

WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



President's Message

Joan Holtke, President

Well, here we are, the nasty 2020 is all wrapped up and now we are on to better days ahead.

Women's Institutes business begins for another year and it is my hope that branches are able to take care of the business at hand in their communities. You will see in this issue, announcements for W.I. Month, new deadlines allocated for competitions and awards, and some upcoming promotions. There is anticipation of no relaxation of gathering rules, at this point, so in order to share the warmth and purpose of our organization, I would like to plan a zoom program in honour of W.I. Month, tentatively to be held on February 19. It would be great to have provincial involvement, so please be prepared to share ideas to assist with enhancing this special event. Onward and upward, I say!

Join us....



Fay Van Horn

Workshop on Preserves - Antipasto.

Saturday, January 23rd at 2 pm ET

Zoom Virtual Workshop

Please register by Friday the 22nd January at

outreach@adelaidelhoodless.ca or info@fwic.ca

New Horizons for Seniors

#Life Hacks Series

"Learning from our Elders"



What is your Branch planning for WI Month?

Often known as “founder’s month” and part of the nationally commemorated Canadian Heritage Month, February is the perfect time to celebrate as WI Month, since the inaugural meeting of WI was held on February 19th, 1897.

Ideas for celebrating WI Month:

- WI Education Night/Afternoon on leadership training
- Hold a quiz on WI history.
- WI Tea or Coffee party with commemorative cake
- Shining a light in member’s windows
- Contact local government and have the date letter read at next meeting to commemorate WI Month.
- Host a Zoom meeting and moderate the topic...where can WI Go Next?
- Participate in Canada wide WI Zoom meeting celebrating WI Month (Feb 19th, 2021) Invites to come soon.

Congratulations!

Congratulations LAURA GREEN for winning the won \$5,000.00 FWIC/WI Canada lottery prize on December 12th with ticket number 0543! Laura is a WI Member from Embro, Ontario.



Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket in support of FWIC/WI Canada and our future programming!



Save the Date...

WI Canada FWIC & ACWW

ACWW Canada Area President, Linda Hoy and I wish to inform you that our June plans to visit Newfoundland in conjunction with FWIC Triennial and ACWW Canada Area Conference have been cancelled and the decision has been made to hold virtual meetings on the following dates:

FWIC – July 5 – 6, 2021

ACWW – July 12 – 13, 2021

It was a very hard decision to make, but in light of Covid 19 restriction, the committees felt that it would be the most safe and sensible thing to do. A concerted effort will be made to make both conferences informing, interesting, yet fun to attend.

We both thank you for your kind acceptance of this decision.

Yours For Home and Country

Joan Holthe, President FWIC & Linda Hoy, President ACWW Canada Area President



Prince Edward Island Women's Institute Report

The provincial board of WI and its over 70 branches are meeting the new year with caution yet renewed optimism with planning in various areas over the next few months.

Health directives permitting, the next provincial WI event will take place on Founder's Month in February. This day and month is set aside to celebrate the formation of WI, where PEI will be celebrating over a century of service from when the first branch began in PEI in 1911. It is anticipated the annual celebration will take place simultaneously on Tuesday, February 16, from 1-3pm, at three locations (Vernon River, Charlottetown and Summerside). The event will be both in person and online. Topics include agriculture, starting a new life in Canada from a newcomer perspective, and a presentation by The Great Wisdom Buddhists Nuns. Registration deadline is February 5.

February will see the "Taking Care of Women's Business! Period. 28 Day Campaign" resume for its sixth year. PEIWI is once again collecting feminine hygiene products in the month of February. Drop off locations include Murphy's Pharmacy, and Mainstreet Pharmasave in Souris. Murphy's Pharmacies is pleased to once again match donations with those purchasing their Atoma brand. These collections will go to food banks across Prince Edward Island.

The PEI Women's Institute is developing two scholarships in honour of Prince Edward Island's Famous Five from sales of Prince Edward Island's Famous Five. These scholarships highlight both the Women's Institute's roots in agriculture, and the leadership and team effort displayed in health care during COVID-19 in Prince Edward Island. Published by the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, the book tells the story of how five women made political history, holding five of the most influential positions of government in the province in 1993. Books are \$20 available through select stores and the PEI Women's Institute office.

PEIWI is now taking nominations for the WI Woman in Agriculture Recognition Award. This award is recognition for an Island woman making a major contribution to the PEI agriculture sector and is presented bi-annually by the PEI Women's Institute. This award will be presented in the spring of 2021. Branches can submit nominations using [details available online](#) or contact the office at wi@gov.pe.ca for further information. March 31 is the deadline for nominations.





Triennial Tweedsmuir Competitions & Senator Cairine Wilson Competition

The 2021 Triennial Tweedsmuir Competitions and the Senator Cairine Wilson Competition are open. Submissions should be sent directly to the FWIC/WI Canada Head Office for judging. There will be no limit to the number of entries submitted by Provincial Members, however, only one entry per category per member will be accepted.

Tweedsmuir Community History Books (or Tweedsmuir as they are commonly known) uniquely capture and preserve local community history. They vary in form from a simple scrapbook to an elaborate series of volumes bound in leather, wood, or a more formal blue-and-gold cover. Tweedsmuir are comprised of a variety of information and often include a history of the:

- Local Women's Institute Branch
- Earliest settlers in an area
- Agricultural practices and individual farms
- Industries that formed the basis of the local economy
- Social institutions and public buildings, such as churches, schools, and community centers
- Local personalities, such as war veterans
- And much, much more!

Submissions are beginning to come in. Don't forget about the cash prizes available to be won! The deadline for submissions is **March 31st, 2021**. Details and submission forms are on the website.

Bylaw Committee – Jill Copes and Lynn MacLean

We wish to thank all the provinces, past presidents and members who submitted comments regarding the Draft bylaws. Presently, we are drafting a spreadsheet with the comments we received regarding the questionnaire we had sent out to all the provinces and any other suggestions. We will be presenting this to the Board for the final draft to be ready by March. It has been a challenge and we could not do it without your input. We appreciate all your comments.

Spanish Bay WI

The Spanish Bay Women's Institute Branch is located on Cape Breton Island in northern Nova Scotia. This branch of eleven members is a great example of the many contributions and donations that the Women's Institutes provide to their respective communities. Gerry MacAulay who reports in the provincial Women's Institute newsletter, *Home & Country* shared the following about her Branch.

"In September, the Branch decided to have a biweekly workday to ensure completing their project for the CB Homemakers Seniors in time for Christmas. The Branch also noted they had 300 cancer hats ready to be delivered to the Cancer Center at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital and a delivery of children and infants clothing was planned to be made to the local Family Resource Center.

Three workdays were held over October and November and on Nov. 19 the items were delivered to the Cape Breton Homemakers Agency. The items included fleece shawls, pillowcases, adult bibs, bowl cozies, twiddle muffs, lap quilts, dish cloths, etc. The members usually included tea bags and homemade cookies with their donations but because of COVID-19, only the teabags could be included with the results of their workdays. The Agency was very appreciative of the effort of the members from Spanish Bay and reciprocated with a couple of Thank You cards, one including a Fabricville gift card, a good start for next year's project!



In

December, donations were made to the "Every Women's Centre's" Adopt a Family program to provide a Christmas for a single woman and the last of the Cancer Hat Project was completed with 385 hats being delivered to the Regional Hospital's Cancer Centre. To help with their work and the purchase of materials, the Branch receives grants from the Community Health Board. They will apply again for another grant to help with their 2021 project which will be to provide sensory blankets to the Family Resource Center." COVID-19 has stopped many organizations from their usual work but not the members of Spanish Bay Women's Institute. They are a true example that by being creative, we can still make a difference in our communities.

Cancer Hats and Wraps-Spanish Bay WI



Spanish Bay WI

items from project for babies donated to Family Resource Center. Bibs, receiving blankets, burp cloths, blankets etc.



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.



We closed the door on 2020 and opened 2021 with faith, hope and optimism. Some of us made New Year's resolutions, some of us didn't because we have learned over time that we break them so easily. However, I am sure that many of us have a new "to do" list to challenge us. Our Women's Institutes are also looking at their "to do" list, as they try to plan programs and projects while the "new normal" has not been reached.

The United Nations has named 2021 the International Year of Peace and Truth. Thought has been given to what the Women's Institutes can do to mark this year. In thinking about this I remembered something I had read some time ago and had kept. It reads:

“ There shall be peace on earth, but not until each child shall daily eat his fill;
Go warmly clad against the winter wind and learn his lessons with a tranquil mind;
And thus released from hunger, fear and need Regardless of his colour, race or creed,
Look upwards, smiling to the skies, his faith in man reflected in his eyes”.

I know that our Women's Institutes have done so much, and continue to see the needs in their communities and respond to those needs. But the statistics of the number of children who live in poverty in Canada and around the world should indicate to us that our help is needed more than ever,

I am reading Vice President Kamala Harris' book "The Truths We Hold". In the Preface she writes " one of the most important ingredients in a relationship of trust is that we speak truth. It matters what we say. What we mean. The value we put on our words – and what they are worth to others...We need to speak truth". She goes on to write about the many problems or challenges facing the American people. Many of them we share in Canada, -racism, sexism, homophobia and much more. She stresses the importance of us acknowledging the situations, and difficult as it might be, speak the truth and try to bring about change. Our Women's Institutes can be a voice speaking the truth about what is happening in our communities and being voices for change.

And then in all these musings about peace and truth I come back to the Mary Stewart Collect. If we truly live that we have come a long way in living in the International Year for Peace and Truth.

- 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.





For Home and Country

Hearth is where the Home is

Thank you to FWIC/WI CANADA

PRESIDENT, JOAN HOLTHE who presented a workshop on recycling your greeting cards and read a story to the children who joined the virtual gathering. This event was live streamed on Facebook. Remembering & thanking members of the Canadian Armed Forces, participants were asked to send holiday greetings to "Any Canadian Armed Forces Member" in a stamped envelope.

Santa drew the FWIC/WI Canada Lottery winning ticket worth \$5,000.00. The lottery was in support of "Back to Basics" Educational Programming, to help reduce poverty and programs are part of our National Project – Hearth is where the Home is.

Coming Soon.....

Our new mascot for Hearth is where the Home is.



The WI Home

Woodstock, New Brunswick

Rooms for Rent

Furnished, single rooms for senior ladies.
Rent is all inclusive: room, meals, activities, entertainment, medicine dispensation, 24 hour attendant care, cleaning, laundry

Please apply to Luann Adams at
506-392-6622





New Brunswick Women's Institute

WI Home Committee Members
 Chapel Street, Woodstock
 New Brunswick

In 1946 the Women's Institute had a vision. They saw that many single, senior WI members needed a home. Their hope was to provide a home of safety, security, of dignity and comfort. For 60 + years, their dream has been a reality. But times have changed.

We are writing to you today as we contemplate closing the WI Home in Woodstock, NB. The WI Home has been a home environment for up to 21 women at a time (not all WI members), but for various reasons we are now housing just 12 women. We are currently running at a deficit of four to five thousand dollars per month. Our purpose for this letter is to congratulate and thank you for a job well done, and to encourage you all to continue this challenge with as much grace as you have in the past. We do not know all of the next steps that will unfold, but we want you to know that you are still the Home Committee, and we need your guidance in all things with respect to the Home.

In preparation for announcing to the community that the WI Home is anticipating some changes, we hope you will give us the guidance we need and accompany us in all our ventures. In closing this letter, we urge you to know you and all those connected to the Home are in our hearts and prayers. You deserve all the praise and respect we can give, and should there ever come a time that you need to communicate any concerns, issues, or oversights; please know we are a phone call away. We want to support you in any way possible.

God Bless you all for your continued devotion to home and country.

Respectfully

Sandra Day, Sandra Day, President-NBWI



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Past President Competition

Pin Design commemorating the 2021 FWIC/WI Canada Triennial and ACWW Canada Area Conferences to be held virtually in July.

As FWIC Past President, Linda Hoy will donate a prize for the winning entry.

Send your lapel pin designs in a JPG format to her at lhfwic@gmail.com by March 31, 2021



Pen Pal News



Thanks to WI Canada FWIC from coast to coast, we are responding to a need of Pen Pals for the British WI. With upwards of 20 ladies looking for pen pals we have matched several pal pairs.

With a variety of ladies from all over England and Wales really wanting Canadians to connect with and Covid-19 this is the perfect winter for a pen pal. Armchair travel can provide you with a diversion for the coming winter.

We still need a few more so please step forward and send your address, your interests, and your preferred method of writing to WI Canada FWIC. info@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! Other items will be added to the package as sponsors/partnerships are developed e.g.: discounts to movies, retail store or travel company partners. This is an annual package renewal.

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award

Nominations Now Open

Nominees do not have to be members of a Women's Institute.

This Award seeks to acknowledge **dedicated women** whose contributions make their communities and our world a better place to live. **Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award** recognizes the hard work, dedication, and support that these women have offered and continue to offer as they give leadership, inspire others, and make a difference while exhibiting the qualities of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless, the founder of the Women's Institute movement.

Nominations will close at midnight on March 31st, 2021.

Go to <https://www.fwic.ca/canadian-woman-of-the-year-nomination>





Next Month in WI Connections

- Erland & Janet Lee's Story
- WI Month Activities
- Hearth is where the Home Is.



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
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