

WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

In this issue

- President's Message
- 22nd Annual Convention (Triennial Conference)
- Presenter Bios
- Hoodless Homestead Update
- Provincial Updates
- Committee Updates
- Maple Leaf Project – Courage for Freedom
- Ellen's Corner



President's Message

Joan Holthe, President

Just three years ago, Joan Holthe began her term as President of WI Canada FWIC, and at the 22nd National Convention (also known as the Triennial Conference) she will close our her term and pass on the gavel to President-Elect Margaret Byl. Recently we asked Joan about her term as President, and here is what she had to say.

1-the National Convention is coming up... how do you think it will go in the virtual format?

Everyone has been zooming for so long, I know that it will go without a hitch, as long as everyone's internet remains strong.

We will have a tech expert on board that will help with any glitches.

2-What will be the highlights for first time attendees do you think?

To actually hear and see the people that have been holding the fort for so long and get a chance to speak up and be heard.

3-You have had an eventful 3 years Joan, what is the best part of the term?

It is like that story, "Between the Dash" there is so much in there, I guess I would have to remark that it's the lovely women I have worked with. The centennial AGM in 2019 stands out for me, because it was the last time all of were together in Brantford, and it meant so much for me to be the 100th President after the famous Emily Murphy.

4-what unfinished work do you wish you could have accomplished?

Women's work is never done, and I am happy to say that the work of FWIC will never be done, but in reviewing past annual reports I can see that always there is the issue of constitution, by-laws, updates, and hopefully, in my term it has been thrashed into shape and will be good for some time.

5-If you had the chance to join any Branch meeting across the country, what would you share with the members?

Anytime I have been to a branch meeting, I always stress to the members to always support their provincial body financially. So much energy is given over to raising funds for other charities, that our own needs help too. Our connections to national and international business is not always everyone's bag, local issues and just being social, is foremost to some.....but I would encourage the bigger picture.



6- How have you made out with balancing WI and farm life?



Ha Ha, learning to say No...but luckily my husband encouraged my involvement, so he does not have a leg to stand on when I tell him that I am busy.

7-With respect to advocacy where do you see WI Canada FWIC going?

If we can stop worrying about fundraising, I can see a whole new emphasis on the issues and needs arising from our communities, especially in light of the devastating effect of covid on the sanity, prosperity and recovery on everyone.

8-What advice would you give new presidents and executives across Canada with respect to the administration of their organizations?

That's a hard one, I give advice but don't always practise what I preach, but I would say that you should respect the diversity of your board and staff, give everyone a job, and don't loose sight of the bigger picture.

9-What toll did the inability to travel take on WI Canada FWIC's organization and Board, due to COVID-19?

Of course, good, and bad availed, not being together inhibited the chance for us to thrash things out and have a proper discussion about the issues at hand. Perhaps some decisions would not have been made if we had met face to face. The benefit of zoom enabled us to have many meetings, certainly a significant cost savings to the organization. Of course, I am pouting that I did not have a chance to travel to the provinces as my past counterparts had done, but, needs must, as the saying goes.

Thank-you Joan for a terrific term and blessings to you and your family in the future!

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To:
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada / WI Canada
President Joan & Board Members



I am honoured to have been selected as the FWIC Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Woman of the Year for 2021. Thank You for considering me a worthy candidate for this award .It came as a total surprise and for once I was at a loss for words (that doesn't happen often). It has been my privilege to work with so many wonderful, deserving women over the years. I look forward to many more years working for "Home & Country".
Ruth Blenkhorn





ACWW AREA CONFERENCE

Area President Linda Hoy is pleased to confirm that the 2021 Canada Area Conference will be held digitally on 7 July 2021. Please note that this Conference will be held via Zoom, which you will need installed on your device. Please use the link here to download it if you have not already download Zoom now.

The Registration Fee will be \$25 Canadian, and will include all virtual meeting costs, the Conference Pin, postage of your Conference Bag, and a contribution to ACWW Pennies for Friendship. The payee is 'ACWW CANADA AREA' and if needed, the Question is 'ACWW Central Office location', and the Answer is: 'London'. To pay your registration fee of \$25, please use Interact Transfer, using this address: lhfwic@gmail.com.

July 6th - 6-8 pm an Area Canada President's cocktail party via my Zoom. This will be a fun evening with chat, laughter and maybe a game or two.

July 7th - 10:00 - 11:00 will be a meeting for the Trustees of the Mrs. Alfred Watt Trust Fund

July 7th - 1:00 - 4:00 Area Canada Business meeting with Magdie de Kock as the Keynote Speaker.

The direct link to the Canada Area Conference is www.acww.org.uk/Canada.html.

Our Diversity is Our Strength

submitted by Elizabeth Young



In this triennial we diversified in making changes to benefit our branches and activities as we meet the challenges of Covid-19 and its effects on the organization and the people of our province. Covid has caused many challenges and difficulties for us because of the restrictions and regulations which had to be put in place to protect and keep our people as safe as possible.

Branches have had to become creative and think outside the box to meet the needs in their communities and branches. Some branches have closed and we have lost members. Hopefully after Covid we will rebound and continue to benefit our province and WI members as we strive to make positive differences for our areas.

We have had to diversify in our ways of dealing with issues and our organization. We are working toward positive outcomes and a stronger unified future for challenges facing the NLWI organization. Have a safe summer,



"Our Diversity is Our Strength"

submitted: Jill Copes BCWI Representative

WI members are so diverse in so many ways and British Columbia is no different. Just like our climate - roses are blooming in the southern part of the province and mine are just starting to leaf; they have darkness around nine, I have daylight until 10:00 or later and the birds start signing around 3:30 am. How are we different? Some like to craft and sew; others are avid gardeners while others are the bookworms. One thing we all have in common; we love to meet as WI members to help our communities. We are passionate about issues that concern us and write resolutions for change to all levels of government.

BCWI held its Annual General Meeting May 29th via Zoom Video Conferencing. The theme is "Women Moving Forward in Friendship & Action". How appropriate at this time of uncertainty as we all had to make many changes due to the pandemic. Not be able to meet face to face has been challenging but WI ladies are resilient and have moved forward by meeting virtually. This has allowed us to meet with ladies from the different provinces and even from England. We had an excellent presentation from United Kingdom member, Angela Britland, of Heaton's WI and a member of a virtual branch, Tudor Rose WI. (BCWI members also has membership in this virtual branch). She talked about how resolutions are dealt with in England. Her branch has 85 members and England has 8000 members. Wouldn't that be great if we could increase our membership like that. What an impact if you have that many women supporting a resolution.

Our other guest speaker was Connie Thompson from Nanoose Bay on Vancouver Island. She grows dahlias and is compassionate about them. She has flowers with a 12 in diameter to 1 inch and over 350 different ones. You can visit her at: <https://www.facebook.com/Connies.Dahlias>

I want to thank Brenda Devauld, President BCWI for doing a great job and to all the Directors: Shelly Simrose (Vice President), Wanda Mason, Fay VanHorn, Ruth Davies, Kim Coy for keeping BCWI moving forward. BCWI Board is on a rotational basis and the new Board member is Kimberly Rorstrom replacing Ruth. Colleen Hooper will be the FWIC Representative after the FWIC AGM.

We had the privilege of being introduced to a new book by Ruth Fenner and Helen Geissenger – *Madge Watt and the Power of Women Working Together*. Watch for it, for it will be published soon.

BC like many of the other provinces is having difficulty making ends meet; therefore, the office administrator, Betty will only be working three days a week. She is such an asset to our organization.

BCWI office will be closed for the months of July and August. Our diversity is that we need to be open to change.



"Our diversity is our strength" submitted by Mary Shortt



The question "how does that theme play out in Ontario.

The province of Ontario is very large, and I certainly haven't been to every Branch but I have had the privilege to be with many members in most places over the past 20 years. The common denominator is Anglo-Saxon and mostly protestant membership. This should not be surprising when you look at the history of WI in its beginning 124 years ago. The women & men of the early settlers were mostly from the British Isles and France and they brought with them their identities, cultures, beliefs and outlooks on the world and created communities that felt like home. My ancestors included. It should not be surprising that there are towns and WI Branches that have the same name as some in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

We recognise that Ontario has changed significantly since 1897 and most recently many people are moving from their urban locations into the rural communities and surrounding areas. This has increased significantly the past 5 years with the aging of the 'baby boomer' generation out of the workforce and into retirement. This presents an increased opportunity to expand our membership!

There is strength in diversity because there's so much to learn when we're open to taking in new experiences that we're unfamiliar with. And those experiences can help us challenge our deeply held beliefs. We must recognise that the newcomers have diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as accepted gender identities. In order for our WI's to grow and serve their communities diversity must be understood and embraced and WI must become a welcoming organization by breaking down the cultural and social barriers.

So, is Diversity our Strength? Yes. Diversity is our strength for the future of WI.

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Hearth is Where the Home Is -How the Pandemic Has Affected My Family

Submitted by Sarah Whittam: Women Inspiring Women Branch in Paris Ontario

I have been trying to put to words how this pandemic has affected my family, and it is not easy. In many ways we have been so fortunate. We have stayed healthy and have had no financial problems as my husband has been working long hours from home. I keep telling myself all the things I have to be thankful for, but still it has been a marathon and a struggle to stay positive.



My husband and I have been struggling with the worry, uncertainty, social isolation, lack of fun, and all the difficulties that everyone has been dealing with. It is such a challenge obtaining all the things that our family needs to live, work, and school at home: laptops, headsets, reliable internet, food, shoes during lockdown, treats, holiday accoutrements etc. I keep saying to people that parenting a house of teens is hard under the best of times and this really is not the best of times. As hard as it has been on the 2 of us it is way harder for our teens, they are all struggling to some extent. The effect of the pandemic on youth is enormous.

The oldest spent his last year of university online, including, labs, classes, exams etc. graduated at a time where finding work was incredibly difficult, lived in a houseful of housemates many of whom were not taking Covid seriously, has been mostly isolated from us and all his friends because of this and has still managed to find a job and an apartment. Of out 6 kids he and the youngest seem to have been the least mentally scarred by the pandemic. My 11-year-old has been a super star, staying mostly positive throughout the pandemic. She is bored most of the time and misses her friends, but she does not complain and seems mentally healthy enough.

The other 4, not so much. They are age 14, 15, 17, 18 and they had some mental health issues before the pandemic but nothing like the turmoil that they have going on now. 3 of the 4 are on medication for their mental health. 2 barely eat and at times pass out, one has fits of rage and disappears at times, one has a lot of problems leaving his room. One has taken off and disappeared more than once, one has been assaulted and the cops have been involved. 3 have symptoms of OCD, 3 have full on panic attacks, no one sleeps the right amount. Days go by with various members of the house either not sleeping or sleeping for 18 hours a day. One cuts herself; one has been in the psych ward for suicidal thoughts, 2 have been getting counselling. All have been to multiple doctors, none of whom seem to be able to help them. Someone is in crisis every week. As a parent it is exhausting.

My 17-year-old has worked at a grocery store for over 20 hours weekly throughout this pandemic, while maintaining good marks at school. He has had people take out their frustrations on him. He is trying to get a driver's license and it is so hard right now.

My 18-year-old has not been able to find a job and is having a lot of trouble getting into university. Many people did not go last year and so this year is really competitive. So even though she has been on the honor roll throughout high school (average above 90) plus getting numerous awards it has not been enough for her to get into any of the schools she applied to. It is so hard on her to not see her friends and her brother. She gets no high school grad, no high school trip along with all the other fun missed things. Plus, she is missing out on all the money she could be making right now with a part time job.

My 15-year-old missed her grade 8 grad, her transition into high school where the link crew eases you into things, plus she is going nuts not seeing her friends and not playing baseball. She is probably the most social of all the kids.

I am expressing all this as a way to help people who do not have teens in their lives possibly get some empathy towards them. It was hard for most of us being a teen, and the pandemic has made it all even harder for them.

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Our Diversity is Our Strength - Women's Institute of Nova Scotia

Diversity has caused us to look at things from a different perspective.

Members of W.I.N.S work closely together sharing individual ideas and experiences.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have explored and participated in, new ways of staying connected.

Our members have continued having a strong connection with their communities, adapting to their needs in these challenging times.



Eleanor Lilley

Provincial President W.I.N.S.

Quote: "Our unity is our strength and diversity is our power". Kamala Harris

Prince Edward Island Women's Institute submitted by Miriam Lank

The Womens Institutes of Prince Edward Island have been working tirelessly despite Covid-19 restrictions. There are over 70 branches and women focus on home, family and culture through collaboration and sharing.

The first large project that was done was making masks valued at \$80,000.00. Most of the masks were donated to Seniors Homes, Long Term Care facilities and hospitals. Also \$23000.00 was donated to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. This donation was instead of the yearly 'Gala Dinner' for our hospitals.

Kits for Kindness was another program. Kits were packed for school children in Grades 1-6 with essentials and food for the weekend. Institute members knit approximately 700 pairs of mitts to be added to the kits.

The final round of the Women's Institute Youth Cooking Contest was held virtually. Students from Grades 7-12 made food from Island products. There were 4 categories: appetizers, soup, main dish, and sweets. Cash prizes were awarded. Although Founders Day could not be held as usual. In its place WI members made cards. These were sent to 38 Nursing Homes and the Residents can send them for special occasions. Cash prizes were awarded.

The 28-day campaign, "Taking Care of Women's Business" was a great success as \$5000.00 in feminine hygiene products were collected and given to food banks to be given to women.

For the last number of years a "Gala Dinner" to support hospitals was held in April. Due to Covid-19 protocol, a "Stay at Home Gala Dinner" was organized. Many cash donations were received. This year the donation will be given to the Prince County Hospital.

ACWW Walk the World was held on April 29th. Government representatives were invited to participate. Many



walked in various areas of P.E.I. Prizes were awarded and donations were collected.

A workshop on Anti Oppression and Welcoming Newcomers was presented virtually and FWIC were issued an invitation to attend.

Recently the provincial Board of Directors wrote cards to all of the members thanking them for the work they do, and to wish them well during this difficult time.

The 49th WI Roadside Cleanup was held on May 8th. People were encouraged to send in photos of people doing the cleanup. These are judged and prizes are awarded.

Our annual WI Convention will be held virtually on May 29th. A workshop was held to educate members on using zoom.

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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.



As I look out my window this morning I see the most beautiful June morning, - everything a luscious green, with every shade of green imaginable. When I go to the door I get a wonderful perfume coming from a large bed of lily of the valley in full bloom, and right beside me three feisty humming birds fighting for their turn at the feeder. Peace and quiet, all is right with the world. But then reality returns and my thoughts go to the report of innocent children's lives lost. Atrocities have happened and are still happening elsewhere in the world but not in Canada. These past few days have been, yet another wake up call for us to acknowledge our past, show that our sadness and grief is really going to bring about change, so that everyone in our country live where justice for all is upheld.

This past week I added another term to my pandemic vocabulary. I heard a psychologist state that many of us are suffering from cave syndrome which is anxiety about returning to some form of normalcy. We are anxious about being in a group or in a crowd. We are reluctant to give or receive a hug, we are not really interested in conversations. I am sure that if we had been able to meet for the 22nd convention of FWIC in Newfoundland there would not be any sign of cave syndrome! But we are going to meet virtually and our FWIC Board has worked diligently to make sure that this will be a good Convention which we never imagined would take place. We will be hearing reports from the past three years, which have been a challenge, and planning for the next term. I know that a new set of By-Laws will be approved,



election will take place for our President Elect and I understand that there are decisions to be made about the Homestead. . Times have changed in those sixty years since we acquired Adelaide Hoodless' home. Renovations were made, additions constructed, and it has been an interesting and lovely place to visit. Members across Canada owe a deep gratitude to the dedicated Women's Institute members from the nearby communities who were part of making it all happen as our Homestead Committee. One of the highlights of my presidency when I was able to attend one of their meetings.

And thinking about this takes me back in time. It was June 1959 and the FWIC was meeting for its Annual Board meeting at the University of Prince Island in Charlottetown. One of the sessions was interrupted with someone coming to the door to ask President Elizabeth Rand to come to the telephone. This was unusual and we hoped that it wasn't bad news from her home. She soon returned with a big smile on her face and announced "FWIC's bid to buy Adelaide's home has been accepted. We are now the proud owners of our founder's home". There was a lot of clapping and cheering in response. A dream come true and so began a new era in the history of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

See you virtually on July 5 and 6.

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Project Maple Leaf



To All WIs Across Canada: a brief presentation will be made at the 22nd National Convention explaining more about Project Maple Leaf. Please view online as well.

<https://courageforfreedom.org> Did you know Courage for Freedom has been working tirelessly through this difficult time? Just like you! Founding a hardworking Pan Canadian Task Force to stop exploitation and protect children, we have exciting event news to share.

Members, volunteers, and allies have been contacted and banded together on #ProjectMapleLeaf since 2019. Whether they had a little or a lot of time, each organization and person has sown seeds of unity in advocacy and activism to bring change. Winter through to spring each member worked at "planting" ideas, voicing the challenge, holding a sign, sending emails, creating content, researching, and inviting others coast to coast to come together. As a crowd, we now populate a movement started by a 16-year-old survivor amplifying her voice. Join us.

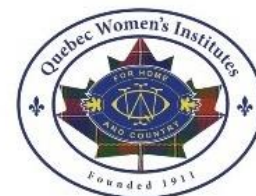
With summer quickly approaching, the #ProjectMapleLeaf movement to eradicate the sexual exploitation of children is experiencing an ever increasing #EradicateChallenge response. Using signs created by survivors in your social media posts, across all sectors, will ensure the upcoming celebration **July 30th at 9:20 am** is unignorable (**UN: World Day against Trafficking in Persons**).



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Quebec Women's Institute submitted by Quebec representative Judy Page Jones

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Quebec Women's Institutes held their annual board and general meeting virtually on May 22. Even with a few glitches the meetings went quite well. Almost all thirteen counties were represented. The morning was devoted to the Board and the business of QWI. The afternoon succession commenced with a virtual memorial candle for all the members who passed away in the past two years, followed by a poem being read; A Life Well Lived. After which President Elizabeth Milroy welcomed everyone, especially our special guest, FWIC President Joan Holthe. Elizabeth gave her report of the past three years and thanked everyone for supporting her during her term. The Committee chairs each gave a brief report. Past President Judy Jones conducted the installation of the new officers for 2021 -- 2024. After the installation Elizabeth Milroy was asked to open the big box that was delivered to her earlier. After much unwrapping, she found her parting gift of Presidency, a Life membership pin and certificate. The new President, Cynthia Jackson, thank everyone and hope to have the members continued support. One of her major goals during her term is to recruit new members. Elaine MacPhee, new President-Elect, gave the courtesies for the day. At the end of the meeting, we had a slide show of past conventions, created by Pat Clarke, new Vice-President, and the current Treasurer. We all enjoyed reminiscing over the pictures of the good times we had together and looking forward to being together for our next convention in 2022.



From QWI Past- President Elizabeth Milroy

Last September I attended the FWIC A.G.M, via zoom and omg it was quite a surprise! Not at all what I expected it was quite enjoyable partly because I was with my friends, Norma Sherrer and Paulette Mahannah.

This was my first zoom meeting, I did not have a clue of what to expect I did not know what would happen at least I was not so scared after that.

That was the first of many meetings via zoom one of the reasons I enjoyed that first meeting, was because President Joan Holthe and her team did such a great job only to get better and better ,another reason was because, I met so many of our W.I. members from right across Canada, it was just like they were sitting beside you,(FANTASTIC!). Talk about diversity, I think and hope that zoom is here to stay.

On May 24 2021 we had our QWI, AGM first time via zoom, we had approximately 40 members, Pat Clarke at the helm, along with Michelynn Dubeau, and assisted by Elaine Mc Phee. As a first AGM, by zoom it went well Parkdale school choir sang a beautiful rendition of O Canada via you tube. All in all it was a success.

Before signing off, on behalf of all QWI members I have to say Congratulations to Ruth Blenkhorn for winning the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the year award.



Community, Culture & Heritage Committee

We are pleased to announce the winners of the

TRIENNIAL TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITIONS & SENATOR CAIRINE WILSON COMPETITION

Handicraft Competition - Needlepoint Sampler

Front Cover of Convention Competition Booklet

1st Place Winner – Donna Thompson, ON

2nd Place Winner Audrey Farquharson, PEI

3rd Place Winner – Linda Chesnutt, AB

4th Place Winner – Karen Gerwing, SK

Cultural Competition – Story of Interest about any FWIC

Event

1st Place Winner – Carol P. Brown, AB

2nd Place Winner – Chandra Smith, NB

3rd Place Winner – Diane Dammann

Heritage Competition – Collage

1st Place Winner - Carol P. Brown, AB

Sen. Cairine Wilson Competition – Essay about any Governor

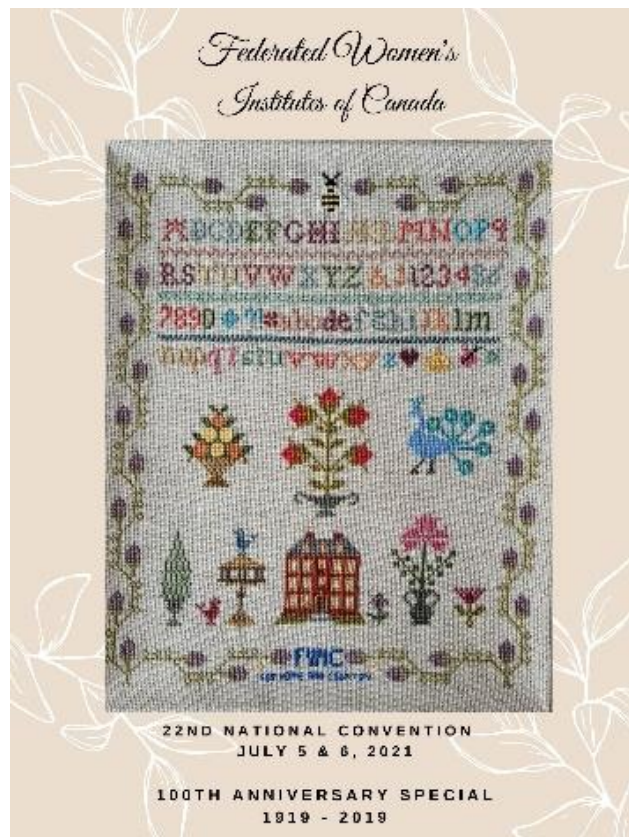
General of Canada

1st Place Winner – Marian G. McNabb, Basswood WI

2nd Place Winner – Annemarie MacDonald, ON

3rd Place Winner – Ruth Fenner, BC

4th Place Winner – Diane Dammann



Thank you for all of the submissions for the Tweedsmuir & Senator Cairine Wilson Competitions. Special thanks the Committee Members Miriam Lank, Glenna Smith and Diane Dammann for judging the competitions and making the hard decisions for the winning entries.



The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead

Thanks to a grant from the County of Brant and the amazing generosity of Mr. Hollie Archer, the Homestead has received a fresh coat of paint and the cedar shingles, decks and eaves troughs have been power washed. Now the bad news, the cleaning of the cedar shingles has revealed that the roof will need to be replaced in the very near future. The sad news is that after several years of operating at a deficit and COVID-19 restrictions and shut-downs, the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Board of Directors has reached the difficult decision to offer for Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead for sale. Please visit our website www.fwic.ca to see the "Letter from our President" and watch for more details as they unfold.

Thank you to the Government of Canada for providing funding for a Museum Assistant Program and the Young Canada Works Program grants. We would like to welcome Roxana Maturana and welcome back Emily Jackson who have joined our team as Museum Assistants. They have begun the momentous task of updating, cataloguing, and digitizing the museum collections.

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

June is Seniors Month - Women's Institute 50-year recognition Ceremony

Submitted by Margaret Byl



Resident Barbara Temple at Maplecrest Retirement Village has been an active member of the Women’s Institute for 50 years. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (W.I Canada), is the national organization that provides a united voice for all Women's Institutes across Canada while advocating for national directives in health, poverty, food safety, environmental preservation, and community support.

The first Women’s Institute was founded in 1897 in **Salt Fleet (now Stoney Creek)**, Ontario, where Erland and Janet Lee invited a group of women to their home to hear Adelaide Hoodless speak on the importance of women engaging in formal domestic education and organizing a unified voice to advocate in the areas of education, family health and community service to improve the lives of their families, the families in their communities, and families across Canada.

A presentation will be held outdoors in the Gazebo garden at Maplecrest. Recognition certifications will be presented on behalf of Dean Allison, Sam Oosterhoff, and Mayor of Lincoln Sandra Easton. Members of the WI will be sharing photos of Barbara over the past 50 years, along with a speech from the current club president and a special gift will be given to Barbara in recognition of the 50 years she has been involved with the WI.

About Barbara Temple’s involvement with the WI. Barbara Joined the Wellandport W.I. in 1971. Joining the Beamsville W.I in 1984. She has served as BT joined Wellandport W.I. in 1971 very active in W.I. while living in the area. when she joined Beamsville W.I. she has been President & secretary of Beamsville W.I. as well as Lincoln District W.I. secretary & served 3 terms on Federation Women's Institute of Ontario as well Erland Lee Museum Committee Board Member.

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Alberta WI Report submitted by Diane Dammann, President Alberta WI

When you have had a very efficient Executive Director (Fern Killeen) for 19 years it is more than a little scary starting a new council with a new Executive Director. Bernadette Logazar has proved to be up to the task and is learning the history of AWI quickly. She is the answer to our social media dilemma.



While each branch has an email contact listed there are still many members who do not use the internet or even cell phones. We have a monthly News and Notes which goes out electronically with the hopes that it gets printed and shared with members.

Handicraft has added Dotz painting and pencil and pen category There will be 2 entries per branch allowed to enter at the Provincial Convention,



Provincial Convention is scheduled for Sept 26-29, 2021, at the Norseman Inn in Camrose.

Council meets about every 6 weeks via Google Meets which we have found to be very efficient.

On June 21 we will have our second meet and greet on Google Meets. It is just an informal get together. Registration is required at no charge. awipresident20@gmail.com

Alberta has a new recruitment brochure, but it is difficult to distribute while COVID is still around.

Our current membership is about 300 and I hope to see it reach 1000 in the next 2 years which would be possible with individual invitations to join coming from each member. We are looking forward to meeting face to face again and having more faces to meet.

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'My Falling Tears'

submitted by Denise Joss –Manitoba WI Rep



There is a song performed by Anne Murray that says, "I sure could use a little good news, today."

This week there wasn't any good news in Canada. Hundreds of children need to be identified and sent back to their home nations for proper traditional burials. The grief has affected each family, their communities and brought back the nightmares of Post-Traumatic Stress for many more.

Next came the murder of a family out for an evening walk. According to reports, a young man, filled with irrational racial hatred, mowed them down with his truck.

These events do not reflect the Canada that I love, and I am proud to live in. There was nothing "glorious or free" about this week.

The Mary Stewart Collect reminds us to be kind and that 'It is the little things in life that create differences; in the big things of life we are one.'

My tears were falling this week because we are one.

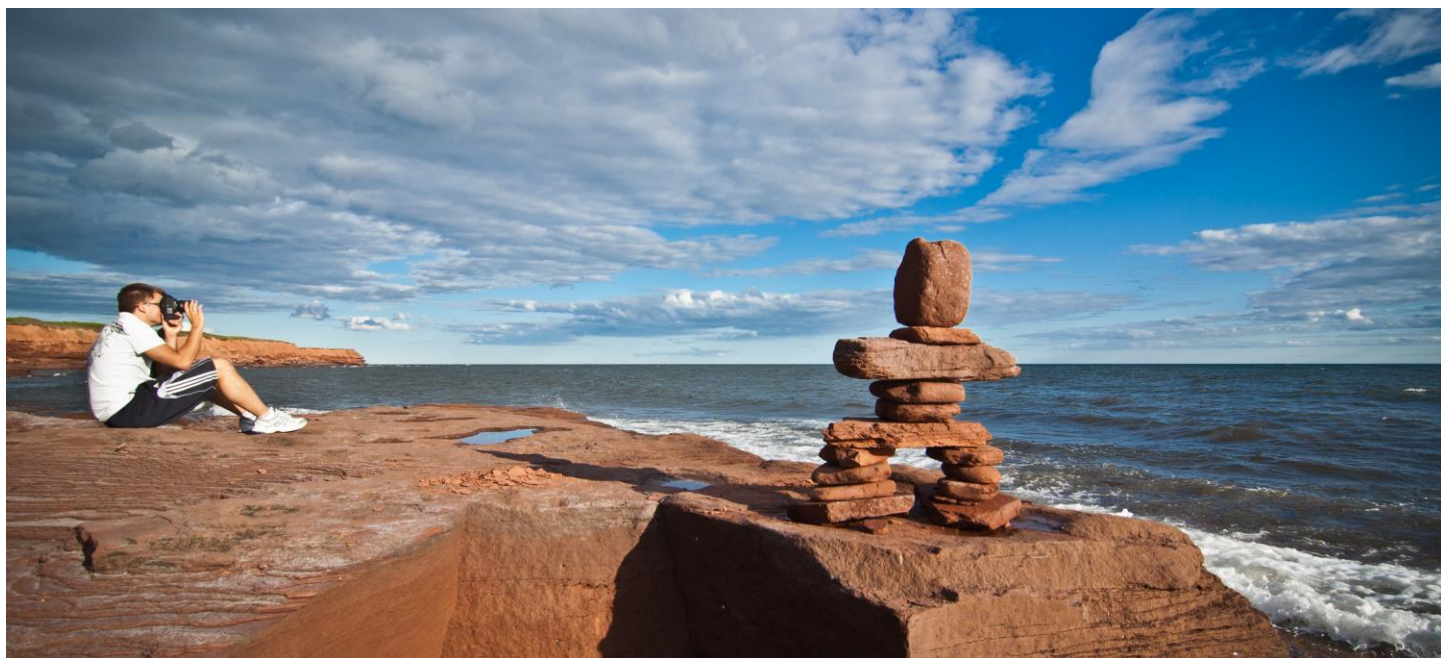
Please take the time to read the Mary Stewart Collect, written below. We recite this Collect at the beginning of each Women's Institute gathering. After ... take a few silent moments to remember.



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.

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PEIWI Announces Winners - PEIWI announces winners from its Provincial Convention.

The annual WI provincial convention took place online for the first time in the history of WI on PEI. Greetings were brought forward by Premier Dennis King; Minister of Agriculture and Land, Bloyce Thompson; Chair to the UN for ACWW, Marie Kenny; and FWIC President, Joan Holthe. Highlights included a new slate of officers



being installed and announcing award winners. Several highlights include the installation of Miriam Lank of Meadowbank WI as the new WI Provincial President who thanked outgoing President Carol Jenkins for her dedication. Doreen Wall, past president, announced several top WI awards. The following awards were announced on Saturday, May 29 during the online convention.

Soleil Hutchinson from Bonshaw, PEI was named as recipient of the WI Woman in Agriculture Recognition Award. Hutchinson is an organic mixed vegetable farmer and shares her skills with Islanders through multiple projects and organizations such as CHANCES, the PEI Association for Newcomers Association, and the Wild Child Forest School project of the PEI Sierra Club. Her vegetables are available at various Island stores, including Soleil Farm in Bonshaw. After completing an organic farming apprenticeship, Hutchinson has brought innovative ideas to help widen access to local food such as “Plate It”, a catering initiative connecting Island restaurants and producers. With her co-operative community sponsored agriculture (CSA) programs, she has also connected residents to local seasonal produce, breads and other PEI foods. The Woman in Agriculture 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 and her picture will be mounted in the Department of Agriculture foyer.

Nanne Garnhum of North Milton 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.

Myron Younker 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. Younker was nominated by Brackley WI.

Friend of WI award goes to Leo Czank of Uigg. His name was put forward by Uigg-Kinross-Grandview WI for his service of supporting the work of Women’s Institute. Other awards included Golden Book of Recognition with Joyce MacFadyen and Helen MacEwen as recipients for their outstanding service.

The PEI Board of Directors also sends a special thank you to all participating Islanders and sponsors involved in the 49th WI Roadside Cleanup on May 8th. Helen Nicholson, the past provincial Environment Convener, is pleased to announce the following cash prize winners: Bideford United Sunday School students; Brycen Campbell; Carol Arenburg and Theo John; Cheryl Boom; Eva & Will Colwill; Gerry Mawhinney, Jaron, Nathan and Brad Gallant; Karen Arsenault and Virginia Pineau; Carol and Brent Ladner; Elizabeth, Julia, Kate and Ellie Mallett; Marina and Kymmy Darrach; Nancy MacKinnon; Verner and Nancy Smitheram.

Special award winners include Little Blessings Daycare Workers winning a President’s Choice gift card compliments of Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Club; and Paula Platts and her grandchildren, Caleb and Emmie Jane



Smallman, receiving a gift basket from Anne of Green Gables

New Brunswick Women's Institute

Submitted by Sandra Day

We are delighted to be saying hello again and reporting that the COVID-19 Crisis in NB is looking much better and soon we hope to be open to the other Atlantic provinces and the rest of Canada. It has been a long siege, but together we survived a gigantic hurdle.

Unfortunately, many Branches have closed during the pandemic and our membership has decreased some, but we do still have new women joining, and won't it be fun to have a convention some day to celebrate them! Last year we had a mail in ballot to accept our budget for 2020-2021, and this year the Board approved it for 2021-2022. We were due to change executive officers last year as well but opted to wait until this year. Plans are still under way for our annual convention for this year (2021).

Since last August, our primary concern has been the state of the WI Home. It was going behind \$6000 every month, so something had to be done. We investigated many options and made a bid for the NB Government to help supplement the monthly rents for low-income senior ladies, but to no avail. In March the Board voted to sell the Home, so the remaining 9 residents were assessed by our Dept of Social Development, and they moved by June 1st to new homes. Many of the Board members have worked tirelessly at cleaning out the past 70 years of living. It was a sad and challenging job for so many, but we did come together as we always do to pick up the pieces.

On a bright note, the booklet for the New Horizons for Seniors Project – Fidget Quilts was prepared in English and French, and it will be shared at various functions once things 'open up' again. We have also received funding for Board training for our next President, Executive and Advisory Board. We look forward to learning together and forming a strong WI into 2022 and 2023 with the expertise of national facilitator Pat Brady.

We understand that your theme for the National Convention is "Our diversity is our strength". What a wonderful theme, and it has certainly been true for our ladies here in NB over the past 12 months. Without the strengths, talents, and diverse approaches of our members we would never have accomplished such great challenges as we have this past year.



Since 1911

Special thank-you to proofreaders Karen Gerwing and Mary Shortt
Next month's deadline for submissions to WI Connections will be July 12th, 2021



WI Canada FWIC 22nd National Convention Program (Triennial Conference)

Day 1

Presentation July 5 (10am ET) -Draw the Circle Wide – Women Leading the World-Angela Scott

Opening Ceremonies July 5th (1pm ET)

- Opening ceremonies: July 5 1-4 ET
- Welcome: President Joan & Chair Elizabeth Young from NFLD Committee
- Native Land Acknowledgement- President-Elect Margaret Byl
- Parade of Flags and O Canada
- Official Greetings
- Recognition of Past Presidents in attendance
- Greetings from ACWW Canada Area President- Linda Hoy
- Greetings from ACWW World President – Magdie de Kock
- President’s Address – President Joan Holthe
- Announcement of Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year for the last three years
- Presentation of Lady Tweedsmuir Competitions winners-Margaret Byl
- Presentation of Senator Cairine Wilson Award -Margaret Byl
- Past President’s Competition Award – Linda Hoy
-Break.....
- Explanation of Procedures
- Mary Stewart Collect:
- Introduce Parliamentarian:
- Rules of Order noted
- In Memoriam/ minute of silence: those we have lost
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of Minutes: from 21st National Convention & 2020 AGM
- Financial Report April 1- March 31st & Financial Summary for the last three yrs.
- Appointment of Auditor
- Resolutions - Ratify motion to accept mail in votes, Mail in results, Special Resolution 2

Presentation July 5 (6 pm ET) – What, When, Where – but How? Advocacy & Resolution writing – Jill Copes; and presentation of Tweedsmuir entries (reading & descriptions)



Day 2

Presentation July 6 (10am ET) – The Mindful Way to Self-Care – Amanda Rocheleau

Plenary Session 2 July 6 (1pm ET)

- Keynote Speaker-Dr. Linda Ambrose
- President's Report
- President Elect's Report
- FWIC Committee Reports
- Ad Hoc reports: Hearth is Where the Home is, E-Book
- Provincial Presidents Reports
- Invitation for National Convention in 2024?
- Election of President Elect
- Installation of Board
- Address by new President
- God Save the Queen
- Courtesies/closing

Presenters for the 22nd National Convention

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Linda Ambrose

Dr. Linda Ambrose loves to tell a good story! She is Professor of History at Laurentian University where she teaches Canadian women's and gender history, in courses from first-year undergraduates to seminars in the PhD in Interdisciplinarity and Human Studies program. Her career at Laurentian began in 1994, and she moved to Sudbury, Ontario from Waterloo when she was in the process of gathering the research for her first book, *For Home and Country: A Centennial History of the Women's Institutes in Ontario*. She has fond memories of gathering stories from WI members in every corner of the province (long before the days of Zoom!) The recordings of those interviews with approximately 600 Ontario WI women are safely housed in the archives of the University of Guelph. Although it's hard to believe that the book and the centenary celebrations were almost 25 years ago, Linda knows it's true because her two little girls have since grown up, graduated, and made her a grandmother, eight times over!



After the 1997 celebrations, Dr. Ambrose continued teaching, served as Acting Dean of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities at Laurentian, and from 2017-18, worked as Special Advisor to the President developing the university strategic plan. But she never stopped writing! Linda followed through on an idea first presented to her by WI members: to write a biography of Madge Robertson Watt, the founder of the Associated Country Women of the World. Madge Watt grew up in Collingwood, Ontario, not far from the family farm in Grey County where Linda spent her childhood. The biography of your first world president was published by the University of Toronto Press in 2015 as *A Great Rural Sisterhood: Madge Robertson Watt and the ACWW*. Madge was a character and researching that book took Dr. Ambrose around the world, where she spent time in the archives in England, the USA, and across Canada. Tracking down Madge Watt also took her to Tasmania in 2004 when ACWW Triennial met in Hobart. When the biography came out in 2015, the Women's Institutes in Britain were celebrating their centenary and Linda had the privilege of travelling to Wales to mark the occasion with a visit to Llandfairpwll, and the WI hall where Madge oversaw the creation of the first WI in the UK.

In 2017, together with Professor Joan Jensen from New Mexico State University, Linda edited a collection of essays by fellow researchers of rural women's history from across the United States and Europe. That book, *Women in Agriculture: Professionalizing Rural Life in Europe and North America, 1880-1965*, was published by the University of Iowa Press and it features the work of several of her colleagues from the Rural Women's Studies Association. More recently, Linda has turned her attention to Canadian religious history with a focus on Pentecostalism. Her latest book, *After the Revival: Pentecostalism and the Making of a Canadian Church*, co-authored with Michael Wilkinson was published in 2020 by McGill-Queen's University Press.

Dr. Ambrose is looking forward to speaking at the upcoming meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada in July 2021. With 25 more years of history behind us, it's time for a reunion to catch up with her WI friends and acquaintances.

Amanda Rocheleau, BSW, MSW, RSW

The Mindful Way to Self-Care

Amanda is a Registered Social Worker in Ontario offering training, counselling, and consulting services on a range of topics related to the psychological health and safety of helping professionals. She has been featured as a speaker and trainer on positive workplace practices and personal well-being for over 400 professional and conference groups across Canada.

Amanda received her bachelor's and master's degree in Social Work from Carleton University in Ottawa, Ontario. She has over 15 years of experience in the field and now operates her own private practice. She is committed to supporting her clients in reconnecting with



their compassion and gain new insights in their work-life balance in order to reduce the risk of burnout and compassion fatigue. While focusing on the importance of authentic and sustainable self-care, she offers practical strategies to increase self-awareness and self-compassion to enhance individual and workplace wellness.

Angela Scott - Presenter

Draw the Circle Wide - Women Leading the World

Angela Scott is a farm girl at heart and attributes her leadership skills to growing up on the family farm and being married to an agrologist/farmer for over 30 years.

A graduate of the University of New Brunswick, Angela began her education studying public relations at Mount Saint Vincent University, and after a 20 year career as a florist and decorator, she returned to school as a mature student to study Bilingual Office Administration.

"Going back to a school as a mature student is the best gift you will ever give yourself", she says and in 2010 Angela graduated with her Bachelor of Integrated Studies, and went on to study for graduate courses in Adult Education at UNB.

A key component of the Integrated Studies degree was Leadership Studies at UNB's Leadership School - Renaissance College. "Leadership is one of the most important fields I have ever researched and studied, and it is truly a lifelong interest for me, especially as I worked with my community, province, and country as a member of Women's Institute". Ms. Scott is also a graduate of the Third Party Neutral Program, hosted by UNB and the Canadian Centre for Conflict Resolution, and is an experienced facilitator.

As a member of the Debec Women's Institute, the provincial representative for WI Canada FWIC, Past-President of the New Brunswick Women's Institute, and Chair of the Communications Committee/Designer of the national newsletter WI Connections, Angela enjoys serving with her fellow committee and Board members to serve Home & Country.

"Draw the circle wide - Women leading the world" will be a fun and fast paced discussion of women in leadership as it applies to the Women's Institute movement. "Leadership the Eleanor Roosevelt Way" by Robin Gerber (2002) is just one of the resources included in her presentation. Leadership and a vision for the future of WI will also be the back bone of a series of leadership modules slated to be announced during the presentation and delivered beginning in the fall of 2021. Watch for details to come.





Jill Copes – Presenter

What, When, Where - but How? Advocacy & Resolution Writing & Presentation of Tweedsmuir Entries (reading & descriptions)

Plan now to 'put into action your better thoughts, straightforward and unafraid'.

This presentation is all about mobilizing our women to speak up and use their voice to support positive change in an everchanging world. Jill will be presenting a skit, answering questions, and then sharing the entries provided for the Tweedsmuir competitions.

Jill Copes has been a Women's Institute (WI) member for over 50 years. Jill and her husband live on a grain and grass production farm in Cecil Lake, a rural community in the beautiful Peace River Country in BC. They raised four boys and when the boys were old enough to take over the tractor and truck

driving, she looked for a job outside of the home and spent ten years in a management position with the local regional government as a Weed Inspector. While employed, she took on-line Crop Production courses through the University of Saskatchewan.

Jill is active in her community helping with 4-H, serving on the Agriculture Advisory Committee with the local government, organizing local community events.

She has been involved in all positions for WI for branch, district and Provincial. She was vice president and president of BCWI and is now the BC Representative for Federated Women's Institute of Canada as the Advocacy and Resolutions Chair. This involved the drafting of the new by-laws which she was familiar with as she helped BCWI, her District and Branch redo theirs.

Jill gives credit to her many mentors throughout the years. WI is the greatest teacher. You learn so much from the people you meet. Thank you to Ruth Veiner for being a great friend and mentor in helping to put together this presentation. The theme for our up coming Convention "Our Diversity if Our Strength" is so true of WI members. Our differences are what makes this organization so unique. I know for myself it has helped me to grow and be able to accomplish great heights I never expected.

My Motto is you can do anything you set your mind to and I thank God for giving me the courage and ability to do it and WI for being the great teacher.

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
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