

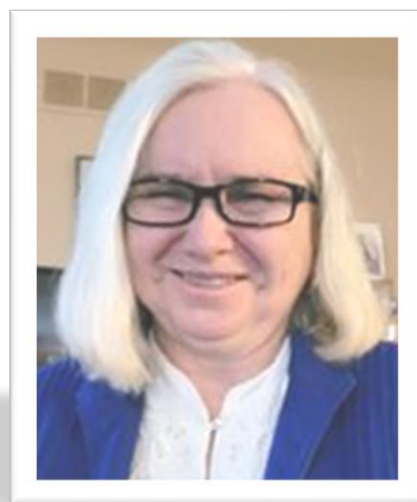
WI Connections

Monthly Newsletter of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



Margaret's Message by President Margaret Byl

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. I am looking out of my office window and seeing the green grass, birds that have migrated from the south and grape vines that have been dormant over the winter have been pruned in anticipation of the growing season. The recently tied vines are now ready for their buds to burst forth to begin the process of fruit production. FWIC/WI Canada reminds me of the sequence of events that brings fruit production and further develops it into a fine vintage wine. Covid-19 shutdowns were our dormant stage, and we are now into the part that brings about a renewed and fresh season of growth and production. Our "fruit" of labour - the Board of Directors and Provincial Presidents have produced some amazing programs: Leadership Modules; Membership Roundtable; Food Security Roundtable and the most recent Roundtable held on April 20th on Climate Change were well attended and brought positive feedback to the



Board. Climate Change is here. Each province has seen the effects of Climate Change and the most recent one is the flooding in Manitoba. Think about what you can do to reduce the carbon footprint. Thank you to all of the participants in the Climate Change Roundtable and indeed, all of the programs. On the 15th of May, help celebrate the International Day of Families. Take some time to spend with your family. The memories you create will be your treasures of the future. "Family isn't an important thing. It's everything" ... author Michael J. Fox. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada supports women and families in all nations. To our WI family across our nation, from coast to coast to coast, thank you for your community service. Your work has made our nation stronger and one of the best places in the world to live.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

– Helen Keller.

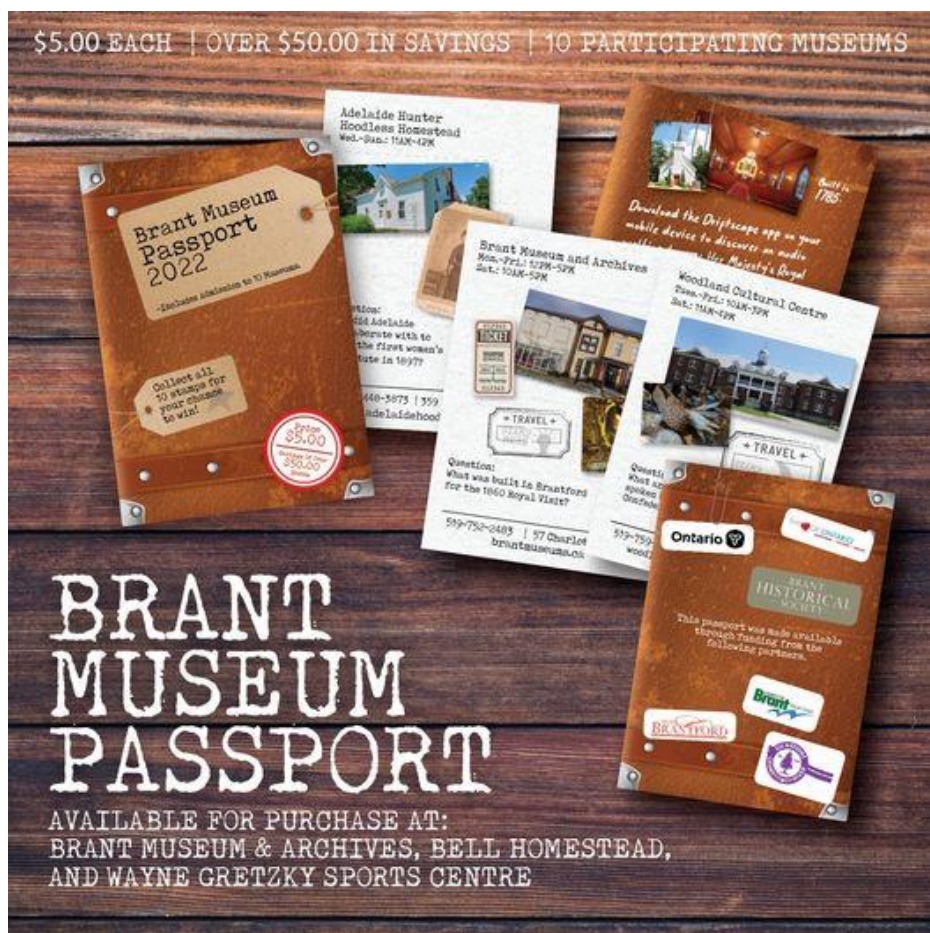
Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead

submitted by Margaret Byl, President FWIC

This month the Homestead is featured as part of the Brant Museum Passport promotion.

Let's hope for a great season this year, and if you cannot go, visit the virtual museum tour via the website.

<http://www.adelaidehoodless.ca/>



Do you know a Canadian WI Entrepreneur that you would like to recognize? Drop us a line at info@fwic.ca



ADELAIDE
HUNTER
HOODLESS
HOMESTEAD



Homestead Update Submitted by Margaret Byl

Just a quick update: The Easter Egg Hunt Event had 778 people in attendance. Special thanks to Emily Hodgson, Roxana Maturana and the 26 volunteers that helped to make the event a success. Plans are underway for next year's event.



Photos of the Easter Egg Hunt are courtesy of Nancy

Birss.

Thanks to Volunteer Sharon, our Butterfly Garden is ready to show off its beauty.

New staff for the museum will be announced shortly.

The Brant County Heritage Committee will be reviewing our request to replace the cedar roof with alternate roofing materials due to the increase in price of cedar shingles. Updates to the Pavilion will begin soon thanks to a County of Brant grant.



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 an honorary doctorate degree from St. Francis Xavier University, been inducted to the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame, and received the Order of Canada as well as being the first recipient of the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Women of the Year.



This is the time of year when the Associated Country Women of the World encourages its members to take part in “Women Walk the World” raising awareness of the organization and also raising much needed funds for the ongoing work it carries on to meet its objectives of “improving the quality of life for all people” Ever since this became an annual event I have loved thinking about the many women in so many different countries and environments walking together for a common goal.

In 1929 the Associated Country Women of the World was organized and how this international organization was going to be financed was of great concern. At one meeting in the early years the Finance Committee reported that “scratching for funds had become a feverish occupation”. Then in 1933 one of the members, Mrs. Drage, proposed that “If every member contributed a penny, in addition to the membership dues paid by individual members, as well as the membership dues paid by the member Societies (like the Federated Women’s Institutes of Canada) ACWW would have a secure and comfortable income, without causing hardship to anyone”. The dues and the Pennies have been the main financial support for over ninety years. This is something of a miracle. ACWW has never received any financial support from any Government. The only exception to that is that from time to time a government has supported a Project.

How are those Pennies used? That money, in addition to the membership dues, go to the administrative costs of ACWW, maintaining the Central Office with its Staff, as well as for the travel costs for Officers in carrying out their responsibilities. I am sure that most of our Women’s Institute Branches across Canada have a “P. for F”. collection at their meetings. It is no longer pennies, but coins. Not too long ago a member asked me “Don’t the Pennies go to fund Projects?” When I told her what the pennies were used for she wasn’t going to give any more money to keep an office going. The pennies are considered to be an enabling fund. This is exactly what it is, those funds are what enables ACWW to carry out the Projects. All the requests for project funds come to the Office to be carefully considered and researched before a recommendation is made to the Projects Committee for final approval. If there wasn’t an Office to do this ACWW would not be involved with the important development projects that are funded. Then it is important to remember that we must also support the Projects Fund which provides financial support for a wide range of projects in health, clean water, food production and preservation, to name only a few.



I realize that it seems like every organization is requesting financial help. But if we believe that our Women's Institutes can help to make a difference in the lives of women and their families in developing countries, then we should continue to support the efforts of ACWW with our Pennies for Friendship and Projects Fund donations. Several years ago when I was meeting with ACWW's financial advisor he said to me "Your ACWW Officers are extremely good managers of your money. Your problem is that you don't have enough to manage". And I guess what was said more than ninety years ago still resounds – we are still scratching for funds.

I know that each one of you is having the same feelings of horror and heartbreak every day as we see, read and hear reports of the ongoing crimes against the Ukrainian people. It brings us to tears when we try to put ourselves into the shoes of the millions of refugees, mostly women and children, who are looking for a haven of rest and safety. I am so impressed and humbled by the courage, strength, fortitude and determination of the Ukrainian people. Our hopes and prayers are for peace, an end to destruction and demolition and innocent lives lost.





Celebrations in Nova Scotia Submitted by Eleanor Lilly, Nova Scotia Director
92nd Anniversary

March 2022 saw Lyon's Brook W.I celebrating their 92nd Anniversary. Decorated cupcakes were enjoyed by all.

Lakeville W.I shared their 48th Birthday in March with cake too, Congratulations.

At the April meeting, a small but mighty group of Lyon's Brook members walked a local trail to take part in ACWW's Women Walk the World.

The program that evening included posters around the Hall with information about ACWW and after members read them a quiz was held and chocolates were enjoyed by all.



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. The trees may be coniferous, deciduous, benefits of planting trees are twofold. environment, and the second reason of 125 years of Women's Institutes.

planted across Canada. or fruit trees. The Planting trees helps the provides a visual reminder 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?

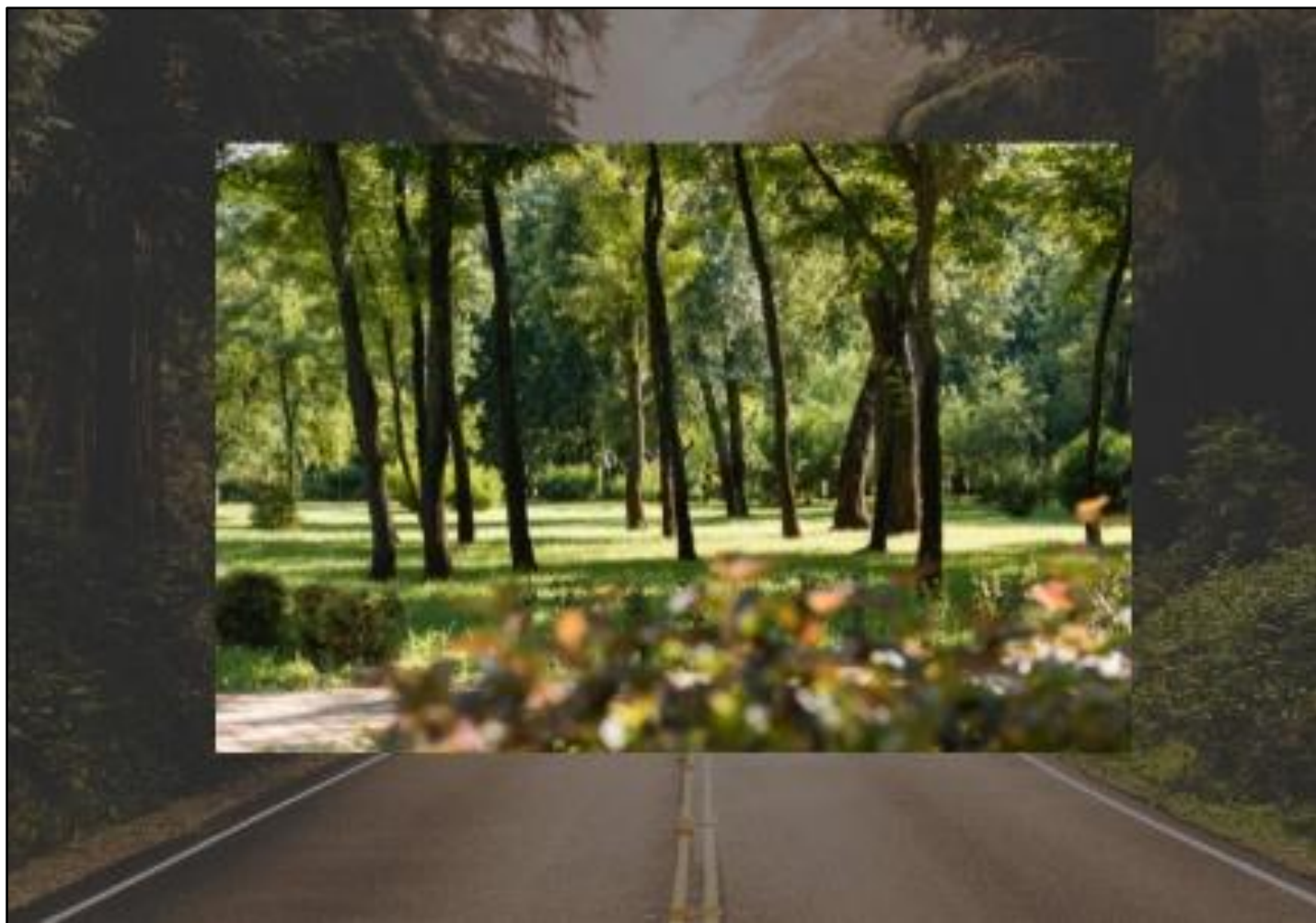
FWIC WI Canada and YouTube

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:





Summary of the FWIC WI Canada Roundtable on Climate Change

Submitted by Lynn MacLean, President Elect

On April 20, FWIC WI Canada hosted its second roundtable and this time the topic was Climate Change. President Margaret opened the roundtable and noted that the topic was chosen in recognition of Earth Day on April 22. Judy Page Jones read the Land Acknowledgement.

Several provinces shared information on how climate change was affecting their province and/or the plans that have been put in place to help to address the effects of climate change on their part of the world.

NFWI President began the talk by sharing some of the plans that Newfoundland & Labrador have in place. The Energy Efficiency Program being one example. Newfoundland and Labrador are also part of the Atlantic Climate Adaptation Solutions Association which has created Flood Risk Maps and an alert system for Hurricanes. They have also created “7 Steps to Access the Climate Change Vulnerability in Your Community.”

Carolyn MacFadyen, Environment Convenor for PEWI, provided information on the Clean Tech Learning and Innovation Centre as well as a 25-hectare park which is being constructed in Georgetown, PEI.



Partnering with University of PEI and Holland College, the Center will work towards finding technology that can reduce environmental and climate impacts. The inspiration for the Centre was SamsØ, Denmark which won the UN Global Climate Action Award in 2021.

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia President Jacqueline Melvin outlined the factors that are affecting Nova Scotia's climate and some of the steps that Nova Scotia is taking to address these factors. She also shared how these factors are affecting the agriculture industry and how the farming industry is responding. FWIC Nova Scotia Director Eleanor Lilley provided information on the steps Nova Scotia has taken to make it a national leader in dealing with climate change.

Angela Scott, FWIC Director for New Brunswick, shared the issues affecting New Brunswick. Like Nova Scotia, they also are experiencing rising temperatures, more moisture, more wind, and rising sea levels. The province has continued to reduce its emissions by closing coal and oil-fired plants, increasing the use of wind energy, and restructuring the forest industry.

Ontario's FWIC Director, Linda Zelem gave an overview of the five-year plan that the former Ontario Government had in place. The plan will help households and communities transition to a low carbon economy, use less energy, and save more money by investing in initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Karen Gerwing, FWIC Director for Saskatchewan shared that Saskatchewan in 2017 adopted *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy*. She noted that the commitments span Saskatchewan's natural systems and resources, infrastructure for electricity, transportation, homes and buildings, and community preparedness.

Linda Mason, the FWIC Director for Alberta and FWIC's Treasurer, provided an insight on the effects of climate changes on Alberta, specifically on agriculture, and native species and ecosystems. She also noted the devastating effects of extreme events (including hailstorms, wildfires, and flooding) are having on the province.

The British Columbia FWIC Director, Colleen Hooper, shared information on the floods that happened earlier this year in the Fraser Valley. She noted that flooding is not unusual for the Valley but receiving a month's worth of rain in a few hours caused the cataclysmic flooding.

Moving outside of Canada, Lynn MacLean, FWIC President Elect, shared information on Malawi, a country in Africa, and the effects climate change is having on the farmers in that region.

An industry that is contributing to climate change is the Fashion Industry. Colleen Hooper provided an insight into why that is the case outlining the amount of pollution as well as the amount of clothing that ends up in the landfill.

Lastly, FWIC Director for Manitoba Denise Joss shared information on the coral reefs and the impact of coral bleaching. Information was also given on how climate change is affecting the oceans. She ended her segment with 10 suggestions on how we can reduce our carbon footprint.



The recording of the Climate Change Roundtable can be found on the FWIC WI Canada YouTube Channel. Feedback is always welcome and can be sent to president-elect@fwic.ca.

New Board in New Brunswick Submitted by Angela Scott, NB Director

In spite of Covid-19 NBWI is surviving, No doubt lots of provinces are saying the same thing. In our first ever mail in ballot for a new executive, New Brunswick now has a new slate of officers. Sharron Adams is the new President of NBWI and her Past-President Sandra Day are seen here exchanging pins and giving Sandra a much deserved thank-you gift. Congratulations to you both and wishing you a great provincial convention scheduled for May 27th and 28th of this month.



Cross Canada WI Book Club, Submitted by Angela Scott, NB Representative

What a wonderful time we had while discussing Rick Mercer's Memoir *'Talking With Canadians'*. Our book club guide Elizabeth (Betty) Young from Newfoundland Labrador took us on a great conversation adventure. One of the greatest parts of the visit we had via Zoom, was the taste of culture from Newfoundland, with



so many aspects of the book representing values that many Canadians have lived through in rural life. Being a retired schoolteacher, Elizabeth has considerable experience with the school system in NL and shared comparisons from the book with the education system, then and now.

To summarize the take-away we all seemed to agree upon was that Rick Mercer like so many Newfoundlanders is a wonderful storyteller. A talent common to many from 'the Rock', so much so that they are known for their storytelling and artistic talents and 'ranting'.

Our next book will be *The Truth Be Told: My Journey Through Life and The Law* by Beverley McLachlin.

Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada Beverley McLachlin offers an intimate and revealing look at her life, from her childhood in the Alberta foothills to her career on the Supreme Court, where she helped to shape the social and moral fabric of the country.

As a young girl, Beverley McLachlin's world was often full of wonder—at the expansive prairie vistas around her, at the stories she discovered in the books at her local library, and at the diverse people who passed through her parents' door. While her family was poor, their lives were rich in the ways that mattered most. Even at a young age, she had an innate sense of justice, which was reinforced by the lessons her parents taught her: Everyone deserves dignity. All people are equal. Those who work hard reap the rewards. Willful, spirited, and unusually intelligent, she discovered in Pincher Creek an extraordinary tapestry of people and perspectives that informed her worldview going forward.

Still, life in the rural Prairies was lonely, and gaining access to education—especially for girls—wasn't always easy. As a young woman, McLachlin moved to Edmonton to pursue a degree in philosophy. There, she discovered her passion lay not in academia, but in the real world, solving problems directly related to the lives of the people around her. And in the law, she found the tools to do exactly that.

She soon realized, though, that the world was not always willing to accept her. In her early years as an articling student and lawyer, she encountered sexism, exclusion, and old boys' clubs at every turn. And outside the courtroom, personal loss and tragedies struck close to home. Nonetheless, McLachlin was determined to prove her worth, and her love of the law and the pursuit of justice pulled her through the darkest moments.



McLachlin's meteoric rise through the courts soon found her serving on the highest court in the country, becoming the first woman to be named Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. She rapidly distinguished herself as a judge of renown, one who was never afraid to take on morally complex or charged debates. Over the next eighteen years, McLachlin presided over the most prominent cases in the country— involving Charter challenges, same-sex marriage, and euthanasia. One judgment at a time, she laid down a legal legacy that proved that fairness and justice were not luxuries of the powerful but rather obligations owed to each and every one of us.

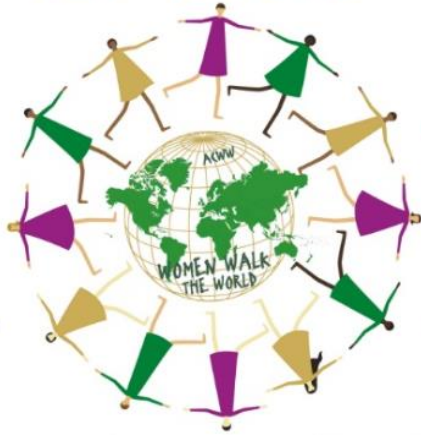
The next Cross Canada Book Club get-together will be Saturday May 28th at 2pm eastern time. Please watch for reminders and contact Elizabeth with any questions or comments. fwicacrosscanadabookclub@fwic.ca

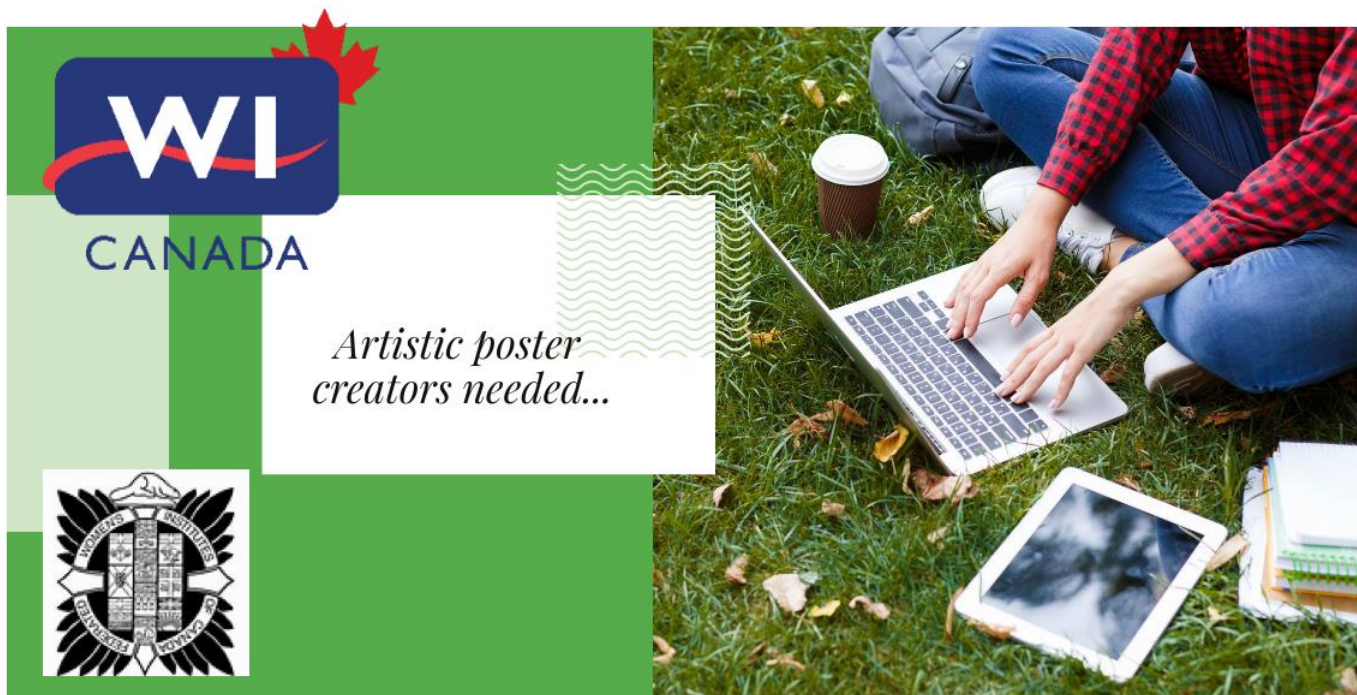
The June selection will be the '*Spoon Stealers*', by *Lesley Crewe*. Then the book club will take a break again until the end of September, so any suggestions of Canadian authors are welcomed for the September selection.



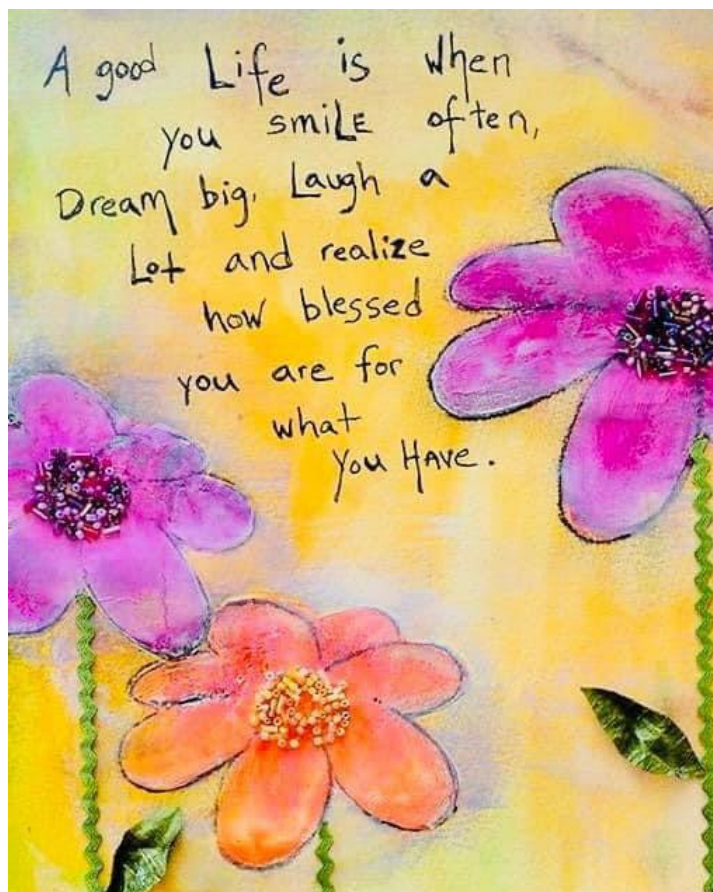
Women Walk the World in Nova Scotia 2022

Women Walk the World





WI Canada FWIC needs some extra help in our Communications team. If you like to create posters for Facebook, and can use Canva or Vista Create we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact angela.scott@bellaliant.net Thanks!



Women's Institute Leadership Modules

- SMART goals and Goal Setting 1 – May 25, 2022
- SMART goals and Goal Setting 2 – September 7, 2022
- Communication & Public Relations for Non-Profits – October 5, 2022
- Leadership Identity – November 2, 2022



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