

WI Connections

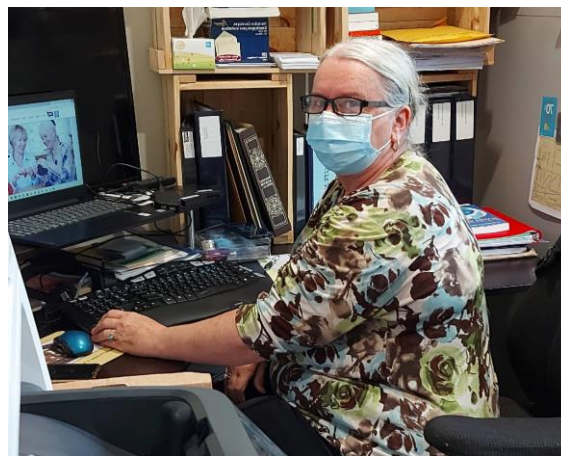
Monthly Newsletter of the
Federated Women's Institutes of Canada



Margaret's Message...

Submitted by President, Margaret Byl

I bring greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. The Directors and members of the Communications and Outreach Committees have been hard at work; meeting virtually several times before they present their suggestions at a full board meeting being held on November 8, 2021. I would like to introduce you to our Communications Committee Members: Angela Scott, Mary Shortt, Karen Gerwing; Eleanor Lilley, Colleen Hooper and Elizabeth Young and our Outreach Committee Members are Judy Jones, Denise Joss, Colleen Hooper, Angela Scott, Lynn MacLean, Doreen Wall and Brenda Devauld. I thank the Committee Members for volunteering their time to help our organization grow.



Emily and Roxana are at the Homestead and continue to do a great job at putting programs and exhibits together. Some exciting news, Emily and her fiancé Matt are getting married on October 16th. We wish them all the best as



they step into the next chapter of their lives full of wonder and joy.

This Thanksgiving was a special one for many families across this great nation. From coast to coast to coast, families gathered and for some, it was the first time that families were able to meet each other in person. How blessed we are to be able to do this once again.

On November 10th, we will be remembering the fallen in a virtual meeting on zoom. Please join us for a brief time to share our stories. Lest we forget. Watch for details. Remembering those that are gone, and those that continue to serve our country, thank you for your service.



“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.”

– John F. Kennedy



"It is with a sad heart that I must bring news of the passing of SWI President, Virginia Kreklevich on October 5, 2021.

On behalf of the FWIC/WI Canada Board of Directors we wish to offer our deepest sympathy to Virginia's family, WI family and friends. Virginia touched the lives of many, and she will be missed."



Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead

submitted by Margaret Byl, President FWIC



On Oct 29th we are hosting 2 children's and 1 adult Halloween events.

On Nov 15, we will be opening 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.

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.



Hillsborough WI Fall 2021 Submitted by Chandra Smith, Hillsborough NB

The Hillsborough WI was pleased to be able to host the Teaching Kitchen for grade 6 to 8 students from the Hillsborough area after school while in the green phase. Students were able to acquire skills making muffins, soup, salads, and entrees. Our members enjoyed working with the students and appreciated the help of volunteers from the community who assisted. All who attended enjoyed trying new recipes and were given a copy of them to use at home.



“Covid -19 Pandemic Pouts”

Submitted by Denise Joss – Manitoba WI Rep for FWIC/WI-Canada

During the Covid-19 outbreak, many individuals tried to find ways to help them cope with the isolation and depression. At first, I tried a “Job Jar”. My husband and I would take turns drawing out a task for the next day. It contained short term projects like housework and longer tasks like going through the winter safety totes in our cars and adding materials.

“Some Days are Diamonds, and Some Days are Coal.” This saying is from a John Denver song and seem so tailored to the Covid Days. I could tell how I was doing by looking at my bedroom. Did I make the bed? Did I scatter clothing around rather than putting it away? Was I lounging around in my night-gown all day or a second day? Was I watching “mindless TV”?

I started writing and posting my “Pandemic Pouts”. They were lightly humoured comments about my week. Usually, they focused on my attempts to do things without services like cut my own hair or try to dye my own hair. Sometimes I was not happy with our Southern neighbour’s President or our Prime Minister. I wanted to give a little smile to my friends and family members. I was so pleased with the feedback from cousins and friends who knew me



well. We shared memories.

The final solution for me was to go back to work teaching at 64 years old when I had retired at 54 years. (waaaaay to early). I do hope this awful virus is fully contained by June 2022. That is when I plan to retire a second time. My body has been protesting the working schedule, but my mind needs it so "I'm toughing it out!"

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.



Living alone, and with the limitations of the Pandemic and age, there is lots of time for reflection and remembering. This past week I looked in our Guest Book. I was trying to answer one of my children's questions. What interesting pages I looked at, and the morning was gone, it was lunch time and I had to close the book. One name I saw brought back the memories of some FWIC activities five decades ago. Christina Ramasike from Basutoland had signed the Guest Book in July 1965.

I don't remember how many of our provinces had been asked by the Central Office of our Associated Country Women of the World to host, Christina Ramasike, who was the recipient of support from the Elsie Zimmern Memorial Trust Fund for leadership training. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Women's Institutes had agreed to do this. We were a little vague about Basutoland. There was no Mr.Google, but our trusty Encyclopedia Britannica told us this was a small British Colony, very mountainous and quite arid, situated inside the borders of South Africa. So it was that one day in July 1965 my husband and I went to the Halifax Airport to meet Christina arriving on a flight from England. We only knew her name, and that she was very involved with working with the members of Basutoland's Homemakers' Association. It was arrival time for that flight, and we quite quickly identified the person we thought was our visitor. We introduced ourselves and went to collect her luggage from the baggage carousel. Christina didn't even give my husband enough time to pick up her suitcase before she had it, easily place it on her head, and off we went to get into our car. Needless to say, there were quite a few wide-eyed people in the airport!

Christina was very quiet, seemed extremely shy. But we were very aware of the kind of culture shock she must have been experiencing. This was the first time she had ever travelled very far from her home community. It was the



first time she had ever been in an airplane, and it had been a long flight with a few hours stopover in London. With all the travel, the many time zones, and everything so new, she seemed almost frightened, and needless to say she was very tired. I can remember that when we reached home, and supper was ready she quietly asked if she could just have some warm milk and then go to bed. Her wish was quickly granted.

Christina, once rested, was a delightful guest. She had a gentle sense of humour, and though she asked many questions about Women's Institutes and rural women in Canada, she also showed a great interest in farming. Her one request during her stay was to have the opportunity to learn to drive a tractor. She got her wish, and she proudly drove across some of our fields.

Christina spent a day in our provincial Office, with the Superintendent of Women's Institutes and the Superintendent of Home Economics who were very helpful in sharing what the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia did in adult education, which was leadership development. She attended my Branch monthly Meeting, and she and I spent quite a few hours talking about our organizations.

It was a wonderful experience to have Christina's visit. Our three children aged four, seven and eight loved her and proudly showed her the chickens, calves, and the paths to the woods that they loved. But after nine days we had to take Christina to the New Brunswick border where she was met by some of the New Brunswick members. We know how much we learned from Christina but have no way of knowing what her study tour in Canada meant for her. Or rather, we didn't know for some years, but then we did hear some news and a request, but that will have to wait until next month!

What a great story Ellen...we can hardly wait to hear the rest!

PEI WI News submitted by Ellen MacPhail

The PEI Women's Institute Board of Directors has a full slate of activities this month in fall workshops, and is readying for November's events, including a farm tour.

Three dates are set for WI's fall workshops. On October 19, provincial WI Vice President Sheila MacLean speaks on Meeting Etiquette; Carolina Arango Rosero from Colombia expands on her experience as a newcomer to Canada; and Soleil Hutchinson, 2021 WI Women In Agriculture Award Winner will be addressing field to table, our agriculture connection. The first workshop will be held at the St. Eleanor's Lion Club in Summerside at 1pm.

A hybrid in-person and online fall workshop session will take place on Thursday, October 21st at



10:00 a.m. at the Farm Centre in Charlottetown. This event is an online twinning event with Women's Institutes from the United Kingdom to commemorate their centurion anniversary.

The third and last workshop is on Wednesday, October 27 at St. Joachims' Hall in Vernon River at 9am. Sheila MacLean opens the event with a session on Meeting Etiquette, while Evelina Sharipov from Russia speaks on her newcomer experience; and Santina Beaton from Farm & Food Care PEI rounds out the last workshop by elaborating on field to table, our agriculture connection. Pre-registration is required by Friday, October 13th for all workshops and WI President Miriam Lank invites members of the public to join in by contacting the WI office at 902-368-4860 or signing up online at www.peiwi.ca.

A farm bus tour for members will take place on Friday, November 5, compliments of Farm and Food Care PEI. A visit to farms and a processing plant will take place including giveaways and a complimentary lunch. The board encourages branch members across PEI to join in, and an additional two seats are available to the general public through an online contest available through the provincial WI website of peiwi.ca. Special thanks to Farm and Food Care PEI for arranging this event to assist WI in further understanding the agricultural industry in PEI.

Tickets are now on sale for PEIWI's three course Island Product Festive Christmas Gala Dinner and Yuletide Auction on Wednesday, November 17. Christmas arrangements being demonstrations by Alan Preston of Hearts and Flowers and baked holiday goods will highlight the evening's auction. Proceeds this year will go towards the Souris Hospital and Kings Country Memorial Hospital. With health guidelines in place, this event will take place at the Delta Prince Edward Ballroom in Charlottetown. Tickets are \$100 with a portion of the proceeds eligible for a tax receipt.

Members are asked to assist the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in pinning ribbons to cards for this year's annual Purple Ribbon Campaign. The Purple Ribbon Campaign is in remembrance of the 14 women slain at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal and raise awareness about violence against women and children here on PEI and throughout the world. Materials will be available in the WI office for pick up by October 4, and should be returned by November 12. The theme of the 2021-2022 Campaign is Reimagining Safety.

In other provincial news, the Board will be announcing details soon on its annual WI Island Product Cooking Contest aimed at youth in grades 7-12.





Pack a Purse submitted by Helen Clarke, Havelock WI

Not every woman has a purse, so why not pack one for those who don't.

Who will receive them?

- High School girls
- Seniors
- Mothers in need
- People who need a "pick me up"
- Women in emergency situations

And what would you include in a purse?

- Nail Care • First Aid • Body Wash • Soap • Hand Sanitizer • Tooth Brush •
- Hair Brush • Gift Card for dollar store • Mittens • Scarf (summer or Winter) •
- Winter Hat • Nail Polish • Make Up • Note Book • Pen • Face Cloth • Socks • Sanitation pads/tampons • Sewing Kit



As we learn about the needs of other women, we walk side by side in our learning and struggles.





Let's get going

**Starting
January
2022**

Leadership Modules to Include:

- 1-Intro to Leadership
- 2-Public Speaking
- 3-Communications
- 4-History & Structure of WI
- 5-Bylaws & Programming of WI
- 6-Goal setting in your Branch-SMART Goals
- 7-Facilitation Techniques and SWOT
- 8-Governance & Board Participation
- 9-Conflict Resolution
- 10-Wrap Up Session

Apply...angela.scott@bellaliant.net



WI Canada FWIC

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

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

Save the Date
Round Table on
Membership
Initiatives
November 15th, 2021

