



WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Joan Holthe, President

President's Message

Joan Holthe



Hello, Members

Well, another day, another dollar, the saying goes! It has been a whirlwind of Institute business for the board since the start of the 2021. I hope you have taken notice of all the lifestyle courses our co-ordinator Margaret Byl has been organizing and be prepared for more of those happening later this month.

There is a little something for everyone.

Our staffing at the office has been reduced to just a bookkeeper, Sally Thorne, who is doing a wonderful job under the eye of Board Treasurer, Linda Mason, the Alberta representative. It is so great to have talented officers on board.

Regular correspondence and business has been handled by myself and president elect Margaret Byl.

Other 'Bizzi Beavers' are the committees for our social media sites, Connection publication, and the constitution and by-law gals. There has been a flurry of business, as we have made numerous grant applications to pay for staffing, programming, some renovations, and digitizing of our archival collection. Provincial and national governments have been very generous in announcing grants and funding during this covid lockdown, so I am just sitting on pins and needles waiting, for any dollar they approve.

Of course, I feel the pressure of winding down my term, ending not the way I would prefer, but in a way that has been dictated by dreadful circumstance. There will be new ways to vote for resolutions and elections, but we will plan a way to make the 2021 annual general meeting pertinent, meaningful, and most of all, to be as enjoyable as possible.

Information will be circulated very shortly, and it is every member's duty to inform their ten provincial delegates how to vote on the issues at hand.

I was just so thrilled to see all the smiling faces at our February 19th, W.I. Day commemoration. Please send in your photos of the events in your province, so we can all share the good news. I would ask the office gals from all the provinces to share their newsletters to all and many, it is up to each of us to blow our horns and let our light shine.

I can see that March, with its St. Patrick's day pageantry, is going to be filled with stories and activities, because it also happens to be Women's History month.

Yes, we have history yet to make and a tremendous past to celebrate, so let's find a shillelagh and a green bowler hat so to dance and sing to get rid of the covid blues.

Thanks everyone, a click of the heels to you all.



Manitoba Women's Institute Picnic Nook at International Peace Garden (IPG)

Submitted by Denise Joss



Tim Chapman, CEO, and the new Grounds Manager Kenny Keith are working on project plans for this spring and summer. Manitoba WI has \$7,533.80 in the WI restricted account and IPG will be using that money toward the kayak launch and beach area that they began developing last year. A piece of land just over the road next to our site was "beached over" for a canoe landing spot.

Here is what Tim shared by email. "As you know, the MWI Nook is our largest and most visited of the seven sponsored areas. It has a perfect point out to Lake Stormon that works well for kayaks, canoes, and paddle boats. The restricted account funds will go toward aggregate, sand, signage, and completion of the kayak rack. We purchased kayaks last year and will begin renting them out to visitors this summer. We also saw an increase of families using the area for swimming and tubing when we cleared the point!"



International Peace Gardens

Submitted by E (Liz) Chongva, MWI Provincial Representative-2015 - 2019

Henry J Moore presented his idea of the Peace Gardens to a FWIC delegates meeting in Toronto in 1929. The proposal was to create a living memorial to everlasting peace between two nations: a thing of beauty and an inspiration to the hearts of all humanity. The International Peace Gardens was

incorporated. A committee chose an area where people from the two countries, Canada and the United States could mingle freely.

Turtle Mountains, midway between the Atlantic and Pacific was chosen for the Gardens. The area covers 888 acres, half farmland, half undulating, tree-covered ground in North Dakota with 1,451 acres from Manitoba included a forest reserve of rolling land with round-topped hills covered with paper birch, poplar and ash at lower levels and willows below and among the hills, freshwater lakes.

Two Women's groups – Canadian Federated Women's Institutes and the United States National Home Demonstration Council each received garden plots near a stone cairn erected in 1932 and dedicated on July 14, 1932 on the international line a short distance from the proposed entrance to the gardens. The two groups each assumed responsibility for landscaping the allotted area. The Canadian provincial groups contribute yearly toward maintenance.



In 1953 Manitoba Women's Institute began a special project to develop a picnic area on the west shore of Lake Stormalon, with a roadway and a shelter which was opened on July 25, 1954. FWIC selected a site adjacent to the Manitoba project, commemorating it to Mrs. Alfred Watt the first ACWW President. In 1956 a gathering was held to dedicate the memorial "to and by women of goodwill". The Manitoba WI picnic site is one of the largest and most visited sites in the Peace Garden. A kayak launch and beach area are being developed near Lake Stormalon.



Botanical Gardens

The botanical gardens encompass nature's beauty, freshwater lakes, scenic hiking and driving trails, wildflowers, large variety of North American birds and animals, facilities for international music and athletic camps and a performing arts centre. An interpretative centre was built including two green houses which house a major collection of cactus and succulents, it is a major attraction. To commemorate Manitoba 150th, MWI purchased some cacti. In the flower gardens there are annual and perennial plants.

Steel girders from the destroyed World Trade Centre were brought to the 9/11 memorial site and are at rest in the formal garden, a symbol of peace and democracy which includes story boards. In the garden there is a Carillon Bell Tower chiming every 15 minutes and on the hour. Peace Poles, presented by the Japanese government, in which "May Peace Prevail" written in 28 languages. The Peace chapel is the only building straddling the US AND Canadian border. It features dozens of quotes from "People of Peace" etched into beautiful fossil embellished limestone walls.

In 2016 three young ladies on FWIC International Peace Gardens scholarship spent a week at the Peace Gardens, while there they undertook to clean the picnic shelters and paint the tables, along with helping with an Educational Conference held during the week. I had the opportunity to be with the girls. A wonderful memory.

To commemorate FWIC 100th anniversary in 2019, a dozen Sunrise Chinook Rose were planted in the sunken gardens by WI members from Manitoba and other provinces. WI members who had the opportunity to visit the Peace Gardens will attest it is a lovely peaceful place to visit.



Province of Ontario, Central Area

Ontario's Women's Institute **Central Area** is one of 13 Areas in the Province and is located just east, north and west of Toronto. It is made up of 5 Districts with 12 Branches and 2 "orphan" Branches (not aligned with a district). Although the Area is mainly rural with a diminishing farm population and aging membership, we continue to attract a few new members to our branches. Many of our members have been in Institute for many years resulting in strong support and friendship among us.



WI Central Area Branches have had a strong presence in their communities for many years. Each of the Branches has been quite active in community-based events such as fund raising for local charities, schools, hospitals and women's shelters, and participation in community activities such as food banks, community living, 4H and senior support services. In addition, many provide scholarships to graduates of their local schools. And, several Branches hold or participate in annual Women's Day events and are active in local community farm days and fairs.

In addition to community work, Branches have had many Rose Programs, continue their Tweedsmuir recording and support advocacy initiatives such as the Lyme Disease initiative.

In person Branch, District and Area meetings are always a highlight for our members but with the Covid virus almost all of the "in person" meetings have been cancelled due to concern about the safety and health of the members. In spite of the limitations of rural internet, some Branches have continued to meet virtually through the internet but District Annuals and the Area Convention were postponed until next year.

With many talented and experienced cooks and quilters, Central Area Branches and Districts often raise funds through sales of their delicious food or raffles of their beautiful quilts. Money is also raised by organizing Christmas craft and food fairs.

We look forward to the future when we can meet, work, volunteer and share together. In the meantime, we keep in touch and continue to try to live by the Mary Stewart Collect and its final words "Let us not forget to be kind".

Report from Dufferin-Peel District WI

Over the past six years -2014-2019, we held a yearly Women's Day event in the fall with approximately 100 more or less women in attendance. The programs consisted of a variety of speakers and topics and fashion shows. A 50/50 draw was always held and the proceeds from this plus we would top it up was donated to local organizations such as Bethel Hospice Foundation, Caledon-Dufferin Victim Services, Choice Youth Shelter, Community Living Dufferin, Orangeville Food Bank and Pine River Institute. The last few years we included another draw with items donated and the proceeds went to our District scholarship fund.



During most of these years, we were involved in the Dufferin Town and Country Farm Tour. We would have a display promoting WI and our Women's Day. Members baked homemade cookies and in packages of two, these were given to the children who visited our display area.

During COVID we are not meeting as a District and our five Branches are keeping in touch with each other but not meeting together as well. We either phone or email one another as several of our members do not have computers.

I have included a picture of the Orangeville Food Bank that we donated to and one other Branch does this as well at Christmas time.

Report from the By-Law Committee

Submitted by Jill Copes and Lynn MacLean

The deadline is coming up fast as FWIC is required to have the Special Resolution regarding the changes to the By-Laws be presented to the provinces 3 months prior to the AGM. Lynn and I have had open communication with all of you and have made some adjustments to the draft based on this communication.

We thank all those who have participated; we appreciate all the help we have received. For those who wish to have further input on the Draft By-Laws, you have until March 31 to have a person-to-person discussion with the Committee or if you are unable to have a conference call and would like to comment, please send an email to Jill jillco48@outlook.com or Lynn jennielynnmaclean@gmail.com.

IWD (International Women's Day) / United Nations

Theme - Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world

Monday March 8/2021, Submitted by Hania White

A past 150 years of intense political, societal changes begun by a global Industrial Revolution challenged and redefined traditional gender roles. While I visited Bulgaria in 2017 (in order to attend the European Area ACWW Conference in Taru Mures, Romania), I noticed in a museum in Plodiv Bulgaria, memorabilia about Bulgarian Women challenging Ottoman oppression (1890's). Concurrently, women were active members of a radical group " the Paris Commune " in France, in Russia, women sought to present their needs within the rising Revolutionary years. Here in peaceful harmonious Canada, we had our Adelaide Hoodless / Janet Lee and Madge Watt make our beloved proud history.

The first National Woman's Day was celebrated by a freedom march led by Theresa Malkiel demanding improved condition for women factory workers. Globally, mainly in Europe, countries (Germany, Austro-Hungary, Spain, Great Britain), women's suffrage groups challenged family, societal and government order. With perseverance, country by country, women achieved their voting rights.

In 1922, women in China were involved in revolutionary activities.

Women contributed to war efforts in both World Wars. Marie Sklodowska-Curie unselfishly attended to wounded troops with her rudimentary x-ray machines (which resulted in her early death). Countless books, stories and films are written to honour brave women who assisted in fighting patriotic causes.

The second wave of feminism took place in the 60's where again many societal norms were challenged. More women appeared in traditionally male-dominated careers and faculties. The United Nations declared 1975 as the International Year of the Woman. The subsequent 10 years were declared the Woman's decade with the first UN Women's Day being March 8 /1977.

A second wave of feminism surged in the 1990's furthering a demand for increased opportunities globally for women, especially in 3rd world countries in agricultural issues.

Today International Woman's Day is celebrated globally. In many countries, it is a national holiday.

The ACWW has worked with the UN for improving conditions for women and families globally. The Countrywoman posts continually successful projects with successful fulfilled girls and women

In 2020, as we all know, Covid hit everybody with a vengeance. Who are the heroines... the health care workers (predominantly women). Also, during the last few years, women have shown strong leadership in all levels of political, social, health-related, industrial areas but Covid has really indicated the need for women to be valued and empowered.

On Monday, March 8/2021, the United Nations theme will be “ Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid -19 World. The UN NGO CSW 65 is hosting a virtual Forum from March 14-24. On March 18 (16:00 EDT) Marie Kenny (ACWW UN Committee Chair), Magdie deKock (ACWW World President) and Irene Chinje (Area President, East, West and Central Africa) are panellists on a The Role of Rural Women in Global Citizenship. Registration for the Forum is free on-line to all interested but pre-registration is required for events.

On a personal note, Peter and I were married in 1975, the International Year of the Woman. Somewhere, I have a poster from that year which states “To love God with her totality and to radiate that love to the world , this is the universal task of Women.

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Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia submitted by Lynn MacLean

The Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia were organized on July 17, 1913 in Salt Springs, Pictou County. Within the year, fourteen branches were formed of which one remains, Port Williams, located in Kings County. Today, the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia are divided into seven regions with a total of 34 Branches.

Let us take a look at the regions beginning with the **Cape Breton Region**. Yvonne Kennedy, Cape Breton Regional Director shared that the members of the three Branches in Cape Breton have been focusing on helping people in need in their local communities. Hundreds of comfortable hats have been created for women and children undergoing cancer treatment as well as colourful flannel pillowcases to brighten the rooms of patients in palliative care. Feeding bibs and lap quilts were provided for residents in long-term care homes. For their youngest residents, baby layettes were given



to new mothers before they left the hospital. The goal of the members in the Homeville, Point Edward and Spanish Bay Branches is to make a difference in of their communities through their sewing projects and indeed they do.

Moving west, the next region is the **Pictou-Guysborough Region** which has the most Branches in the province. Three in Guysborough County namely New-Town Denver, Port Hilford, and Sherbrooke WIs while Pictou County has nine Branches: Abercrombie,

Bridgeville, Caribou, Churchville, Fox Brook, Garden of Eden, Lyon's Brook, MacPherson's Mills, and Springville-Island. Margie Taylor, the Regional Director for this region shared that when you attend any of the Fall WI Rallies or Spring Meetings you are always greeted with a friendly smile and a warm welcome.

The members of this region were busy throughout the year with various projects such as supplying toiletries to local schools, scholarships for graduating students, supplying items to Long Term Care Units at the local hospitals and making masks just to name a few. In Pictou County during COVID, Branches were busy making non-medical masks, supplying them free of charge to support their local communities receiving rave reviews. Many individual members kept busy learning new crafts, trying out the latest recipes, getting caught up on their to-do-lists, reading books, learning to replay a musical instrument, and when allowed, spending time with family. As for Branch meetings, some turned to technology to stay connected, including holding their Christmas celebration virtually while others put their meetings on hold and used the *Home & Country* as a reason to stand on doorsteps and have a chat with members at a safe distance.

Just west of Pictou County is the **Cumberland-Colchester Region**, home of two Branches. Judy Benjamin, Regional Director shared that that the West Pugwash Branch was busy despite COVID. Judy Turple, one of their members was given an Award for Community Service after making a multitude of face masks which she donated to the Food Bank. Wanting to continue to support the local community, the Branch hosted and held their very first online auction which was successful. The Branch also supported their community by donating to the Soul Harbour Mission and to their local Food Bank. Their newest project is to create a

Welcoming Kit for their village. The North River Branch, located in Colchester County, is a small but close, vibrant group who are supportive of their area and its members. Their roots go deep in their rural Communities and help in whatever way they can. Even though both Branches have met less during COVID times, they have stayed connected.

One Region that currently does not have a Director is the region of **Hants County**. This region has two Branches, namely Hardwood Lands Junettes and the Nine Mile River Homemakers. These branches have always supported their communities by donating to the local Food Bank, supporting seniors in their respective communities, and making items for the IWK.

Next stop is the **Kings Region** which has seven Branches. Kings East has three Branches: Delhaven & Area, Port Williams (the oldest Branch in the province), and Scott's Bay while Kings West has four Branches: Cambridge (100 years), Lakeville, South Berwick, and Weston. The Regional Director and past FWIC President, Ruth Blenkhorn, states that all Branches have been adhering to the directives of Health Nova Scotia and heeding the Premier's "Stay the Blazes Home" edict. She shared that the

Branches have continued to find ways to stay in touch and informed, some meeting via Zoom, in person with social distancing, and others by means of phone calls or handmade cards. Many members have signed on to ACWW or FWIC Pen Friends so are connecting worldwide. Unfortunately, the successful monthly craft groups have been put on hold, but the work goes on by individuals.

Many events such as Community suppers, Christmas parties and teas, and social gatherings did not happen, but the Branches found ways to support their

communities through donations to the Food Banks, making masks, quilts for nursing homes and knitting projects as well as financial donations to hospitals, scholarships, school breakfast programs, Legion Branches and Campaign for Kids. One Branch made and delivered outdoor Christmas arrangements for seniors and other adopted children from the Angel Tree at Christmas.

Next to Kings is the **Annapolis-Digby** Region. These two counties have been strong supporters of Women's Institute of Nova Scotia and have three Branches. They are Islands and New Tusket in Digby County and Spa Springs in Annapolis County. Ellen MacGillvary-Simpson is the Regional Director and shared that COVID-19 has affected the number of meetings that have been held over the past ten months in both counties. These Branches are usually remarkably busy supporting their respective communities through fund raising, Adopt -a-Highway participation, school bursaries, Christmas Shoe Box, local hospital supplies and remembering the sick and shut in. Like the other regions, these Branches also invite local as well as international speakers to both Branch and District meetings to keep members informed on matters of interest.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 fund raising has taken a decline but prior to that the Branches had many teas, Christmas craft fairs, pie socials, ticket auctions to name but a few. Not ones to be idle, the members continue to make hand crafts such as knitting to donate to those that are in need.

The last region is the **South Shore Region** and covers the area from Yarmouth County to Lunenburg County

with a total of five Branches. There are two in Yarmouth County- Arcadia and Sable River and Area; two in Queens- Kempt and North Brookfield; and one in Lunenburg -Chelsea. Sharon Crooker-Lewis is the Regional Director and shared that before COVID, these Branches often held teas, provided bursaries to students, donated to the Food Bank, and made items for the IWK. Successful Back to Basics workshops and Health workshops have also been held.

Margie Taylor summed up Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia with the following quote, "For many members, 2020 caused us to stop and look at life in general, to "take time for all things, to make us grow calm, serene, gentle" and to "realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one". We certainly were "one" as we tried to survive the pandemic, and in our own way, doing what we could to continue to make a better community and a better self - by isolating, distancing, washing hands, and "O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind" ...kind to others as well as to ourselves. The *Mary Stewart Collect* continues to empower us to be better individuals, caring and contributing members of Women's Institutes, making a better future for us all."



March 2021 PEI WI Highlights submitted by Ellen MacPhail

The provincial Women's Institute featured a recent successful donation campaign and highlights several events for the upcoming months.

The month of March was kicked off with a heart-warming response to February's "Taking Care of Women's Business. Period. 28-day campaign" with donations being dropped off for PEI food banks. Over \$5,000 was estimated in product and monetary donations to address the need for feminine hygiene products for P.E.I. food banks. The Board of PEIWI wishes to thank those who donated cash or product across PEI and partners of Murphy's Pharmacy and Main Street Pharmasave in Souris as drop off locations. The Board also wants to send a special thanks to the Charlottetown Rotary Club for their monetary donation of \$500, and for the large collection of products and cash donations collected at Milton Community Hall. In WI's ongoing salute to agriculture on PEI and in celebrating Canadian Agriculture Literacy Month, PEIWI distributed over 450 Farm to Table Activity Books to youth in Grade 3 across Prince Edward Island. This month also included 'Heard it through the Grapevine', a new segment spotlighting WI members, which can be seen on Facebook and in member mailouts. This month's feature was on the Jewell Dale Farm in Meadowbank. Roy and Elaine Jewell, Kevin and Cheryl Jewell, and their children Kyle, Logan and Joel with their children represented the family run farm in the WI Island wide highlight.



PEIWI's annual "Spring Is in the Air" Gala Dinner has been replaced with a "Stay at Home" fundraising event. As planning for in-person events have proved difficult this year, the Board is encouraging sponsors and attendees to forward monetary donations instead of attending the traditional dinner. Proceeds will go to equipment at the Prince Country Hospital with full tax receipts issued. Donations can be given to PEIWI Board members or to the WI Office by visiting or mailing to 40 Enman Crescent, Charlottetown, PE C1E 1E6. Deadline for ticket sales and donations is April 29.

On global WI connections, Brackley WI member Marie Kenny, as Chair of the United Nations Committee for Associate Country Women of the World (ACWW), will be joining world leaders on a panel for 'The Role of Rural Women in Global Citizenship'. Members of the public are invited to be a part of ACWW at the UN Commission on the Status of Women for an official Parallel Event.

For many years, Associated Country Women of the World' ACWW has attended the annual Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. For the first time, members of the public can attend the Commission (normally known as CSW) through ACWW's official Parallel Event on March 18 2021. Registration is available through Eventbrite using 'NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum'.

The panel of speakers include Magdie de Kock, ACWW World President, Gill Naylor, National President of Rural Women New Zealand; H.E. Hans Wesseling, the Dutch Ambassador to UNESCO; Marie Kenny, ACWW UN Committee Chairman; and Area President for East, West, and Central Africa, Irene Chinje.

To additionally highlight the efforts ACWW, PEIWI will be kicking off ACWW Day on April 29 with the annual Women Walk the World event for any WI members and friends who would like to join in. The focus will be on friendship with further details available in next month's column.

PEIWI would like to mention branch milestones and thank their members as Victoria WI recently celebrated their 100th anniversary, while Covehead WI has reached 90 years of service.

WI's upcoming provincial calendar includes an anti-racism workshop, annual Roadside Cleanup on May 8, provincial WI convention on May 29 and award and scholarship deadlines. For further information on any of provincial events please visit online at www.peiwi.ca

Hearth is where the Home is

Submitted by Judy Page Jones

We are still looking forward to receiving your articles on the way this past year has affected you personally or your WI members and how you have coped.

The last chapter of the eBook will be a "Time Capsule. What items would you put in this "Virtual Time Capsule"? When I asked my group what they would contribute, this is some of the items: cloth masks, hand sanitizer, bottle of Valium, tablet with all the covid-19 stories, birthday party picture with everyone wearing masks.

Send your articles and lists of "Time Capsule" items to qwijudy@gmail.com.

Meet Bizzi...



Bizzi is the new mascot for the Hearth is Where the Home Is Project Committee. She is a busy beaver who celebrates anything crafty and nurturing in the home and community. She cooks, she sews, she paints, you name it, she can do it. She's dressed for Saint Patrick's day this month, and she is introducing some recipes this month too. She is also creating a book about the Covid-19 projects that people have created in the past year. Please forward your submissions to Judy Page Jones qwijudy@gmail.com

1909 Recipe MAPLE SUGAR MUFFINS

Submitted by Judy Page Jones

Measure and put into mixing bowl:

1-1/4 cups of milk

1/3 cup of vegetable oil

1 tsp. fine salt

Sift together:

2 Cups all purpose flour (reserve 2 tbsp. for rolling)

3 heaping tsps. Baking powder

Add the above to the milk mixture. Mix well but do not beat. You may need more flour to form a ball. Put on a floured surface. Knead lightly to absorb flour. Roll out dough to about 9 – 12 in rectangle.

Spread over dough: 1 Cup of brown sugar and dot generously with butter or margarine.

Starting from edge nearest you, roll as for jelly roll.

Butter a 3" deep baking pan. Then cut roll in even slices (10) and place cut side down in pan.

Pour over slices 1 1/2 cups of maple syrup then 1/2 cup cold water.

Bake 400* F in pre-heated oven for approximately 25 minutes.

'This was very popular when I had my little Cafe in Dunham back in 1997-99. My clients always enjoyed these especially in the spring when we had new syrup.'



Chocolate Easter Eggs submitted by Lynn MacLean

April brings spring, sunshine, and lots of chocolate! Candymakers tempt us with chocolate rabbits, chocolate chickens, and chocolate eggs and all in various sizes. Everyone has their store-bought favorites until they have the chance to taste the eggs made from this recipe.

Many years ago, when my elder daughter was in grade 5, her teachers shared the recipe, and the students were taught how to make the eggs which became an Easter present for the parents. The eggs continue to be a much anticipated treat each Easter.

Ingredients:

10 1/2 cups icing sugar

1 can sweetened condensed milk

1/2 lb soft butter

Melted chocolate

1 tablespoon vanilla

$\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt

Combine the first five ingredients. Shape into eggs. Let harden for a day.

Dip into melted chocolate. Let sit for four hours.

For those of you that are artistic, you can add names or add decorations.

Enjoy.



Attention WI Cooks

WI Connections is looking for recipes. If you have any favourites please send them our way to share with all the women across Canada. Pictures are most appreciated too. info@fwic.ca



Notices, Events & Other Good Stuff

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

WI Canada FWIC & ACWW

ACWW Canada Area President, Linda Hoy and Joan Holthe 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*

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>

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

New Deadlines- March 31, 2021 for the Tweedsmuir Triennial Competitions, Senator Cairine Wilson Competition and Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Canadian Woman of the Year Award

TRIENNIAL TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITIONS & Senator Cairine Wilson Competition

Submissions are beginning to come in. Don't forget about the cash prizes available to be won! The deadline for submissions is now March 31, 2021. Competition submissions are welcome at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Details and submission forms are on the website.

Mail your submissions to PO Box 209, 359 Blue Lake Rd., St. George, ON N0E 1N0.

Digital submissions can be emailed to info@fwic.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.



Last month as I continued my Pandemic “poking around” I came across a copy of two pages from a book with nothing to identify the original publication. I was very interested in what I read, some of which I already knew, but some was very new. This might be the same for you.

The left hand page of this copy is entitled “Collect for Club Women”. What follows are the words of our Mary Stewart Collect printed in beautiful calligraphy by someone who obviously was quite artistic, and it is signed Mary Stewart. The right hand page tells the story of that Collect that Women’s Institute know so well and that has been used by women’s groups for many years in Canada, the United States and beyond as a prayer at their meetings. Mary Stewart wrote the Collect in 1904 when she was Principal of Longmont High School in Colorado, USA. She explained that” It was written as a prayer for the day. I called it a “Collect for Club Women” because I felt that working women together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and perhaps, they had need for special petition and meditation of their own. This must have been true for the Collect has found its way about

the world especially where English speaking women get together. Indeed, it has been printed in many forms in many lands”.

Apparently after some years Mary Stewart was concerned that widespread use of the Collect had resulted in some changes. Entry into the story is our own Canadian Mrs. Alfred Watt. She was living in England and through her efforts the first Women’s Institute was organized in Wales in 1915. There are few dates given this article, but I would think that some time in the 1920s Mary Stewart was on a trip to England and spent some time visiting Mrs. Watt in her home. While there she spoke to Mrs. Watt of her concern “about the garbled versions” of her prayer which were being circulated. As a result, Mrs. Watt’s son Robin, an artist, copied the prayer in the beautiful calligraphy. Mary Stewart supervised his work “down even to the points of a comma or a period”. This copy is then THE accurate version of Mary Stewart’s creation. If you are wondering what lines were being garbled, it is that the line “Let us take time for all things...” should come before “Teach us to put into action”

Reading this aroused my curiosity. Where, when and how did Mary Stewart and Mrs. Watt become acquainted? Who, when and where was the decision made for the Women's Institutes to adopt this Collect? Was it after Mrs. Watt had attended the FWIC Board Meeting in November 1919? And who, when and where was the decision to change Collect for Club Women to the Mary Stewart Collect?

I did locate a 1938 Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia Handbook and there was no mention of a Collect in that. Then the 1953 edition had the words of the Mary Stewart Collect, and they have appeared in every edition right to the present. And I regret that I must confess that Nova Scotia is guilty of printing and repeating the "garbled" version for all these decades. I wonder how that happened.

Mary Stewart Collect

What part of our beloved Mary Stewart collect means the most to you?

Take a few minutes to drop us a line.

Describe the section that really resonates with you.

Maybe it is just a few words or two or three lines. Share your thoughts and we will publish them in our April edition of WI Connections.

Please submit to

Angela Scott (angela.scott@bellaliant.net) by April 5th, 2021.

FWIC/WI Canada Nominations for President Elect

Respectfully submitted by:
Jill Copes, Linda Mason - Nominations Committee

The President Elect position is voted on every three years at the National Convention. This is the third year and the provinces have until March 31 to get their nominations in.

Who can the Provinces nominate? First, the candidate needs to give consent and second, the candidate is assured that she has the support of her Province.

Do you have just the right person in your Province?

Please have your nominations in by March 31 to the FWIC/WI Canada office. Please note that nominations are supposed to be in four months prior to the National Convention; however due to late notification to the Provinces the deadline has been extended.

Nomination for President-Elect 2021-2024

Province _____

Nominee for president elect _____

Qualifications and experience of nominee: _____

Have you received written consent of the nominee? _____

Is the home province of your nominee aware of your nomination? _____

And are they willing to support your candidate? _____

Please return to the WI Canada FWIC office by March 31, 2021.

Penpal News submitted by Judy Parks

Thank you for your participation in the FWIC pen pal program. To my knowledge, all of you have connections . How is it working for you? Would you like another, only a different area, Canada is a huge country as you know so your armchair travel is varied from coast to coast .

Possibly you have friends ...WI or not who would like to take part . Due to the pandemic and the increased interest FWIC has opened it up to Friends and family members ...of WI ..providing a service and exposure for our great organization .Those interested can send their info to info@fwic.ca and subject it "pen pal" .letters can be email or regular mail ...those ladies without computers are not excluded ...a friend can send their info . info@fwic.ca
Keep smiling ~ Join the fun. Spread the word ...Armchair travel at its best !

Next Month in WI Connections

- More Hearth n Home
- Bylaw highlights
- Provincial highlights



WI Canada FWIC

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

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359 Blue Lake Road, P.O. Box 209
St. George, ON
info@fwic.ca 519.448.3873