

# WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

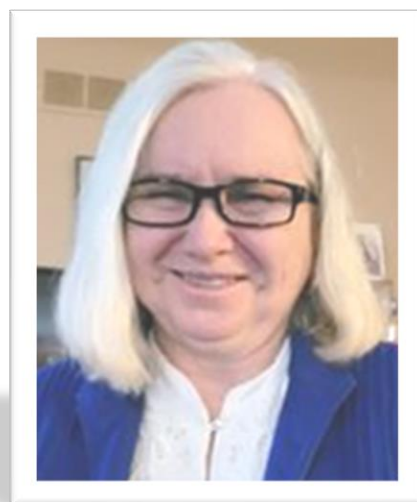


## *Margaret's Message*, Submitted by President, Margaret Byl

From Coast to Coast to Coast, wishing everyone a Happy Canada Day! I am sitting at the FWIC Head Office in St. George thinking of what it means to be a Canadian and how far we, as women; as a Nation, have come since Adelaide, Janet and Erland began the Women's Institutes movement over 125 years ago!

I feel extremely grateful and blessed that my parents chose Canada as the place to raise their children in a free and democratic society.

Canada is a land of opportunity. A land which creates a tapestry of



people, of all colours, religious beliefs, and races. We are a blend of all peoples and together we form the human race.

Thanks to the Government of Canada and Canada Summer Jobs Fund, I am happy to introduce Jaiden Walters as our new Receptionist/Secretary for FWIC/WI Canada. Jaiden will be happy to take your calls at the National Office in St. George, Mondays to Fridays from 11:30 am ET to 3:30 pm ET.

The preparations for the AGM are well underway, and we thank the County of Brant for their sponsorship of the Tree Planting Ceremony, Guest Speakers and Reception. I am looking forward to seeing everyone either in person or virtually on July 12<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate 125 Years of the WI movement.

Congratulations and welcome to Elizabeth Moss the new Provincial President of Newfoundland and Labrador WI. Elizabeth Young has done a fantastic job as the NFL WI representative, and we look forward to continuing working together on the Communications Committee with the Across Canada Book Club.

I leave you with this quote from the Governor General of Canada.

*“Canada is our home. On Canada Day, let’s all commit to a country where everyone truly belongs.” –*

Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada [#GGSimon](#)

## *Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Report*

Submitted by Margaret Byl, President



A brief update on what’s happening at the Homestead. Lauren Marco, our Museum Assistant is busy updating displays and preparing new exhibits for the AGM and Reception at the Homestead.

A contract has been signed to replace the roof in the fall. Thank you once again to Hollie Archer for his generous donation and to the County of Brant for their continued support.

A volunteer gathering will be taking place at the Homestead on July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm ET. Live close by? Join us for information and social evening.

Homestead Tours and Pavilion Rentals continue to be booked. Stay tuned for an important announcement!



# Celebrate 125 Years of WI

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA  
359 BLUE LAKE ROAD, ST. GEORGE, ONTARIO N0E 1N0

## July 12, 2022

11 am to 1:45 pm ET - Tree Planting & Luncheon  
2 pm ET - AGM (Hybrid)

**Key Note Speaker - Prof. Gail Cuthbert Brandt**

*Topic - Canadian Women's Organizations - Past, Present & Future*

4 pm ET Reception & Toast to HRM Queen Elizabeth II  
Visit the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Display

REGISTRATION: VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON \$20

LUNCHEON AT THE HOMESTEAD - \$10

Registration Forms: [www.fwic.ca](http://www.fwic.ca)

RSVP by June 25, 2022 [info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca) 519-448-3873



HOSTED BY FWIC/WI CANADA

SPONSORED BY THE COUNTY OF BRANT



## Our Keynote Speaker for this year....

Gail Cuthbert Brandt completed her BA in Honours History at the University of Toronto, her MA from Carleton University, and her PhD from York University. Following a twenty-year career at York's bilingual campus, Glendon College, she was named Principal of Renison University College at the University of Waterloo in 1992. Following two terms in that position, she took on a number of senior administrative positions at UW.

A specialist in Quebec history and Canadian women's history, Dr. Cuthbert Brandt is a co-author of *Canadian Women: A History* (three editions) and of *Feminist Politics on the Farm: Rural Catholic Women in Southern Quebec and Southwestern France*. She also authored two editions of *Bold and Courageous Dreams: A History of Renison University College*. Her latest book, *Through the Mill. Girls and Women in the Quebec Cotton Industry, 1891-1951*, was released in October 2018.



A former president of the Canadian Historical Association, Dr. Cuthbert Brandt is also a founding member and former executive officer of the Ontario Women's History Network and a member of the Canadian Committee on Women's History.

Dr. Cuthbert Brandt lives with her husband, Bernd, on a farm in Oxford County where they breed and raise purebred Canadian Horses. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Gail is currently Rector's Warden of St. George's Anglican Church in New Hamburg and Secretary of the Cheval Canadien Horse Association Ontario.



## 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.*



There are three celebrations on my mind this month. Early in June we celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Queen. What a remarkable woman is our Queen Elizabeth II. For seven decades she has demonstrated strength, sincerity, commitment, service, dedication, compassion and more. I am a royal watcher, and during the three days of celebration there were several excellent documentaries about her life, some of which I had not seen before. When I heard one commentator say that those seventy years were an “era of change”, I was very aware of that. My memories took me back to when I was ten years old and learned that there was a princess my age who would one day be a queen wearing a crown. I soon acquired a scrapbook and I clipped and pasted all the pictures of this Princess Elizabeth and her sister Princess Margaret Rose which I saw in newspapers and magazines. Then it was very exciting at Christmas to receive paper dolls of the two princesses.

My interest in Princess Elizabeth never waned, and I was so impressed by her service during World War II, and the speech she gave by radio on her 21st birthday where she already showed her sense of duty and commitment. Then one early morning in November 1947 I turned on my radio and listened to the account of her marriage to the handsome Prince Philip. Then early on a June morning in 1953 I again turned on the radio to hear the solemn coronation ceremony and hear the cheers of the thousands lining the streets to greet their new queen. We didn't have a TV, so early that evening I went to a friend's home and watched the day's events in black and white on their TV. The tapes of the day's happenings in London had been flown to Canada that afternoon. Now, we fast forward to 2022 and I sat in front of my colour TV early in the morning and watch the pageantry Trooping of the Colours and the thousands of well-wishers in front of Buckingham Palace waiting for the Queen and her family to appear on the palace balcony. She did appear, waving and smiling, and looking as beautiful as ever. Time to remember, in an era of change.

On July 12<sup>th</sup> the Annual Meeting of our organization will be taking place. Some of us will be there in person, some of us will be present virtually. At that time, we will be celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Women's Institutes. A time for us to look back at what the Women's Institutes have meant to so many women, their families, and communities. There is much to celebrate.



Before that day we will have had another celebration. We would have had Canada Day on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and here again there is much to celebrate. I know there have been blemishes in our history, hopefully we have learned from our mistakes, but despite that, there is much to celebrate about our Canada on this 155th anniversary.

The year before Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration then Governor General David Johnston published a book entitled "The Idea of Canada. Letters to a Nation". Just as the title indicates it is a book of letters to Canadians whose names we know and don't know, and to some who have already died. It is a most interesting book and I strongly recommend it to those who haven't read it. In the letters David Johnston writes about something they have written or been involved with, and adds his wisdom and experience to what he writes. What I especially like about the book is that you can pick it up and read (or read again) their thoughts about Canada, Canadians and our values. The final letter is to Lord Tweedsmuir, former Governor General who wrote several books using the pseudonym, John Buchan. (We remember Lady Tweedsmuir for her interest in Women's Institutes and gave us the silver cups which have been awarded to the winners of the Tweedsmuir competitions for many years.) David Johnston writes that his idea of Canada is in part that ...

"We are inclusive. We are honourable. We are selfless. We are smart. We deplore self-satisfaction, yearning rather for self-improvement. We love learning and cherish our right to it. We are caring. Our abiding concern for the common good for our neighbours in each community makes us responsive.

Inspired by our common bond, we come swiftly and resiliently to the aid of those in need."

He ends the letter with "I think you would agree that Canadians must relentlessly uphold principles and take actions that are inclusive, honourable, selfless, smart, and caring at every turn without fail". What a challenge as the Women's Institutes in their 126<sup>th</sup> year, and Canada enters its 156<sup>th</sup> year.

# Leadership Modules

The remaining Leadership Modules will continue January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Dear Module Participants

Due to follow up meetings from last year's Membership Round Table, we will postpone the remaining leadership modules until January 2023. The remaining modules include Planning & Goal Setting for WI, Communications/Public Relations, Leadership Identity, and a review session.

Thank-you all for your participation and wishing you a great summer.

Communications Committee, WI Canada FWIC



## FWIC Projects Celebrate 125 Years of Women's Institutes



Women's Institutes of Canada- WI Canada want to celebrate 125 years of Women's Institutes with your help. The first Project is to encourage the provinces to collectively register 125 new members. We would like to help the provinces celebrate the new members by printing their names, with their permission in *WI Connections*. Please send the names of the new

members to [info@fwic.ca](mailto:info@fwic.ca). Let's see how quickly we can reach the 125 new members!

The second Project is to have 125 trees planted across Canada. The trees may be coniferous, deciduous, or fruit trees. The benefits of planting trees are twofold. Planting trees helps the environment, and the second reason provides a visual reminder of 125 years of Women's Institutes. Spring is coming and a great time to plant a tree. Make sure you take a photo of the tree planting and send it in to *WI Connections* sharing the type of tree, who planted it and where was it planted.



### *The 2022 Tale of 125 Trees* submitted by Angela Scott

Beginning in early spring of 2022 the Branches and Provinces started reporting trees planted in honour of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of WI. It seems as if the challenge to plant trees was the more popular of the two projects, and I fear that the reporting will miss some provinces, because they may not have realized they were supposed to send them in to the WI Connections. That being the case we can always update in coming months. For those provinces who have not reported your tree planting yet, please send your writeup and pictures directly to me at [angela.scott@bellaliant.net](mailto:angela.scott@bellaliant.net)



Here is what has been reported so far...



Huron Perth District WI have donated to “The Footprints to Forest” program run by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. It is a tree planting program that allows people to donate money to plant trees to help compensate for greenhouse gas emissions. Our donation will have 125 trees planted in honour of WI's 125th Anniversary. This presentation took place at our WI 125th Anniversary Celebration held on Wednesday, June 15th at Atwood Lion's Park.

Huron Perth District WI committee members Darlene Harding and Ronna Lee Johnson presented the cheque to Jayne Thompson, Maitland Valley Conservation Authority representative along with District President Barb Grube.

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*Family.*

like branches on a tree, we all grow in different directions,  
but our strong roots keep us all together





Evelyn Peck and her son Harold planted this Ivory Silk Lilac tree on April 27, 2022, at her home in Prince Edward County, Ontario. Evelyn is a Past President of FWIO and former Board Member of FWIC.



On June 8th, 2022 members of the South Vancouver Island WI attended a tree planting ceremony in McAdam park in Duncan, BC to plant a Brandywine maple tee commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Women's Institute.

On left - Donna Jack , President of SVI WI . On left - Ruth Fenner, BCWI Historian. Ruth gave a brief history of the WI and the significance of the tree.

Submitted by Ruth Davis, Vice President SVI WI



## Double Celebration With Tree Planting at Heroes' Memorial submitted by Louise Smith

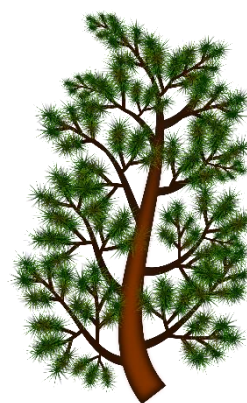
Members of the Fordyce Women's Institute, of the Missisquoi County Women's Institutes, joined with a selection of students outside Heroes' Memorial School on Wednesday morning. A red MacIntosh tree was planted to celebrate two momentous occasions.

This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Federation of Women's Institutes in Canada. Next September begins the Centennial of the building of Heroes' Memorial School, which was first called Cowansville High School. Its name changed when Massey-Vanier opened. Next year the celebrations at Heroes' Memorial will continue starting in the fall.

While at the school on Wednesday, Missisquoi County President Louise Smith and Past Provincial President Elizabeth Milroy handed out county and provincial certificates and prizes to winners in the Quebec Women's Institutes annual story writing contest.



After a two year hiatus the graduating class will have a graduation ceremony and a prom dance on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. It is just another indication that we are slowly getting back to "normal".



The annual WI provincial convention took place in Summerside in person for the first time in the two years. Greetings were brought forward by Lieutenant Governor Antoinette Perry; Honourable Jamie Fox for Premier Dennis King; Minister of Agriculture and Land, Bloyce Thompson; Chair to the UN for ACWW, Marie Kenny, and FWIC President, Margaret Byl. Highlights included keynote speakers Ann Worth and Erica Perry. Miriam Lank, chair of the event and president, announced several top WI awards. The following awards were announced on Saturday, May 28 during the in person convention.

1-Carol MacLellan of Pleasant Valley WI is this year's recipient of the provincial Adelaide Hoodless Award of Honour for her tireless and ongoing commitment to Women's Institute for PEI. Past president and award winner Margie Stewart was on hand to present the prestigious award. This year Golden Book of Recognition Award was awarded to Mary Milligan of Poplar Grove-MacNeills Mills WI, and Jodi MacCormack, Wood Islands WI.

2-Ian MacLeod was announced as the winner of the Erland Lee Award of Appreciation. This award is granted from the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. This recognition is dedicated to a man who most exemplifies the qualities of Erland Lee, who assisted in the founding of Women's Institute. Mr. MacLeod was nominated by Uigg-Kinross-Grandview WI.

3-Friend of WI was awarded to Barbara Jenkins. Her name was put forward by Brackley WI for her service of supporting the work of Women's Institute. Past President Carol Jenkins accept on her behalf.

4-The PEI Women's Institute Education Scholarship goes to Ryanna Ryan of Wellington, PEI. Ms. Ryan will be attending University of Prince Edward Island in the fall and serves at her local Fire Department as a Junior Firefighter.

The PEI Board of Directors also sends a special thank you to all participating Islanders and sponsors involved in the recent 50th WI Roadside Cleanup on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The board took great pleasure in viewing the incoming pictures of the cleanup as entered for a chance to win cash prizes of \$50 each through a random draw. Carolyn MacFadyen, provincial Environment Convener, recently announced the following cash prize winners: Suzanne Stewart, Spring Park Girl Guides, Marina Darrach, Greenfield Elementary School, Classes 5B & 5Y, Rena Matthews, Mary Beaulac, Julie Gallant, James Whynacht, Angie Gallant, Lorna Walsh, Jamie Baker, Shara Connolly, Shari MacDonald, Victoria Horne Somerset School Grade 3 Class, Eva Clements, Rachel Nunn, Meaghan Miller, Rachel Olesen, Derek Harpell, West Cape & Norway Wind Farms, Lou Johnston, Adam Walsh, and Charlotte Jeffery.



## Saskatchewan WI Closes, submitted by Karen Gerwing

The last Annual Meeting of SWI was held on Monday, June 13 at my home in Lake Lenore. Fourteen members attended in person and Past President Lynn Ballhorn joined via FaceTime.

A motion was made to donate \$2500 to the Foam Lake Museum on condition that they set up a permanent display on the history of SWI. The balance of the remaining funds after all outstanding bills are paid will be divided in half and donated to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and Stars Air Ambulance.

Members were encouraged to seek affiliate membership with neighboring provinces and becoming a "Friend of FWIC" so they can attend annual meetings and the national convention but cannot vote.

Several members sounded very interested in attending the Triennial Convention in New Brunswick in 2024 and I will continue to volunteer on the communications committee, so Sask. WI will continue unofficially in our minds and hearts.





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**Home Remedies** submitted by Doreen Wall

Mosquito and fly repellent:

1 bottle of cheap mouthwash, mint

3 cups of Epson Salts and

3 stale , 12 oz cans of beer

put in a plastic bottle and shake and make sure the Epson Salts is dissolved and put in a spray bottle. It actually works.

A quick dessert for the summer:

Take 1 box of angel food cake and add a can of pineapple with juice and stir, cook according to directions for app 30 mins. Wonderful dessert and quick.



## Book Club Report submitted by Elizabeth Young

There will be no book club for July and August due to the summer break. December will have no meeting because of holiday celebrations.

Dates and books are listed for the following months

June 25<sup>th</sup> - The Spoon Stealer - Lesley Crewe

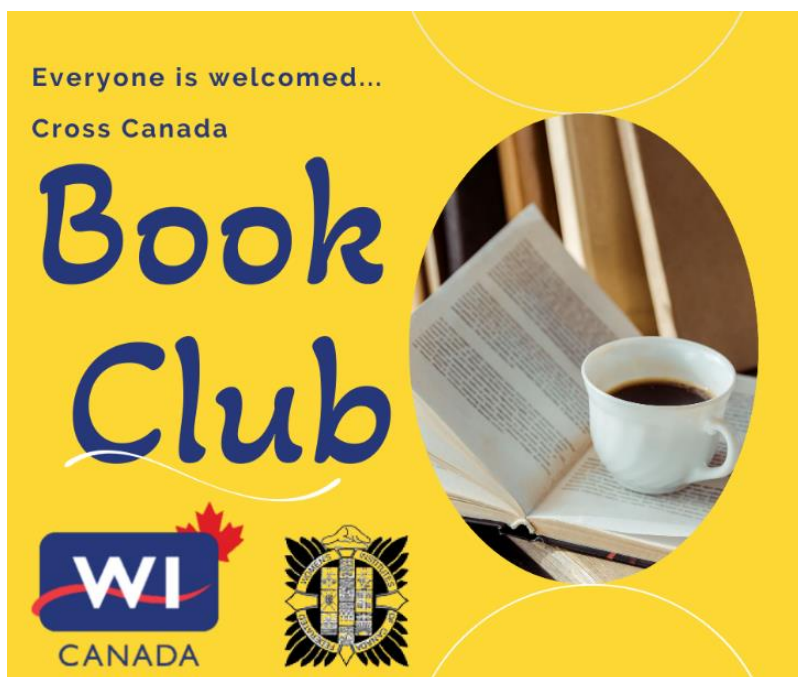
September 24<sup>th</sup> - Flown into the Arms of Angles - Mac Moss

October 29<sup>th</sup> - The Stranger -

November 26<sup>th</sup> - The Last Bookshop in London - Madeline Martin

There has been a suggestion to hold the book club on an evening, since Saturday afternoons are not convenient for everyone, so please let us know your preferences between now and September 1<sup>st</sup>. If you

could kindly write to me, at the address provided it would be most appreciated. If you have book suggestions, I would appreciate your input. [fwicacrosscanadabookclub@fwic.ca](mailto:fwicacrosscanadabookclub@fwic.ca) I look forward to hearing from you.



WI Canada FWIC

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Margaret Byl, President

Lynn MacLean, President Elect

Colleen Hooper, BC

Linda Mason, AB Executive

Eleanor Lilley, NS

Karen Gerwing, SK Executive

Denise Joss, MB

Linda Zelem, ON

Judy Page Jones QC

Angela Scott, NB

Doreen Wall, PEI

Elizabeth Young NL

## Submissions for WI Connections

Please send to [angela.scott@bellaliant.net](mailto:angela.scott@bellaliant.net)

Recipes, stories, poems, and articles are appreciated.

