

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 of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. I know that this WI Connections is a bit earlier than the rest, but Angela and her team is doing a super job in trying to keep our news as current as possible! Thanks, Angela, for creating an amazing Publishing Schedule as an example for the Board to use. This will be a brief note to inform you of the FWIC/WI Canada activities and up-coming events.

The Communications Committee has met several times as well as the Outreach Committee working to make the FWIC experience better for you.

Everyone is welcome to attend the following events hosted by FWIC/WI Canada.



1. Federated Women's Institute Canada is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: **Federated Women's Institute Canada's Zoom Remembrance Day**

Time: **Nov 10, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern** Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting to hear stories from the occupation of the Netherlands, Women and the War effort, War Brides and taking time to remember the fallen.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88330288548?pwd=eU1NRUI4MlBtM1dZbWF6d25Zdll5dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 3028 8548

Passcode: 921014



2. Federated Women's Institute Canada is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Federated Women's Institute Canada's **MEMBERSHIP ROUND TABLE** Zoom Meeting

Time: **Nov 15, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern** Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82788081009?pwd=OEtGSW54ZUI1enkrb2hOMG1FZmpldz09>

Meeting ID: 827 8808 1009

Passcode: 563335

I am excited to see how this Round Table Discussion can help our Provincial Units.



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead

submitted by Margaret Byl, President FWIC



From the Homestead

On October 26, 2021, President-elect Lynn MacLean and Treasurer Linda Mason attended the County of Brant Council Meeting to present our case for Emergency Funding for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. I am so pleased to announce that the Council approved our request for \$25,000.00. This will bring us one step closer on our quest for stability for the Homestead. We are most grateful. Thank you also for the continued support. The roof will need to be replaced, as with all older homes, The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead will need your assistance to make sure that the doors to this National Historic Site remain open.

Up-coming Events:

We are pleased to announce the opening of 2 new exhibits at the Homestead; Brant County Heroes that Changed the World and First and Foremost We are Mothers; Social Activism in the WI. Thank you to Emily and Roxana for designing the exhibits. I am looking forward to seeing the finished product.

Victorian Christmas Advent Calendar – posting a fun fact about the Victorian times leading up to December 25 on social media beginning on December 1st.

December 18th from 12 to 4 pm – “A Victorian Christmas at the Willows” – Victorian Parlour games, crafts & stories for the children and more. Details to follow.



Help support the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead with a Friends of Addie membership!

Individual Memberships are available for \$20.00 per year. Memberships include Personal membership card & Homestead pin; unlimited tour opportunities for yourself; One Complimentary tour to “Bring along your friend (1 person); Regular email alerts of upcoming events & newsletters; Personal invitations to events hosted by the Homestead; 5% discount on Workshop fees held by the Homestead (excludes those hosted by outside guest instructor workshops); Sense of ownership as an invested contributor which supports Adelaide’s legacies.

Addie’s Group of Friends memberships for WI Branches only

Fee: \$25.00 for the branch + \$1 per member per year

Memberships Include WI Branch membership & Associate Card for each Member; One tour opportunity for the WI Branch group; virtual tour link for long distance groups; One Complimentary tour for the branch group (max. 1 friend per member) to “Bring along a friend”; regular email alerts of upcoming events & newsletters; Group invitations to the WI Branch to events hosted by the Homestead; Sense of ownership as an invested contributing group which supports Adelaide’s legacies.

Memberships are available online at fwic.ca. To Learn More: Please contact info@adelaidehoodless.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 I told you about Christina Ramasike's visit to some of our FWIC provincial units in 1965. She came from her home in the British Colony of Basutoland in South Africa on a study tour as a recipient of one of the Associated Country Women of the World scholarships. She had told us that Basutoland was working towards gaining independence and this happened in 1966 when Lesotho, the Kingdom of the Sun, became an independent nation. In the years following Christina's visit we often wondered how she was getting along in her work as a Field Worker for what was now the Lesotho Homemakers' Association. She had told us about the challenges facing her, - the Association didn't have a vehicle of any kind, and the terrain was too mountainous for her to use a bicycle. So, she had to walk to go to villages where she would be organizing a new Branch or visiting existing Branches.

Three or four years after Christina's visit the ACWW Central Office contacted FWIC again and asked if we could raise enough money for a Land Rover for the Lesotho Homemakers. Christina had learned how to lobby! Our Canadian members willingly accepted this project and during the term that Marion Fulton was National President our Canadian ACWW members had raised the \$20,000 needed to purchase wheels for our fellow members in Lesotho.

Fast forward to 1977 and the Triennial Conference of ACWW was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Two members from the Lesotho Homemakers were in attendance and we had the opportunity to hear news of Christina and the Land Rover. Unfortunately, the latter was sitting idle, badly in need of new tires. Once again Canadian members responded to that situation.

In 1988 I was pleased to accept an invitation to attend the ACWW Southern Africa Area Conference in Maseru, the Capital of Lesotho. Getting there was an adventure but that is for another time. I was the only passenger arriving at the Maseru airport, and I was welcomed by quite a large group of smiling Lesotho members who greeted me in song. It was a warm welcome and my entire visit was very special and memorable

My first request was to inquire about Christina and was sad to learn that she was not very well and unable to travel. But I did chat with some of the members who knew her well and remembered things she had told them about Canada.



It was an excellent Area Conference. The President of the country was in attendance and addressed the Conference. His presence meant that armed soldiers were standing on the platform behind the Lesotho President and the ACWW President. It was a little unnerving! The Lesotho women were very special, and it made me feel very humble when some of them told me they had walked all night to get to Maseru to see and hear the World President. When they described their walk at night to me, they said that at one point they felt tired, so lay down wrapped in their typical Lesotho woolen blanket that they wore, wrapped around their shoulders instead of a coat. And then they said one woman stayed awake to make sure the sleeping ones were safe. And then some of them told me they had been in prison for several months because they were involved in a protest over their rights as women. I was close to tears. As you read this you can well understand how much I have learned, and how deeply moved I have been by meeting with so many amazing women.

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PEIWI Focuses on Students Submitted by Ellen MacPhail

The Prince Edward Island WI Board of Directors highlights projects directed at youth including announcing award winners while preparing for holiday related items this month.

The PEI Women's Institute chose health and agriculture as scholarship themes to honour the Famous Five and the role of healthcare workers and farming during COVID-19 on PEI. The health scholarship was recently presented to Walaa Nasry. Ms. Nasry is working on her PhD thesis in cancer research at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI). The second scholarship directed to the agricultural industry goes to Carleigh MacLeod for pursuing business and marketing within the Ag industry through UPEI. Carleigh is a Business Administration student at the University of Prince Edward Island, focusing on marketing and communications. In addition to receiving the Famous Five Agriculture Scholarship, she is the first person from PEI to receive the Outstanding Young Farmers Memorial Scholarship from Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program since the scholarship's inception in 2009. The two Famous Five Scholarships were valued at \$1000 each.

These awards were enabled by sales from the 'Prince Edward Island's Famous Five: In Their Own Words' book, as contributed by the Interministerial Women's Secretariat to commemorate this historical milestone. Books are still available by contacting the WI office. PEI's Famous Five is comprised of Hon. Marion Reid, Hon. Catherine Callbeck, Nancy Guptill, Pat Mella, and Hon. Elizabeth Hubley and represent the only time in Canadian history five women held influential positions at once in the PEI government.

The Dr. Helen Herring Scholarship winner for 2021 was also named this month. This annual scholarship valued at \$500 was awarded to Megan Vanderkloet. She is enrolled at the Foods and Nutrition/Dietetics program at the University of Prince Edward Island.



PEIWI is excited to host the eighth annual Island Product Cooking Contest aimed at Intermediate and High School Students across the Island. Students in grades 7 through to 12 are encouraged to enter their favorite recipes for cash prizes and be part of an annual Island Product online cookbook.

Organized by the provincial WI board and sponsored by Department of Agriculture and Land, this cooking event will feature Island agricultural or fishery-based products. Deadline for students to enter their recipes is December 15. Additional details are available online at www.PEIWI.ca or by contacting the WI office at wi@gov.pe.ca.

The PEI Women's Institute has once again teamed up with organizers of *Kits of Kindness*, an Island-wide project aimed at providing food and other essentials for elementary school-aged children up to grade 6. WI members are asked to knit, sew or provide mittens to be placed in children's backpacks to allow much needed items to be used over a weekend where they would otherwise be dependent on school programs. Mitts can be dropped off to the WI Office at 40 Enman Crescent, Monday to Friday 8-4.

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How do we describe WI? Submitted by Eleanor Lilley

As a member of the Communications Committee, we were asked to think of a Vision statement in ten words or less. There were many varied responses from each member of the committee, mine being “Women supporting Diversity, Equality and Unity”.

Whilst pondering on these words I came across a couple of quotes that resonated with me as a member of W.I.

“We as a society owe it to women to create a truly supportive environment in which they can grow and move forward”. ..Lady Diana.

For me, this quote encapsulates all that our organization is built upon, locally, nationally and globally. We support each other in our Branches, communities and across the land.

The next quote made me think of how, in many instances, we are a “secret”, unknown by many.

Have you been asked “What is W.I.?”, or heard “You only make jam, bake and do crafts.” As an organization we have rarely promoted the great works that we do!

“We need to change the perception of how we view ourselves. We have to step up and take the lead.” ..Beyonce.

Hopefully this has given you some thought too! Look to yourself, your Branch and Province on how we can be known as leaders as we move forward in W.I.



Orange the World



Submitted by Doreen Wall, PEI WI

ACWW participates in the 16 days of Orange or 16 Days of Activism every year. This worldwide campaign is held to end violence against Women and Girls. We have information on our Facebook and many branches held ceremonies in their own areas. This campaign is held for 16 days during the month of November, participate in your community.

One of the slogans used is "NOTHING JUSTIFIES VIOLENCE" is a message for young people to take to heart. Modernity has reached almost everything, except civil relationships between the sexes. It seems in that area we have remained primitive.

There is more domestic violence in the world than is reported and it is unreported. Women are scared as they can and do lose their lives in such cases and many have children to look after.

In order to make changes we must work on prevention and education. We must spread the culture of non-violence. Each of us strongly condemns domestic violence, so those who commit the abuse feel castigated, and most importantly, the victims feel supported. Domestic violence is not always an abuse you can see it comes in many forms bullying, hitting, keeping you away from friends, family and loved one. If you suspect someone of being violated let them know you are there to help in any way you can, but do not push.

After years of activism, much work still remains. We must recommit to ending gender-based violence and continue the struggle for gender equality. "First mourn. Then work for change."

Rural Women In Action





And the first Module begins January 5th, 2022.

You spoke ladies and we listened.

The start date for leadership modules has changed and so have some of the logistics.

It will still be done via Zoom, but you are now going to be able to pick and choose the modules you want, and you won't be required to participate in ALL of them.

Each module will still last for about 55 minutes, and as long as you are a member of WI your registration is free.

Also we will have an informational Zoom meeting to talk all about the Modules sometime soon. Please watch for the date. There will be something for any member who is interested, for sure!

Modules to be delivered by various presenters. info@fwic.ca

WI Canada Leadership Modules... Communications Training for Tomorrow's Leaders

1-Intro to Leadership

3-Communications

5-Bylaws & Programming for WI

7-Facilitation Techniques and SWOT applications

9-Conflict Resolution

2-Public Speaking and Networking

4-History and Structure of WI

6-Setting goals for your Branch - SMART Goals

8-Governance and Board participation

10-Wrap Up Session



Please join us...

Virtual Roundtable on Membership

via ZOOM

Monday,
November 15th, 2021
7pm Eastern Time

Join us for this
important discussion
on the future of
Women's Institute

How can we help you?



Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82788081009?pwd=OEtGSW54ZU1enkrb2hOMG1FZmpldz09>

WI Canada FWIC

359 Blue Lake Road, P.O. Box 209
St. George, ON N0E 1N0
info@fwic.ca 519.448.3873

Margaret Byl, President
Lynn MacLean, President Elect
Colleen Hooper, BC
Linda Mason, AB Executive
Eleanor Lilley, NS
Karen Gerwing, SK

Denise Joss, MB
Mary Shortt, ON
Judy Page Jones QC
Angela Scott, NB
Doreen Wall, PEI
Elizabeth Young NL

