 events took place between December 2019 and March 30, 2021. On March 27th. COVID - 19 helped us to reach out to people across Canada through virtual means.

Our wrap-up event, in support of Food Security & Home Container Gardening was presented by Donna Jebb, ACWW Ag Committee & FWIO member spoke on Food Security and the ACWW/ United Nations sustainable goals. Donna gave a wonderful presentation on container gardening (which plants are recommended, those that are not & fertilizers and soil recommendations).

ACWW Deputy World President Alison Burnett also joined in with some comments before she headed off to bed (it was well past midnight in Scotland). President Joan introduced videos about "How to plant Herbs and Veggies in Containers" by Marianne Rice, Hillside Gardens; and "Planting Herbs and Edible plants". Videos are being uploaded to our YouTube Channel Adelaide Hoodless as they become edited. Links will also be posted to Facebook pages as they become available. @adelaidehoodless and @WomensInstitutes I would encourage you to like our pages and YouTube videos and our website www.fwic.ca

Watch for more updates on our website!



Thank you to the Government of Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Grant for making this series of #LifeHacks events possible. Special thanks to Fay Van Horn (Antipasto); Irene Gut, (Encaustic Art) WINS (Kokedama); Barb Stones, FWIO (How to repurpose Heirloom Doilies); Linda Toews, AWI (Acrylic Landscape Painting); PEI WI, Hearts and Flowers Florists (Colours of Spring); and Donna Jebb, FWIO/ACWW; Marianne Rice, Hillside Gardens and Pearl De prez (Food Security & Container Gardening who presented a recent "Learning from our Elders" workshops in 2021. We would like

to thank the attendees from across Canada and afar. Your feedback has been very positive! Joanna Rickert-Hall and our volunteers are also recognized for their parts making this programme a success.

Our National Project – “Hearth is where the Home is” will continue with programing after the end of the New Horizons Grant and welcomes your suggestions.

WI Canada Premium Packages are on sale now on our website, www.fwic.ca. *Support FWIC/WI CANADA and purchase your premium package today!* \$45.00 Value for only \$20.00.

You get a WI Canada Pin, a *Virtual On-line Tarot Reading Gift Certificate for your entertainment, WI Canada Pen, an Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Booklet, an Adelaide Hunter Homestead Post Card and a *Program Membership Card*. FWIC/WI Canada supports the member provinces by giving 2% of net received to Province of Residence of the purchaser! Send your cheque to:

FWIC, 359 Blue Lake Road, PO Box 209, St. George, ON N0E 1N0

On behalf of the Community, Culture & Heritage Committee: Miriam Lank, Glenna Smith, Dianne Dammann and Margaret Byl, we wish you good health. Wear a mask and stay safe!

New Horizons for Seniors

#LIFEHACKS
THANKS TO
THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

"A Learning from our Elders"

The collage features numerous flyers for events such as:

- What's in YOUR Garden: the Healing Power of Plants
- Food Security & Container Home Gardening
- Showing HOLIDAY TRADITIONS with Nancy Langner
- Hearts and Flours: Colours of Spring Floral Arrangements
- History of a Science - The Phlogiston Experiment & Table Toppling
- ADDIE'S CELTIC CHRISTMAS
- Acrylics Workshop: Learn How to Paint a Landscape with Acrylics
- PSYCHIC & WELLNESS FAIR
- 1 Volunteer Tea & Free Leaf Bookings
- Decorate with Doodles
- SPRIT PHOTOGRAPHY
- Kokedama: Learn to Make your Own
- READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS? CRAFT SHOW & BAZAAR!
- HOW TO MAKE NON-MEDICAL FACE MASKS
- AN AFTERNOON WITH RAPTORS
- LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN
- LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN
- LEARN TO MAKE YOUR OWN

Hearth is where the Home is

Spring is here, warm weather can mean “spring cleaning” to do away with all the dirt and grime of winter. What was spring cleaning like in the 1900’s at the Homestead. It would probably have meant taking up the carpets and putting on outside clothes lines and beating them with a special instrument a “carpet beater”. Also, the drapes would have been taken down and along with some furniture to be put outside to be disinfected by the sunshine. Today our cleaning is easier with vacuums (even robot ones), steam cleaners for the carpets and even other machines that can wash the floors. What about the products we use today, a lot of them contain chemicals that can be harmful to the environment? What was used in the 1900’s? Maybe something like the recipes, I have, the first two were used by my Mother. Keep in spray containers.

Window Wash: 1 cup rubbing alcohol, ½ cup vinegar, 2 T. dish soap and ½ cup water.

Regular cleaner: ½ cup vinegar, ¼ cup ammonia, 1 T. cornstarch, ¼ cup rubbing alcohol, 6 C water, mix well.

I have a book published by the FWIO, 1994 called “Environmentally Friendly Hints from Ontario WI.” Maybe it should be republished with updates.

It also has a **cleaning recipe:** 50 ml baking soda, 250 ml ammonia, 125 ml white vinegar and 4 L water. Please make sure if you are using ammonia do not mix it with other cleaners, especially bleach. It can cause a dangerous gas.



Picture 3: Pictou District holds the Women Walk the World event as part of their Spring meeting (pre-COVID).

Hearth is Where the Home Is- What is Your Story? Submitted by Lynn MacLean

It has been over a year since we found our world turned upside down. COVID-19 requirements brought self-isolation, changing how we lived, worked, and socialized. Abruptly the trip to visit the grandchildren or to see Grandma could not happen. Many employed found their workplace was now a corner in their homes while others suddenly were no longer employed. Of course, the adults were not the only ones who found themselves at home as schools and day cares were also shut down. Now what? How do you manage to work from home, help children with their online learning, or look after the little ones and still be fully focused on that online meeting?

Does this sound like your experience? Have you ever thought about how families and societies coped in the last pandemic? Unfortunately, there is little recorded on the Pandemic from 1918-1920 so we really do not know about the experiences of families or even of our WI Branches. The Project Committee wants to ensure that for this Pandemic a record is kept of the experiences of our members and their families. Taking the form of an e-book, it will record the challenges and the opportunities we have experienced. We also would like to share the stories of these challenges in *WI Connections*.

To have a complete picture we also need to hear about the challenges that our members experienced, not just about the baking and the projects, but of the hardships and struggles that were experienced. Help us make sure we have a complete picture of our time during the Pandemic. Please send your story to info@fwic.ca for *WI Connections* or to judyqwi@gmail.com to be included in the e-book.

What part of Mary Stewart Collect speaks to you? Submitted by Angela Scott

For decades WI Canada and each provincial WI has recited the Mary Stewart Collect. Last month our past president and scholar Dr. Ellen McLean wrote about the collect and I asked for people to note the part of the collect that resonated most with them.

Mary Stewart Collect

*Keep us O Lord from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word and deed
 Let us be done with fault finding and leave off self-seeking
 May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face,
 Without self-pity and without prejudice
 May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous
 Let us take time for all things:
 Make us grow calm, serene, and gentle
 Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid
 Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences;
 That in the big things of life we are one
 And may we strive to touch and know the great human heart common to us all,
 And O Lord, God, let us not forget to be kind.*

Here are your comments...

Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one. The little things each Club can do certainly can make a big difference for others anywhere in the World.. And We are all United as one in making changes.

This is the sentence that I like. Faye Cantelo, Eldon WI..

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Given the fact that the Mary Stewart “Collect” was written in 1904, I am taken with the reference to “without prejudice” — an issue that remains so topical in 2021, some 117 years later. These words make me to wonder how much real progress has been made within our so-called “civilized” society.

No doubt, I will be deemed a minority in my second observation – specifically, the word “collect” and the interchanging thereof with the word “prayer”. In all likelihood, the word “collect” in 1904 was intended to mean a “compilation” (of thoughts) or perhaps a “plea” for compassion and understand. I wonder if the inclusion of the religious reference to “lord” and “god” might not have simply been a means of pacifying the religious overtones of the early 20th century. I also question whether the reference to “lord” and to “god” continues to be appropriate in the 21st century that is purported to be an age of cultural, social, and religious diversity. Diana Lariviere, PEI

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In response to your request concerning the Mary Stewart Collect . I think that “Teach us to put into action our better impulses straight forward and unafraid”, means a lot, as many times it takes courage and foresight to enable us to initiate projects etc. which are sometimes met with opposition.

One time I was at a provincial W.I. provincial convention and happened to be sitting beside a new branch member, She revealed to me that she had been invited to a W.I. meeting in the hope that she would join . She said the words of the “Mary Stewart Collect” which was repeated at the opening of the meeting made her decide to join! Louise MacLeod, [Life Member of Uigg-Kinross-Grandview W.I.] Prince Edward Island.

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“THAT IN THE BIG THINGS OF LIFE WE ARE ONE” reflects to me about WI challenges we face today to survive with our effective programs. WI stands strong with volunteers that donate physically and monetarily for home & country. Our worldwide, non-profit, organization remains humble without expecting a return; only the personal satisfaction in achieving our goals together. Joan Mansell, Yarmouth Glen Branch, Elgin District - Southern Area

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I have always enjoyed reading the Mary Stewart Collect. The lines that mean the most to me are: May we never be hasty in judgement And always generous. We never know what has taken place completely in someone's life. So, when something happens, or something is said we shouldn't be judgemental of the actions of others but accept them for who they are and be generous with our feelings towards them.

It is indeed a beautiful reading from start to finish. Jose Poole, Vernon, ON W.I.

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My line is " May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous". This covers some ways we sometimes let our thoughts wonder toward?... And even our actions may indicate at times the wrong impressions. Yours in WI Delores

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Hope all is well with you during these trying times. My name is Nellie Moss from Gander, Newfoundland & Labrador. I am the secretary of Gander Branch Women's Institute & also a Board Member of the Newfoundland & Labrador Women's Institute. I enjoy the weekly updates of FWIC's Newsletter & forward them on to members of our WI Branch.

The section of the Mary Stewart Collect that really resonates with me is "and O Lord God let us not forget to be kind". These are meaningful words we can practice in our daily lives and especially now during COVID 19. The COVID 19 updates in our province, and indeed, across Canada, always stress the importance of spreading KINDNESS & not the VIRUS. Stay safe. Yours in WI-Nellie Moss, Gander Branch WI

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I have some thoughts - The lines, "Keep us O Lord from pettiness." Truly relevant as I sometimes find we are often easily offended by some unintended slight or even mishear what someone said. I think we can be kinder and more forgiving to everyone. This is also related to the lines, "Let us be done with fault finding." We all have faults and reminds me of the bible story about removing the timber from your own eye before you remove the splinter from your neighbour's eye, or let the first among you who is sinless, cast the first stone. So many thoughtful lines in the Mary Stewart Collect. Have a good day. Elaine Smith, Motherwell W I member in South Perth District

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The Mary Stewart Collect expresses a lifestyle philosophy we can all try to emulate. For me, "without prejudice" and "let us not forget to be kind" have always been important goals to incorporate in my life, especially during my nursing career. Florence Butcher, Codrington WI, Trent Valley Area

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For me personally I like the phrase below as it resonates with me: Teach us to put into action our better impulses – straight forward and unafraid. One thing that WI has taught me is confidence and being surrounded by members who support ideas we can accomplish a lot as a group and improve the lives of many in our community. Blessings- Chandra, Hillsborough WI, NB

Thank-you everyone for your comments, and as an extra we are able to offer you a skit prepared by Ruth Ann Robinson, a member of the Hillsborough WI, Hillsborough NB. Please watch the website and your e-mails for your copy.

Ellen's Corner

Ellen McLean has been an active WI member for close to seventy years. Over that time, she has served in many roles including President of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and President of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). Testimony to her excellent leadership and service, Ellen has received a honorary doctorate degree from St. Francis Xavier University, been inducted to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, received the Order of Canada as well as being the first recipient of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year.



A few days after I had sent off my March "Corner" I was thinking about April and what my musings might be. Then I received the March "Connections" and read Angela's challenge to us about the Mary Stewart Collect. Her challenge made us really contemplate which line has helped us the most, which line reminds us of who we are or who we wished we could be. Perhaps you are like me, there is no one line, the whole Collect is so meaningful and I need it all.

I was pleased to hear from some of you about the Collect. Interesting that Elizabeth Rushton, Alberta, remembers getting copies from the FWIC National Office of the two pages I had found in my "poking around". Dianne Kowalchuk, long time Editor of the Manitoba WI Newsletter sent me an article she had written in 2011 entitled "Is the Mary Stewart Collect Still Relevant?". She mentions how rural communities have changed, how our members have changed, and the fact that our Women's Institutes are non sectarian. And then she poses the question "Does the Collect still have a place in the Women's Institute to-day?". I have no problem answering that question. Whatever our faith, or no faith, the world would be far more peaceful if there

were more people who could live those lines. And wouldn't that question make an excellent topic for a debate in our Branches or Districts?

The 1953 History of the Associated Country Women of the World has a Section II entitled "History of the Constituent Societies". The Country Women's Association in Tasmania writes in the final paragraph "Peace will come only when there is complete friendship and understanding among peoples of the world; to realize that each must make a contribution to that end when she can say with her heart as well as with her lips the Association's Collect which is repeated at every meeting:

Let us, O Lord, achieve the nobler purpose
For which we live –that others may be blest.
Save us from pettiness and all self-seeking;
Teach us to seek, to find, to give the best,
Let us be genuine with one another,
And seek in each the best that we can find.
So many lives depend on ours for brightness.
Lord. Keep us brave, and help us to be kind."

The North Carolina Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs writes: "The training, as well as

the inspiration that a woman has received through Home Demonstration work, has developed poise, dependability, and the ability to inspire others. She now presides over meetings in an efficient manner, talks in public, and guides the thinking of others in her community. The Collect of Club Women of America is our prayer” . What follows is Mary Stewart’s 1904 version of the Collect.

Dianne Kowalcchuk ends her article “ the Mary Stewart Collect is a description of who we are and a blueprint of who we wish to be. There can be no greater epithet for a W.I. woman than to say “She lived the words of the Mary Stewart Collect”.

Report from BCWI Representative Submitted by Jill Copes

BCWI meets once a month via Zoom. We have been meeting virtually since 2012 except for two meetings a year until last year when Covid-19 changed everything. This has not slowed us down in any way. We are still actively working on two resolutions passed at our last AGM. Working with governments is a slow process when they keep passing the buck. The first resolution was dealing with compostable doggy bags. We are seeing an increase of these bags in various stores. On the other hand it has been disappointing when Covid hit that several stores would only allow unused bags; therefore, undermining what already had been in place to stop the use of plastic grocery bags.

The second resolution is requesting our Provincial Government to adopt legislation to allow the use of Water Cremation/Aquamation. Presently, our government only allows cremation by heat. Since Covid, there has been an increase in the mortality rate in the major cities and morgues are having a difficult time in keeping up. This new process would be beneficial in handling burials in a timelier manner and it is more environmentally friendly.

At the 2019 FWIC Annual General Meeting, BC passed out a resolution to all the Provinces regarding Rape Kits. BC is now reviewing this as it has come to our attention that 40% of hospitals nation wide don’t have rape kits with trained staff to administer them and in BC it is 30%. We need to promote more training for forensic nurses and have these kits available.

BCWI is hosting its Annual General Meeting, Saturday, May 29 via Zoom. We have an interesting lady presenting on how to grow dahlias and another lady from Scotland talking about campaigns in the UK. Isn’t it great to be able to invite ladies from all over the world?

On June 7, BCWI is hosting a zoom call regarding how to write a resolution and the steps on how to present to the various level of government.

If you are interested in attending our AGM, please inform the BCWI office bcwi@bcwi.ca for the connection.

WI - Still doing our part, and with diverse events. Submitted by Ellen MacPhail / Prince Edward Island

Women's Institute

One year ago WI's newspaper column referenced Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, a Women's Institute member, after addressing the Commonwealth on the pandemic. Her encouraging and forthright statement declared "In these most difficult times, it is absolutely essential to stay the course, to not get discouraged, and to continue to do our part". Her Majesty's message combined with the direction of the governing bodies of the province have given Women's Institute members a chance to reflect, modify events, and send thanks to those on our Island who have stayed the course this past year.

A year later the provincial board of PEI Women's Institute and their branches have adapted and in some cases expanded their WI related activity. Throughout this past year, WI has stayed strong, and its over 70 branches across PEI developed actions to assist where needed, from making masks to mitts to providing other much needed efforts in communities such as spotlighting those in agriculture. As an example, this month the Dixon family from North Tryon is featured. Eric and Heather Dixon, along with their son Tim and daughter-in-law Sarah Jane of Dixon Farms in North Tryon, raise Angus cattle under the herd name Worth-a-Bit Angus. This past year, branches have also reached milestones of 90 and 100 years of service in the case of Covehead Road WI and Victoria WI.

In PEI's fortunate position of how Islanders responded during this past year, WI continues to mark seasons with upcoming events.

On April 29, branch members invite the general public to take part of the annual Women Walk the World Event. This event is part of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) to bring awareness to its efforts. ACWW brings attention and funds to vital global projects for rural women in over 70 countries.

This walk will connect women around the world by a joint walking activity in their own areas. This year's focus is on friendship and participants are encouraged to send photos for a chance to win prizes by emailing wi@gov.pe.ca or sending via PEI Women's Institute Facebook page. The PEIWI encourages all to walk individually or with branch members, neighbours or new friends on or around April 29 using current provincial health directive guidelines.

The provincial board also invites members of the public to an online Anti-Oppression workshop on April 10 at 2pm. Learn more on how Island residents can assist in communities to understand racism and its effects. The interactive workshop is aimed to better understand and welcome our differences in organizations and communities. Presenters include Dante Bazard, MSc, founding member of BIPOC USHR and Dr. Sobia Ali-Faisal, BIPOC USHR President. Bazard is the first black person to serve on the PEI's Human Rights Commission. Registration for this online event can be done online at peiwi.ca or by emailing: wi@gov.pe.ca.

Other upcoming events include the annual WI Roadside Cleanup on May 8, a WI Zoom Party on May 14, and online Provincial Convention on May 29. The annual Spring Is in the Air Gala Dinner has been replaced with a stay at home event, where anyone interested is welcome to forward their annual donation to PEIWI, and in turn, a combined effort will be sent to the Prince County Hospital. Deadline for donations is April 30.

To close out this month's column, PEI Women's Institute provincial board and its members once again reminds of Her Majesty's words of "We will succeed — and that success will belong to every one of us."



Women Walk the World - A Nova Scotia Perspective

Submitted by Lynn MacLean



The Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) held their first Women Walk the World event in 2012 and in most of the countries, it was one of the coldest, wettest days of the year. Thankfully the first walk held by Pictou District occurred on a cold, but sunny Sunday afternoon where the members walked the athletic track enjoying the fellowship of members from other branches and learning about the work of ACWW.

In 2013, the members from Kings District and one Branch from Hants District met at the Church at the Grand Pré National Historic Site to not only celebrate Women Walk the World but to mark the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia and the 100th anniversary of Martock-Windsor Forks, Port Williams, and Grand Pré Branches. Their Walk was captured in a lovely photo which became the cover of the *The CountryWoman* in 2013.

Pictou District continues to support the Women Walk the World event either as a District event and/or sometimes as a Branch activity. We have held the Walk several times during the Spring District meeting where all members can participate. Past ACWW World President, Dr. Ellen McLean and her Branch, Springville Island WI, often follow their walk with a potluck supper. A great way to hear about WI while enjoying delicious food with friends and family. Lyon's Brook WI has easy access to the Cross Canada Trail and has often taken advantage of this resource in their community. Regardless of how the Walk is organized information is shared on ACWW's work and funds are collected.

If you have not held a Women Walk the World event, we would encourage you to hold one. There are several resources available on the ACWW website, under "Support ACWW" and ACWW can create an online donation page for your group. Where you walk is up to you. It can be on a trail, in a park, around your neighborhood, the Mall, or around your community hall. Last fall, the Lyon's Brook WI and a few members from Caribou WI and MacPherson's Mills WI and some friends joined together to hold the 2020 Women Walk the World event. COVID -19 rules were followed including wearing masks and social distancing. Even with the regulations, we had fun. Why not join the fun and plan event for April 29th, 2021?

By-Law Committee Report

Submitted by Jill Copes and Lynn MacLean

We did it just in time!

Can you believe it took 18 drafts and a year!

All the Provincial WI Offices and FWIC/WI Canada Directors should have received a Special Resolutions package by the time you receive this newsletter. How the package is handled in each province is determined by each Provincial Women's Institutes. Each province has ten votes at the July meeting.

The package contains:

Special Resolution 2021-01 Revised FWIC By-Laws, supporting documents "Comparison of By-Laws 2019 to the Proposed By-Laws" and "Frequently Asked Questions". At a later date, a mail in ballot for Special Resolution 2021-01 with a supporting document on how to complete the mail-in ballot will be sent out with the Registration package. There is also another **Special Resolution 2021-02** Increase of per capita fee for the provincial and territorial units. This will be voted on at the AGM.

You are probably asking why do we need an increase in dues at a time like this? To begin with, FWIC has not had an increase in fees from the Provincial Women's Institutes since 2002 and expenditures have continued to increase such as building maintenance, utilities, and wages. Since January 2021, due to lack of funding, the Office has been without an administrator and this has been a challenge to the Executive especially the

President and President-Elect. This Special Resolution would increase the dues from \$5.00 to \$7.50 and would come into effect February 1, 2023. Fortunately, FWIC has been able to take advantage of the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which has provided much needed funds to help pay the bills. At the last Board meeting, a motion was passed to investigate selling the Homestead as the upkeep is a financial burden. In fact, this cannot be accomplished unless grants are obtained which takes a great deal of time and with no guarantee of success. A sincere thanks to President Joan and President-Elect Margaret who have applied for grants; however, we continue to wait to see if any of the applications are successful. A discussion on the Homestead will be held during the Annual General Meeting in July.

Thank you to everyone for your input and comments on the Proposed By-Laws; we incorporated your suggestions where we could but if there was more than one point of view, a decision was made on what worked best. Without your help we could not have accomplished this huge undertaking.

Federated Women's Institutes Of Ontario

KINGSTON AREA

Kingston Area WI in the Eastern Region of Ontario consists of Leeds-Grenville District on the east, major city, Brockville; Frontenac District in the middle, major city Kingston; and Lennox & Addington District on the west, major town, Napanee. L-G has 5 Branches, Frontenac, 6, L&A 6 with a membership of 211.

Leeds-Grenville

The theme at the L-G District Annual in May 2019 was 'Kitchen Shower', and the guest speaker spoke passionately on a topic that is very current. Ashley Lawrence teaches Nutrition Studies at Athens District High School, and her class is so popular there is a waiting list. She would love to see them in all high schools. Her pilot project has proven that there is a need.

With the help of local businesses, an unused kitchen in the high school was outfitted with new fridges, stoves and work islands.

The students have baked breakfast foods like pancakes and muffins, and served them to delighted classes. Family members even got involved when they held a marathon baking session to raise funds.

At the District Annual the tables were decorated with unique centrepieces of colourful kitchen utensils which were donated to Ashley.

Frontenac

September 8, 2018 was the first ever WI Area Rose Session, an all-day Sewing Bee in support of the Canada Comforts Society. WI members and friends from six counties participated in this labour of love at the South Frontenac Community Centre (Grace Centre). Linda Bates, Kingston Area and Frontenac District president organized the event. Tables were set up with sewing machines and sergers; patterns were shared; seams were ironed; finishing touches were hand sewn. A team inspected the finished products which were then counted, vacuum sealed and packed in boxes.

The goal was 400 items, but along with previously collected items including over 100 crocheted or knitted washcloths there were blankets, quilts, bibs, shorts, dresses, skirts, blouses, underwear, socks, elastic and yarn for an impressive total of 943.

It was a full day of happy chatter and everyone was honoured to be a part of giving back. Linda presented each participant with a carnation in appreciation.

Lennox & Addington

L&A District borrowed Prince Edward Island WI's campaign idea to collect feminine hygiene products for the month of February. We named ours 'Women's Matters Campaign'. Napanee Gray's IDA sponsored the drive, and matched all the

products donated with their Atoma brand. The enthusiastic sales staff at two locations decorated large boxes to attract attention.

The local MyFm radio station and Napanee Beaver promoted the campaign, and our mayor Marg Isbester even shared it on facebook. The response was really gratifying considering we got a late start due to the COVID lockdown.

Nearly 300 feminine hygiene and personal care items were collected, and they were divided between Morningstar Relief Mission and the Salvation Army.

We hope to make this an annual event.

L&A District WI also continues to provide Books, Blankets and Bears to the Greater Napanee Emergency Services and to L&A County General Hospital.

Photo: District president Valerie Smith in the middle with IDA staff Rhonda Kronk and Colleen Knapp (l-r) and the many boxes of items collected and matched.



Newfoundland and Labrador Women's Institute submitted by Elizabeth Young

Greetings from Newfoundland and Labrador. Covid-19 has presented many challenges and changes. The NLWI Ladies continue to do their best to meet these challenges by being flexible and creative. They can be proud of their efforts as they continue to work toward bettering the lives of our citizens as they promote indispensable services, such as volunteering and donating to local food banks, serving, and contributing to school lunch programs, assisting with children's groups when needed, etc.

The NLWI encourages programs of social, educational, and service features. We are proud, dedicated, vibrant, and colourful organization and part of the Newfoundland and Labrador culture.

The organization has responded to the needs of its members and people within rural and urban communities of our province from the beginning and continues to do so during these trying times. They work on various programs and projects which benefits the residents of our communities. The branches have a varied and rich history in our province. Each branch and district works and volunteers in projects and programs that benefits others and themselves. Their work ethic, concerns, and energy are to be commended as they meet the needs and challenges to advance their areas.

Our ladies are presently participating in weaving, rug hooking, sewing, quilting, and other various projects. I would like to once again pass along the disappointment our ladies feel about the FWIC/ACWW conventions being cancelled for June 2021 in our province. We were very much looking forward to hosting the convention but with the current global climate it would be impossible for such a gathering to occur because of the Covid-19 restrictions set out by our provincial government regulations.





2020 fall Women Walk the World. Lyon's Brook WI and others. Nova Scotia

Next Month in WI Connections

- ✓ ACWW Women Walk the World – April 29th, 2021
- ✓ July 2021 National Convention Registration
- ✓ Cross Canada Provincial Check In
- ✓ Feedback from Branches & Members



WI Canada FWIC

- Joan Holthe, President
- Margaret Byl, President Elect
- Jill Copes, BC Executive
- Linda Mason, AB Executive
- Lynn MacLean, NS Executive
- Karen Gerwing, SK
- Denise Joss, MB
- Mary Shortt, ON
- Judy Page Jones QC
- Angela Scott, NB
- Miriam Lank, PE
- Elizabeth Young NL

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