

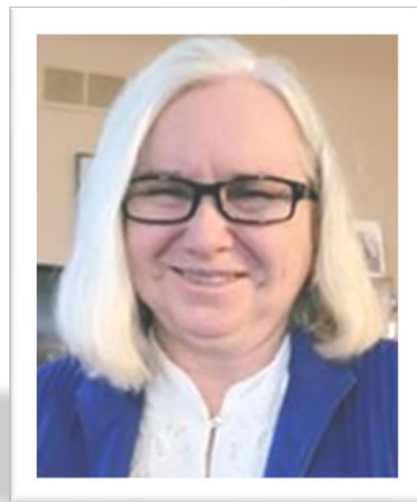
WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



Margaret's Message, Submitted by President, Margaret Byl

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors. May was a busy month, as usual. Many Provincial WIs held their Annual General Meetings, and I had the pleasure of attending the BCWI and Quebec WI meetings being held by virtual means and written greetings to PEI WI who had their first in person AGM since the pandemic. Congratulations and good luck to all the new members of their Provincial Boards as they join in the amazing work of WI members at the Provincial Board level. Take a moment, if you will, to look at their websites and see the wonderful things accomplished by them in service of their communities.



June is a month of celebrations. On June 2, 1953, Her Royal Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, was coronated at Westminster Abbey, in London. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada wish to convey our sincere congratulations to Her Royal



Majesty as she celebrates this momentous occasion of Her Platinum Jubilee. A display will be available at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead honouring HRM Queen Elizabeth II.

On June 20th we celebrate both the first day of summer and Father's Day! I suppose that you could say that Erland Lee, co-founder of the WI movement 125 years ago, was the patriarch of the WI family. So, to all the fathers out there, the Erland Lee Award recipients, and all the men that have given support to family, the WI family, and their community, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for all that you do! I wish you all, a very Happy Father's Day.

As part of the 125th anniversary of the WI movement, we have planned an exciting day at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead and Head Office of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada/WI Canada. A hybrid Annual General Meeting will be held on July 12, 2022. Please mark the date and plan to participate, either in person if you are able or by virtual means if you can. Plans are underway for a tree planting ceremony and a luncheon. I am pleased to inform you that our Keynote Speaker, Professor Gail Cuthbert Brandt will be speaking about Canadian Women's Organizations – Past, Present and Future. The AGM will be followed by a reception at the Homestead. Funding for the celebrations is courtesy of a grant from the County of Brant. Our sincere thank you to Mayor David Bailey and the County Councilors for their continued support.

With Mr. Hollie Archer's kind permission, I am thrilled to announce his generous donation of \$49,800.00. In addition to funding from the County of Brant, we will now have sufficient funds to replace the roof of the Homestead and the Pavilion roof as well. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, I wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Archer for his generosity and continued support of Women's Institutes and the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead.

“If you get, give, if you learn, teach.” –

Maya Angelou

“When you practice gratefulness, there is a sense of respect toward others.”

– Dalai Lama

With gratitude for the awesome Board of Directors, Provincial Presidents, and Committee Volunteers, as we work together with a recipe for success! - Margaret Byl, President



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

RSVP by June 25, 2022 info@fwic.ca 519-448-3873



ADELAIDE
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HOODLESS
HOMESTEAD

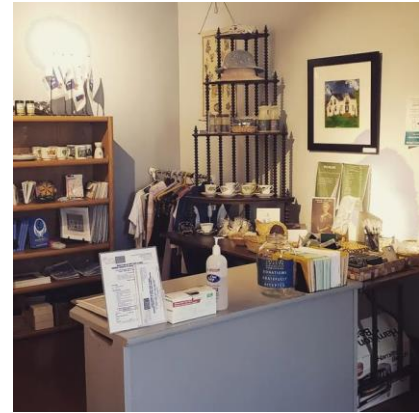
HOSTED BY FWIC/WI CANADA

SPONSORED BY THE COUNTY OF BRANT



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Update

Join me in welcoming Lauren Marco back to the Homestead as temporary Museum Assistant. Lauren is doing a fantastic job at the Homestead. The Gift Shop has been re-arranged and is open for business Wednesday through Sunday from 11am ET to 4 pm ET.



The Brant County Heritage Committee has unanimously approved our request to replace the cedar roof with alternate roofing materials due to the increase in price of cedar shingles. They will forward their report to the Council for final approval. Thanks to the generous donation fo Mr. Archer and the County of Brant, sufficient funds are available for the roof of both the Homestead and the Pavilion. A Tourism Grant which has been applied for further upgrades to the Homestead and grounds is pending a decision.

Thank you to FWIC Board Director Linda Zelem, Staff, Committee & Volunteers preparations are underway for the 125th Anniversary of WI and the Annual General Meeting of FWIC/WI Canada being held at the Homestead on July 12th. Watch for further details on the FWIC website. A display honouring HRM Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee will be ready for celebrations. Thank you to Margaret Lang for her kind donation of the Royal Family memorabilia that will be part of the display.

Friends of Addie are looking for members. If you would like to support the Homestead, consider becoming a member. Lauren has done a great job on this month's newsletter "Inside the Willows" for Friends of Addie members. Ask about the benefits of becoming a member.

Interested in history? Consider purchasing a Brant Museum Passport for \$5.00. Purchasing a Passport through the Brant Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre gives you over \$50 in savings and provides admission to 10 participating museums, including the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead.

The Pavilion and grounds are available to rent for all occasions. WI Branch meetings, family gatherings, baby showers, and weddings. Need an official for your wedding at the Homestead? Contact us for more details.





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519-448-3873 info@adelaidhoodless.ca

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.



I am not a writer, but I think that I am suffering from Writer's Block this month. Last month my "Corner" was all about the Associated Country Women of the World's "Pennies for Friendship". One week after having sent this off to Angela Scott I "attended" our virtual Spring District meeting. There I learned that there would be no more Pennies for Friendship after July 1st, 2022. That was something of a shock. And, we were told that ACWW now has a new logo. I had never read or heard that these changes were being contemplated by the ACWW Board. We were told that details would appear in the next issue of "The Countrywoman". That arrived in my mailbox two days ago and I am still absorbing it. The questions I keep asking myself is Why these changes?

The meaning of that five-letter word "change" immediately came to mind. We have all faced changes in our personal lives, our families, communities and our country and the world. I have a problem with change for the sake of change. I can happily accept change for the better. However, I certainly don't see the need for a new logo. And I know that the revenue from our Pennies for Friendship is a small part of the ACWW budget, but I think there is an important awareness and reminder of our international responsibilities. Over the years that little container ear marked "Pennies for Friendship" has been passed from member to member at every meeting. In earlier times it was pennies, nickels, dimes, or quarters which in the past few years have been replaced by loonies, twonies and the occasional bill. We remembered our obligation to ACWW every month. I am sure my Branch will continue to raise some funds when we "walk the world" every Spring, and give to a Project from time to time, but that monthly reminder is gone. With regret. And then I wonder if the Board did discuss these issues with any of the members for their thoughts before making these decisions



My apologies for being a little gloomy this month. But by the time you read this we can happily say “What is so rare as a day in June”. Enjoy this wonderful month. My hope is that for some of you the floods have subsided, and that no severe weather is in store for any of us.

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. 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. Who will be the first to plant?



FWIC WI Canada and YouTube

Over the years, FWIC under the Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada, FWIC, and/or WI Canada have uploaded various videos to YouTube. We had hoped to organize all the past videos with the 2021-2022 videos under one heading but unfortunately, that has not happened.

However, FWIC WI Canada now has its own channel which you will find



under the following logo:

Welcome New Members!

FWIO Branches have submitted the names of 3 new members.

*North Grey WI
Doris Sowerby & Andrea Knox*

*Women Empowered WI
Laraine Spencer*

*Like a seed planted in spring,
WI Continues to grow!*





The queen is celebrating her Platinum Anniversary and many WI members in the UK are knitting commemorative items.

Judy Parks, Cambridge WI, (WINS) adapted a doll pattern to knit her queen. Adeline Blatt received a pattern for the corgi dog from her UK penpal.



BC Women Walk the World, submitted by Ruth Davis, Secretary for Somenos WI, Duncan B.C.

In March of 2022, Somenos Women’s Institute of Duncan, B.C. offered a challenge to the South Vancouver Island WI District women to walk 125 km in the month of April to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the FWIC. We also included the ACWW Women Walk the World on April 29 and asked members to consider making it a fundraising event for the institute of their choice. The results are as follows.

Donna Jack, president of the SVI WI and member of Royal Oak walked 350.15 km in the 30 days and raised \$610.00. Arbutus WI of Victoria, walked a combined total of 384.54 km with one member walking 142.88 km on her own. Somenos WI of Duncan walked and rode (bicycle) over 300 km. One member (aged 76) walked 127.7 km. Over \$500 was raised for a bursary for young women continuing their education.

It has proven to be a fun challenge with women out in their community, enjoying nature and the companionship of fellow WI members.

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Federated Women’s Institutes of Ontario, submitted by Mary Shortt

The Erland Lee Museum will be celebrating its 50th birthday this year! All are welcome to join us for the party on June 25th, 2022! We are also looking for musicians and demonstrators to help make the birthday party a hit! There have been lots of changes including displays of the history of WI.

We look forward to seeing you there!

WI in the Community



Lennox & Addington District WI (Kingston Area) held their second annual “Women’s Matters Campaign” to collect feminine and personal hygiene products for Napanee’s Morningstar Mission and Salvation Army. Napanee’s Gray’s IDA sponsored the campaign and matched all the products collected with their Atoma brand. In the top photo, District President Valerie Smith accepts the boxes from IDA staff members Marci Stonness and Rhonda Krock. In the bottom



photo, Salvation Army's Abby Mills is with WI members Nancy Strugnell, Sherry Kimmett and Marg Hughes as they sort the 260 items.

Books, Blankets, and Bears!



Linda Tottenham of North Grey WI put together and delivered 18 purple bags with one bear, one book and one blanket in each bag, to the Owen Sound Women's Shelter. The members of the North Grey Women's Institute collected the books, bears, and blankets in honour of WI day on February 19, 2022.



ACWW Update from FWIO's International Officer, Anne Innes



April was an exciting month for sure, as many FWIO members joined together in solidarity to support all women around the world by walking and raising money for the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). This allows all WI members to show the international work of the Women's Institute. Thank you to all who have sent in the ACWW/International Reports, and who continue to support with donations. Hats off to Elgin District, Southern Area who walked in Canada's only elevated park in St. Thomas, and Browns WI who walked in the town of St Mary's at the river flats!

Congratulations to Wellington-Halton District for a fantastic Zoom meeting chaired by Hania White! Their annual ACWW meeting raises awareness and money for ACWW. The highlight was the guest speaker Marie Kenny, a UN Committee Chairperson. Marie shared that awareness and compassion for others will lead to understanding and collaboration in solving the issues that affect women today. She also shared her past working in Guatemala and emphasized how important it is to understand other cultures and not to assume you know what they need.

Marie also touched on the shadow pandemic - the increase in domestic violence, as well as the women who must bear the burden of conflict and women who are always searching for something better for their children. Her comments that women learn from each other with no age barrier certainly reflects the Women's Institute. A truly inspirational and motivational speaker! The meeting ended with a successful auction of an original Tree of Life necklace and bracelet.

Registration packages for the Triennial Conference in Malaysia arrive this month! If you are not an individual ACWW member, be sure to check the ACWW website for this information. When doing your program planning, try to include an international meeting and highlight an ACWW country!

Prince Edward Island Women's Institute

The annual WI provincial convention took place in Summerside in person for the first time in the two years. Greetings were brought forward by Premier Dennis King via Minister Jamie Fox; Minister of Agriculture and Land, Bloyce Thompson; Chair to the UN for ACWW, Marie Kenny; and FWIC President, Margaret Byl. Highlights included speakers Ann Worth and Erica Perry.

President Miriam Lank announced the following top WI awards on Saturday, May 28 during the convention.



This year Golden Book of Recognition Award was awarded to Mary Milligan of Poplar Grove-MacNeills Mills WI, and Jodi MacCormack, Wood Islands WI.

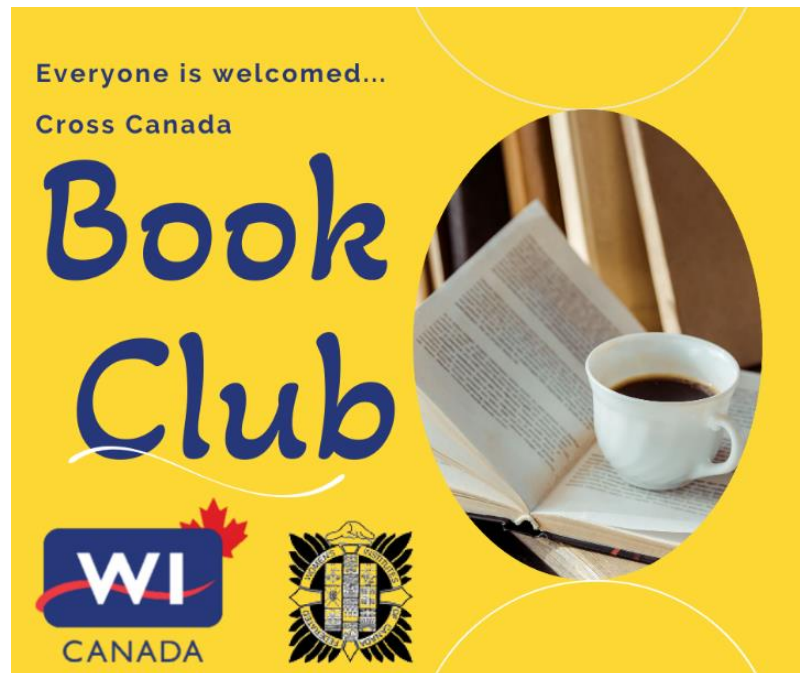
Ian MacLeod was announced as the winner of the Erland Lee Award of Appreciation. This award is granted from the Federated Women's Institute of Canada. This recognition is dedicated to a man who most exemplifies the qualities of Erland Lee, who assisted in the founding of Women's Institute. Mr. MacLeod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

Friend of WI award goes to Barbara Jenkins. Her name was put forward by Brackley WI for her service of supporting the work of Women's Institute.



On May 28, after a few technical difficulties, members met and discussed Justice Beverley MacLaughlin's book, *The Truth be Told*.

The book club will meet again on June 25 to discuss Lesley's Crew's *Spoon Stealers*. In the fall books may include "the Strangers" by Katherena Vermette, *The Last Book Shop in London* by Madeline Martin and *Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good. More details will be available in the next issue of *WI Connections*.



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