

SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY EDITION

WI Connections

NEWSLETTER OF THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF CANADA

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, I got that over with – our first virtual across Canada meeting, with over 70 in attendance, without too many glitches! Thanks should go to our technical crew of Kathy at the Homestead and Jennifer at her home in Kingston.

It was so great to hear the voice of Dr. Ellen McLean starting us off with the reading of our Mary Stewart Collect, and be comforted on the loss of many branch members over the year by a reading by Junior Past President Linda Hoy. Both have never stopped working for Home and Country.

I had the pleasure also to acknowledge other past presidents who were in attendance in the call. Thank you ladies, for your continued interest, your support is appreciated. It was amazing to introduce my board of provincial representatives, all present and perky, along with all the presidents from the provinces. They are all very hard working, for FWIC and in their various provinces.

I had the added pleasure of acknowledging the many provincial office administrators in on the call. It was great to pat them on the back for all their good work for us.

The representative from Millards Accounting Firm was on hand to assist our board Treasurer Linda Mason with the financial report. Of course, we have had heavy expenses because of our renovation plans, and, thankfully, members have been supportive with donations. We did not present a budget at that time, but it will be finalized soon. Our excuse is that the financial report was late, and a new accounting system was being put in place. Sorry, won't happen again. The good news was that we received over \$18,000.00 from the federal government to assist with operating costs, and if another major funding grant is approved, we will be able to take a breath or two.

President Elect Margaret Byl has had large responsibilities; she has organized a plan to sell enhanced memberships, giving benefits to those who subscribe to it. I hope it appeals to many. She is also handling the collecting of money from the sale of our lottery, \$5000.00 in prize money. You can tell we have to sell a lot of tickets to make back the prize money, so please ask your Ontario friends to buy some for you before the draw date of December 12.

The business on the agenda went smoothly, nice to notice that committees are sharing their ideas for programming during the upcoming months, so much to do if we had energy/people!

Great report was given from Canada Area president, Linda Hoy, who also gave us guidelines for a commemorative pin to be struck for our joint FWIC/ACWW Area Canada convention. Both of us are looking forward to there being more relaxed gathering rules in 2021, so we can finally have an event where we can laugh, learn and be together.

That, my friends are some of the highlights of our 2020 virtual meeting. There is probably more business that I have missed, but, others may have their own feelings or thoughts, and hopefully will share them with us.

Thanks to those that took the time to attend, it was a pleasure greeting you all.

Yours For Home and Country
Joan Holthe, President

A few of our attendees!



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR SEPT 2019 - SEPT 2020

Submitted by Joan Holthe, FWIC President

What a pleasure it was to welcome my national board, provincial presidents and members and guests to our annual meeting and Centennial year wrap up last September.

With the opening of the renovated kitchen, our ceremony on the lawn, to our Woman of the Year award to Christine Raeburn, it was a day to remember.

It was strange to conduct our AGM business virtually, using Facebook as the medium, but I know our members welcomed the transition and appreciated the ability to participate from their homes. Now one year later, it has become the norm to conduct business online, whether it is of local, provincial, or national concern. Good production came forward from that annual meeting at the Homestead. It was great to meet face to face, and then leave for home with the promise that FWIC had good plans in place for the upcoming year.

Unfortunately, COVID 19 pandemic reared its ugly head in March 2020, right in the middle of coping with staffing changes, year end, and grant deadlines. Our whole museum shut down, no Easter event, no rentals, no travel, and the movement of staff to work from their home location.

The executive met in February to complete a strategic plan, including our triennium goals. An honest look at our future was met with the reality that we have hardly any money to operate our facility on a long term. Ideas have been presented, such as enhanced memberships, asking branches to have special fundraisers for FWIC, the raising of dues is in the works, lottery licence was finally approved, and search for grants is constant.

The last resort for our operation is the selling of the property, but we are ever hopeful that

with all our hard work in fundraising, this will not come to reality. This board has worked so hard trying to find programs, funds, and to communicate with the members, but every province is facing these same issues.

To communicate efficiently, FWIC has hired Prairie Telegraph to work with the committee and staff and I know that you will have noticed that we have a solid social presence because of their good work. You will find from the committee reports that sincere effort has been given by the provincial representatives to provide good means to showcase our organization and to continue to do the work that has been in our hearts and hands for over a hundred years.

This pandemic has fallen right into line with our prime theme for this upcoming term, to **Get Back to Basics**. Let us hope that branches across Canada can continue this good work and fellowship this fall; our whole country needs the spiritual lift that it can bring.

Over the next few months, there will be efforts to do more renovations and maintenance to the building, continue with some enhanced programming, and to try to assist in the promotion of resolutions and lobbying for the provinces.

Thankfully, we have been able to take advantage of the many government support programs for Not for Profit organizations that will help with those projects that are just in the planning stage, money is on the way.

I would especially like to thank the executive committee, who have jumped to attention when I asked and have donated their time and energies trying to get our financial picture in order. Everyone makes my job look easy, and me, look good! I am proud to be Canadian and part of this great organization!

FWIC OFFICE AND HOMESTEAD REPORT

Submitted by Kathy Dwyer, Administrative Coordinator for the FWIC

This has been a challenging year for everyone. To use the word "unprecedented" one more time would be an understatement.

I began my employment March 3 with all the great ideas and good intentions a new employee could have - and then COVID. I happened to be in Montreal the day the world was told to stand still on March 14th. I returned early as I had just arrived at my destination and my conference was cancelled two hours before it was to begin.

I had barely organized the offices and oriented myself to the jobs at hand when my son and friend came with me to pack up everything I thought I would need from the office and move it home. From that time on, I worked out of boxes and thumb drives as I learned my job and balanced my home/office schedule.

Aside from family emergencies that arose coincidentally and because of COVID, finding my way had its ups and downs. I give my deepest thanks to the FWIC board for their support while I ran in place for several months.

In the meantime, I studied all the COVID protocols and kept up with each of the advancing stages Ontario progressed through, so I knew what to expect when the time came. I attended several seminars on how to manage a tourism location and sanitizing historic buildings during COVID lockdowns while we staged up to the point of opening.

In July, we had two students join us, Lisa Jefferies and Lauren Marco. Lauren has since returned to university; Lisa is with us for at least another month under the Canada Summer Jobs program. The students began with excavating the basement and the

collections room, sorting and cleaning the spaces, organizing the building itself to freshen up the exhibition for the new year.

They collectively planned the exhibition and all the graphics and signage based on our theme: "Everything Old is New Again", examining how in Adelaide's era had built-in social distancing as a part of their social etiquette that we can struggle with today. We also have explored her connections to the health community through her brothers as doctors and her relationship with the Victorian Order of Nurses.

We finally opened August 1st and we have begun public tours once again. It remains a challenge to present the heart and soul of this property while under layers of vinyl coverings, but we persevere.

The public is beginning to return to visit us. I hope that once long-distance travel becomes an option once again, I can meet our members from afar. I am happy to see that local members are beginning to visit again and hope I can get to know each of you. I do hope in the meantime to develop programs that you can enjoy from your homes wherever you are to share what we have to offer.

I have basic knowledge of the events that occurred in the previous year before I began, unfortunately I lack the intimate details of those events. The renovations that the building extension underwent took up many months of prime tourism time, so we were largely closed for most of it.

In the fall began the New Horizons Life Hacks programming, that included tasseomancy, tarot card readings and escape room events...

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ADVOCACY AND BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Lynn MacLean and Jill Copes

Lynn MacLean and Jill Copes have spent many, many hours reformatting the By-Laws in order to bring them up to the Canada Not for Profit Act and Registered Charities standards.

At our last AGM, Kathleen Beall brought to our attention that there were several areas of our present By-laws that needed to be re-written. Lynn and I started editing the Bylaws and with advice from Kathleen, to seek more technical advice. We are very grateful for the expertise and advice from Leslie Wright who volunteered her time to help us understand the need for the changes and to help with wording.

We have changed the format of the document plus wording. Some areas may seem to be a little wordy. Remember this is a draft and we are open to discussion on any section that may concern you. There are particular areas we would like you to review as these are the ones that needed change: Section Six Membership and Section Seven Meetings of the Membership.

The Advocacy Committee has not received any resolutions from the Provinces in this last year. If any of the Provinces have resolutions of a national concern, please forward them so we can prepare for 2021.

The Executive is working on the Governance manual and there are several changes to reflect the changes made in the By-Laws. For example, Life Membership has been put in the Governance manual rather than in the By-Laws. The manual is under review by will be available to the Provincial Representatives shortly.

Note: To receive a copy of the Financial Report, Financial Statements and further information on the appointment of an Auditor for the 2020-2021, please contact the office directly: email info@fwic.ca or call 519.448.3873.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Angela Scott, Karen Gerwing and Mary Shortt

Over the past twelve months, the Communications Committee has worked to achieve a communications plan that supports two-way communication between WI Canada FWIC and each province of Canada.

Our primary objective has been to 'tell our story' in all media formats to familiarize viewers and readers with the WI values and core competencies – for home and country.

Through monthly newsletter (WI Connections), the WI Canada FWIC website, Facebook, Twitter, and e-mail, communications were facilitated by the professional digital marketing consultant company Prairie Telegraph. Consultant and WI member, Jennifer Gyuricska has helped the Committee and Board to define directions for the future and ways to share objectives. As well, she provides comprehensive metrics each month regarding site traffic and engagement.

Working towards 2020-2021, the Communications Committee is committed to furthering the public awareness of WI by preparing pitches for national magazines, and public service announcements which will be used on our electronic media.

Due to COVID 19, all meetings will continue to be done via Zoom. A final note regarding Zoom and informal conversation cafes. To develop and support more communication our President Joan Holthe hopes to 'meet and greet' members from across Canada monthly through Zoom.

In closing this report, we have been delighted to receive submissions from so many enthusiastic donors over the past year. The stories sent in make the work easy and have been a definite incentive for us to continue our quest to tell everyone about WI. Thank-you so very much and keep up the submissions!

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Miriam Lank, Glenna Smith, Dianne Dammann, Margaret Byl

TRIENNIAL TWEEDSMUIR COMPETITIONS & SENATOR CAIRINE WILSON COMPETITION

In 1945, Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir who was Governor General of Canada, donated three silver cups to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada for competitions to be held each triennium. The trophies with award winners' names, are displayed at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. Any Women's Institute member in Canada may enter.

NEW FOR THIS TRIENNIAL: Winning entries will be published in a booklet celebrating FWIC's 100th Anniversary and will be for sale at the Triennial Convention in Newfoundland. No limit to the number of entries submitted by Provincial Members, however only one entry per category per member will be accepted.

A new category has been added for this triennium: The Community Competition. The winning submission will become the back cover of the 100th Anniversary booklet.

Community Competition Project: What's next for WI Canada? – Poem, drawings, or artwork will be accepted.

History/Heritage Competition Project: Collage of Pictures/Photographs. Pictures from any FWIC events from the past 100 years.

Cultural Competition Project: Story of Interest from any FWIC Event. The winning submission will be included in the booklet. Length: 500 to 1,000 words

Handicraft Competition Project: Needlecraft Sampler – A photo of the winning entry will be used to create the cover of the booklet.

Miriam Lank, PEI Board Representative received a grant for prizes for the Triennial

competitions in the amount of \$450.00. \$150.00 for crafts; \$150.00 for essay; \$150.00 for the collage. Sincere thanks to Miriam and the PEI WI for the grant!

There is also the **Senator Cairine Wilson Competition** – Write an essay about any Governor General of Canada with a prize of \$100.00.

To date, we have not received any submissions for the competitions. **The deadline for submissions is January 15, 2021.** Please remind your members that the competitions are open. Submissions will be received at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead.

Just a reminder that it is the responsibility of the entrants to send and have their items returned at the entrant's expense.

Details are on the website www.fwic.ca/triennial. Scroll down and click on the button "Learn more about the competitions".

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Updates

Museum tours continue to be booked. Providing that the Covid-19 situation remains the same and/or gets better, we plan on having some interesting events in October. Kathy Dwyer will provide more details in her report.

Addie's Kitchen Buy a Brick Program: The Brant County Health Department has a few items that need to be addressed before we can be certified for low risk food items. We are currently working on meeting those requirements.

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED...

One of the requirements is a hood fan. We have the hood fan but will need to have it mounted, which requires some additional renovations for electrical and ventilation through the outside wall.

We will also need to contact the building depart to submit the drawings that have been put together to see if the layout is satisfactory to the building code for certification of kitchens. The water has been tested and all is well. (No pun intended).

A reminder to our members that we have not completed Phase 1 and your continued support would be appreciated.

Remembrance Day: As FWIC President Elect and a proud Canadian, on behalf of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada I had the honour to lay a wreath during the Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Ottawa in November 2019.

New Horizons for Seniors Grant Program

Thanks to the Canadian Government, a grant was received for The New Horizons for Seniors Grant. #LifeHacks has held many events beginning in December 2019.

Unfortunately, the Addie's Celtic Christmas scheduled for December 4th was cancelled, but we did have several onsite events: a Holiday Craft Show & Bazaar with vendors, Santa and crafts for the kids; A Mystery Series which included Spirit Photography Workshop; a Tarot Workshop and a Valentine Tea & Card Leaf Reading Workshop.

Then Covid 19 descended upon us which required us to think outside the box. We ran several "Virtual Gatherings" with guests from as far as England in attendance. They included

"Experience Simple Happiness" presented by Andrea Leja and Rosemary Evangelista from CYFO – Change Your Future Outcome; "How to make non-medical face masks and ear savers" with Marian Austin; "Home Remedies" with Marian Austin; and "An afternoon with Raptors" with licensed falconer Mark Perkin of @thekiltedfalconer.

All the Virtual Gatherings were interactive and presented on Zoom. Due to some technical difficulties, the online videos have not been posted but will be available on YouTube as soon as possible.

Our next event will be a Psychic and Wellness Fair on September 26th. This is planned as an outdoor event, practicing social distancing and COVID-19 safe practices. There will be speakers/demonstrations, vendors, readers, and a silent auction. A portion of the event is thanks to a New Horizons for Seniors #LifeHacks Grant.

Thank you to Joanna Rickert-Hall who is contracted to work with this grant. Watch for a listing of future "Virtual Gatherings".

FWIC Lottery

The net proceeds from the Lottery will be used for future programing of "Back to Basic" skills which will help to reduce poverty. These programs will be included in the "Hearth is where the Home is" FWIC project for 2020-2021.

As of September 9th, we have sold 230 tickets @ \$5.00 each = \$1,150.00. 26 orders with Square fees totalling \$19.56 leaves a net of \$1,130.44. There is also a \$5.00 monthly fee for the Lottery Trust Account.

Additional ticket sales have been received since then. We have extended the deadline to

COMMUNITY, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE REPORT CONTINUED...

December 12th and have onsite events booked but will also need to push the ticket sales. If you know anyone in Ontario, please let them know of our Lottery.

WI Canada Premium Package Programme

This proposal is being offered as a program/package to FWIC/WI CANADA members as a fundraiser. Purchasers will receive a Premium Package Membership Card to be renewed annually.

Please note, this is not a membership to FWIC/WI Canada. Each Premium Package Member will receive a WI Canada pin and the first 100 members will receive a FWIC Purse holder valued at \$5.00. Other items will be substituted as the stock items deplete.

This programme may be offered to our membership but may also be available online for non-members. Increased revenue to support FWIC/WI CANADA operations/programming will be the result. A 2% bonus will be sent to the Provincial Unit of the purchaser's residence.

Suggested package fee: \$20.00

Value of package \$45.00

Premium Program members will be notified as additional partners are established and merchandise is received. Their package will then increase in value. A discount of 10% can be given to one of the upcoming events at the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead or may be used towards for the purchase of an item sold from FWIC/WI Canada store.

WI Canada Premium Package Fee Breakdown:

Package Cost \$20.00 | Retail Value \$45.00

- WI Canada Pin \$2.15 cost | \$5.00 retail
- *One Virtual On-line Tarot Reading Gift Certificate \$0.00 cost | \$30.00 retail
- *Promotional item from FWIC Old Stock \$0.00 cost | \$5.00 retail
- WI Canada Pen \$0.96 cost | \$2.50 retail
- *Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Booklet Old Stock item \$0.00 cost | \$2.00 retail
- *In-stock Adelaide Hunter Homestead Post Card \$0.00 cost | \$0.50 retail
- Premium Program Membership Card \$0.05
- Shipping \$2.35 (subject to change)
- 2% of net to Prov. of Residence \$0.20 | \$5.71

Net Profit for FWIC/WI CANADA \$14.29

*Virtual Reading is a donation. By showing the Premium Package Membership card, 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 will be annual package renewal.

OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Judy Page-Jones, Angela Scott, and Elizabeth Young

This report is quite short because of COVID 19 many of the events we had planned for the Annual General Meeting had to be cancelled hopefully next year we will be able to do them in Newfoundland at the Triennial Convention.

We did participate in many zoom meetings. President-elect, Margaret Byl, under the New Horizons for Seniors Grant Project, organized COVID 19 #Life Hack Series, virtual gatherings on zoom. This was well received, and Margaret hopes to be able to do some more.

Another National project was the "Hearth is Where the Home Is" under the guidance of committee chair, Lynn MacLean. Many members across Canada have sent in articles to be published in the WI Connections, on Facebook and on the FWIC web site. A full report has been submitted by Lynn MacLean.

AD HOC TRIENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Joan Holthe, Donna Jack, Ruth Fenner, Colleen Hooper, Elizabeth Young, Mary Winter

The committee has virtually met various times with the host facility, and some tentative plans and prices have been arranged:

- Thursday, June 17th - we will start off with registration, President's Reception with some Newfoundland flare to welcome everyone.
- Friday June 18th - FWIC will have a business session in the morning and in the afternoon, the opportunity to tour St. John's, attend a workshop, and ending with a free evening for everyone.
- Saturday June 19th - FWIC will have their AGM and that evening, a joint banquet with Canada Area members and hearing ACWW world president Magdie de Kock.
- Sunday June 20th - Canada Area sessions chaired by President Linda Hoy will reflect on their last two years and the enjoyment of some workshops in the afternoon.
- Monday June 21st - reports from Sheila Needham, Christine Rayburn, and Marie Kenny.

Pre and post tours will be arranged, some details are in the attached poster. We are hopeful that COVID19 rules and travel will be more relaxed in June 2021, so we can meet, do our business, and celebrate our joint organizations.

Final plans will not be arranged and announced until further into the new year.

PROJECT COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Margaret Byl, Justina Hop (April- August), Denise Joss (August - ongoing), Lynn Maclean, Judy Page-Jones, Joan Holthe, Kathy Dwyer

Hearth Is Where the Home Is

In April 2020, the Communications Committee suggested a project to the FWIC Board to help connect the Women's Institute members to FWIC-WI Canada which resulted in a separate committee being formed.

The Project was called "Hearth Is Where the Home Is". With everyone self isolating, it was an excellent time to reach out to the membership and engage them in a common way from coast to coast.

The Committee met and outlined several methods on how the members and others could contribute to the Project. Branches and members could participate by submitting a story about what they did or learned during self isolation, the projects they undertook, or by creating a "how to" video. Stories and pictures were shared through WI Connections and Social Media.

The Project was expanded from self-isolating to include a wide range of topics. Members were invited to submit anything created in the kitchen (recipes, preserving, pickling, etc.) to hand crafts (sewing, knitting, quilting, etc.) to home decorating to gardening (containers, vegetable, victory, etc.) to health and wellness and farming.

Over the last several months, members have slowly become engaged and have submitted stories, photos, and "how to" videos. The Committee looks forward to hearing from more members as the project continues to spread across the country.

To help identify the project, the committee is also creating a logo using a beaver. A draft of

the logo will be submitted to the Board for approval. As the Project progresses the committee will look for ways to integrate Life Hacks and the activities at the Homestead.



Proposed Project Mascot Bizzi Beaver

The Committee members would like to thank Jennifer from Prairie Telegraph for her ongoing expertise and guidance with the Project.

ALBERTA'S WOMENS INSTITUTES

Submitted by Cathleen Thurston, President

Our Provincial Council continues to meet by Skype every 6 or so weeks. We are planning our upcoming Annual General Meeting on Google Meets, the platform which we will be using for our virtual AGM.

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic our annual Provincial Convention did not take place in June. Instead we are planning a virtual Annual General Meeting on September 23. If all goes as planned, we will also be having a silent auction at that time on our Facebook page. This is really taking our members out of their comfort zone, but as with everything else in these crazy times we have had to be innovative and utilize technology. Within a couple of days of sending out our on-line registration forms we had 5 registrations come in – it may not sound like a lot, but when we consider the internet and device use of our members it seems like a big step to me.

Our Executive Director of 20 years, Fern Killeen, retired earlier this year. She wanted to be finished up by the end of March with the new ED, Bernadette Logozar, taking over then, but due to the pandemic and everything in the province of Alberta coming to a stand still just days after we hired Bernadette, these plans fell through. Training took longer than planned and Fern had to hold off on her retirement a little while, but Bernadette has now taken over the position and has been an asset as she is quite tech savvy. As well as helping us get our virtual AGM off the ground she will be overhauling our webpage.

The hiring of a new Executive Director gave the Provincial Council a chance to update policies and revamp job descriptions, distributing tasks differently among the Council members.

Hopefully, we have streamlined some things enough that we can entice other members to take on positions on Council – only time will tell.

Our Provincial Archivist, Mae Deans, has been busy gathering old documents such as minute books and photographs from Branches around the province to be digitized and stored at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. She has been approaching small museums and disbanded Branches and has collected up many items that may otherwise have been lost. I feel that this is a very worthwhile project and suggest if other provinces haven't done this that they should. We must not let our history vanish.

Our members have been busy sewing, knitting, and crocheting Personal Protective Equipment for nursing homes, front line workers, friends, neighbours, and themselves. They are delivering groceries and meals to those who need them. They are calling other members to keep in touch. They have stepped up to fill the needs they see in their communities.

It has been a trying year all round, but we will persevere and keep on – it is the Women's Institute way!

"It always seems impossible until it is done."
– Nelson Mandela

MANITOBA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Debra Barrett, President

Manitoba had a very productive year. It was a time of focusing on the renewal and rejuvenation of our organization, streamlining our accounting practices, and coping with the worldwide issues creating change on how W.I. must conduct business. In June we held our 2020 AGM using mail-in ballots. AGM documents were delivered to members either by email or post with adequate time for members to read and ask questions for clarification. The result was outstanding with 71% of our membership voting in our mail-in AGM. This was the first time in 110 years of W.I. in Manitoba that every member had the opportunity to exercise her right to vote on W.I. business, without using a proxy system. The feedback we received on the process has been incredibly favourable. The MWI Board of Directors were kept busy discussing the present and future financial security of the MWI and contemplating our goals and focuses as we move towards refreshing our Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. MWI's Finance Committee actively provided oversight of all financial business transactions and financial decisions for 2019-2020. The Finance Committee's future focus shall continue to be providing heightened transparency and fiscal responsibility, and the establishment of policies and procedures to provide guidance to Board members. Some of MWI's hi-lights this past year were:

- Members logged over 23,000 volunteer hours supporting and enriching their communities, which equates to roughly 12 full time staff positions for the year.
- Provision of two \$1000 scholarships to two deserving applicants
- Creation of Bylaw 2020 which updated our governance to comply with current protocols for not-for-profit organizations while adhering to our provincial act

- Modernization and enhancement of our website and social media to include Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat. The volume of followers continues to increase on a monthly basis
- Development of a "Made in Manitoba" strategy that strives to enhance needy community projects
- Continued provision of Manitoba Rural Women's Day, which are two full day speaker workshops that provide educational opportunities to our membership and community members, on each side of the province. The theme was 'Women Showing Courage, Determination and Boldness'.

MWI is enormously proud of our dedicated hardworking membership who continue to work with the Board in capitalizing on our assets to strengthen women, families, and our communities.

NEW BRUNSWICK WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Sandra Day, President

Since the last WI Canada/FWIC meeting, New Brunswick Women's Institute has experienced several successful gatherings and events, and we have also had to cancel many events due to Covid-19.

It has been a hardship in many ways, but as women of integrity working for home and country, we would like to think that we have risen to the challenge.

Following the Board meeting last fall, NBWI was pleased to work together on the New Horizons for Seniors Project for NBWI...Fidget Quilts. Our President, Sandra Day and the committee organized five workshops around the province for the months of January and February 2020. They set out with sewing machines, scissors, cutting boards, and various sundry to demonstrate the construction of fidget quilts and celebrate their uses for people with dementia and autism.

Over 175 quilts were made and all but a few have been given out, in spite of the fact that our province constructed over 100 fidget quilts a few years ago during the Canada 150 celebrations, as part of the FWIC project. The ladies all felt blessed that they could complete this project. Not only did the weather cooperate for each function, but they were all scheduled before COVID 19 closed the province.

The final booklet on the Fidget Quilt Project has yet to be published, but with minor modification, NBWI used some of the remaining funds in the Fidget Quilt project to make masks for numerous organizations. Elastic was hard to come by, so the ladies modified their patterns, while the participating Branches received some much-needed

stipends for their help in making the masks. When the final booklet does come out it will include a section on the masks too!

We had a highly successful fund raiser of a gift card tree, where the lucky recipient received over \$2000 worth of gift cards. We moved our accounts and investments to the Progressive Credit Union for greater long-term benefit, and we supported the HMCS Fredericton and their drive for Children's Wish again this year. We also grieved with the sailors of HMCS Fredericton this winter when they met with disaster while on exercises overseas.

Since we are now in the fiscal year 2020-2021, we regretfully had to cancel our annual provincial convention, and made do with conference calls and a mail in ballot that reported NBWI's financial story and prospectus for the coming year. It was approved, yet we decided to keep the same officers for the upcoming year, in order that we might hold the election and change of officers at our next provincial convention.

Our next objective is to become more technologically savvy! While many Branches and in fact FWIC are offering meeting and learning modules via Zoom we would like to do the same and will work hard to bring everyone up to speed for this ambitious task.

As our province carries on with the challenges of Covid-19 we are determined to work together and send our best wishes to each of the other provinces in Canada for a safe and prosperous season, until we meet again.

For home and country always.

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Elizabeth Young, President

Summer is coming to an end; fall will soon begin. Hopefully, things will continue to adjust to our new normal as we continue in a positive direction. We have two active cases of Covid-19 at the time this report is being written. The government has decided to put in place some new regulations and social distancing rules, such as mandatory masks in all public locations. They have increased group gathering sizes so hopefully our branches can get back together soon, we all miss each other greatly.

Many meetings had to be cancelled or rescheduled. Programs and projects had to be adjusted or changed to suit the government restrictions. There were many changes and adjustments with frustrating prospects to deal with. The ladies of NL have been creative and flexible during these difficult Covid-19 times.

The 2021 convention committee has been working to their best ability as conditions allow. Hopefully, we will be able to get more details finalized moving forward. We hope to have a package done as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, we have heard from Delores Jones that she will be stepping down as co-chair for the convention, we are saddened that she is leaving but understand that our personal health must come first. We will carry on and hopefully make this a memorable experience for everyone involved.

For people planning to extend their stay on the Rock you can get information from the Department of Tourism NL website at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/tcar>. The committee will continue to work toward a successful convention for all.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF NOVA SCOTIA REPORT

Submitted by Eleanor Lilley, President

The 2019 - 2020 year has brought many changes to our W.I.N.S. but our members have been the biggest supporters during these challenging times.

In August 2019, our AGM was held at the Museum of Industry in Stellarton, Pictou County with the theme "Hats Off to Women". Recognition was given to the six Past-Presidents in attendance.

Resolution 1: Update to Resolution 4 (Amendment to By-Law 5.2) passed at Convention 2018. Passed

Resolution 2: Access to services for all Nova Scotians. Withdrawn, more information requested.

The new Board, now consisting of 7 Regional Directors, were sworn in at this time. The Board continues to meet via teleconferencing and ZOOM.

In September 2019, the Alumni were hosted by East Kings at the beautiful home of member, Susan Ueffing.

Earlier in the year the Executive met with the Department of Agriculture and an agreement to extend the Memorandum of Understanding for one year was reached. This would enable us to have an independent facilitator to oversee the execution of a strategic plan. The COVID-19 pandemic meant that we were unable to meet and completion date is now extended to December 31st.

Our Branches held their Fall Rallies in 2019 but in these unpreceded times of Social Distancing, were unable to gather for Spring Meetings in 2020. Our Premier said, "Stay the Blazes Home" and we did!

Many Branches are being proactive in keeping members connected and informed by holding ZOOM meetings, emails, and phone calls. Wonderful stories of how members are contributing to their communities and each other are being shared. Our members are busy making masks to supply local hospitals, care homes and community groups along with baking for neighbours, growing vegetables to share and trying new crafts.

These efforts, WI news and ACWW news are being shared through our Facebook page, in the community newspapers and events.

Our connection to each other is a large part of our Organisation along with supporting each other and our communities.

This year, to-date, has proven difficult in many ways but our members' commitment to their communities, Branches and W.I.N.S. are appreciated.

On a personal note, my appreciation is extended to the Board of W.I.N.S. for their continued support and encouragement.

"The beauty of life is, while we cannot undo what is done, we can see it, understand it, learn from it and CHANGE".

FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO REPORT

Submitted by Mary Shortt, President

As of now Ontario WI is structured with 13 Areas, 8 Regions, and 2500 members. These members, even through Covid-19 have remained resilient, industrious, and imaginative with many embracing the digital communications when they otherwise may not have. They are also busy in their individual communities helping and supporting each other and their neighbours as much as possible. Making nonmedical masks and caps, delivering meals and good will to shut-ins, donating to local causes.

Early in the pandemic we recommended that members no longer meet physically, and this was also carried on through the District and Area meetings. Most officers this year are holding their positions. Many are 'Zooming' and some are using email to do their business as they feel is necessary.

Sadly, we had to cancel the Provincial Triennial Conference that was to be held in Huntsville, Ontario.

Although the Erland Lee Museum was closed, and many events were cancelled things are still happening! Volunteers are keeping the grounds and gardens neat and tidy and the Curator designed a self guided tour describing the history of the property and the buildings. Our two summer staff translated all our signs and the written script into French making us officially bilingual. A Grade 3 teaching kit was created with many helpful instructions and hands-on examples. And – best of all – a new 4-part display was created entitled "A Woman's Work is Never Done" highlighting 125 years of WI so we are now beginning to prepare for the BIG PARTY here in Ontario in 2022.

There is also a presence on 'Culture Days' through the month of September.

The Committee has been working with Heart of Ontario to establish a destination tour along the Ridge Road which would include the Erland Lee Museum. As you would guess – Covid-19 has made this more difficult to get going but they are persevering.

Our Board of Directors – made up of a Director from each of the 8 Regions plus the President & President-Elect- have also been subject to rethinking how things get done! We are all getting very adept at Zoom & teleconference meetings along with many, many emails. Our biggest project is a new Strategic Plan – all done by Zoom meetings – and using information we received from members through a questionnaire.

We completed a three-year grant and have digitized many Tweedsmuir Histories. These can be viewed through the FWIO web page.

Our Membership Coordinator has a committee who are working hard to grow the membership. They host a Zoom Gathering that is open to all members featuring fun and interesting topics each month.

As our fiscal year draws to a close, we find ourselves looking forward to a renewed Women's Institute in Ontario and planning on celebrating 125 years in 2022.

QUEBEC WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Elizabeth Milroy, President

Here we are, going into fall again, we sure have had a beautiful summer, but as I look back, it has been a very traumatic year.

I will start with the planting, and dedication of our FWIC/ WI Canada, Yellow Rose in July.

I attended two, 100th anniversary's, Compton WI and Cleveland WI. We also had fall board meeting and county meeting. We also attended Townshippers Day that was held in Cowansville. In Nov. We attended our Remembrance Day ceremony.

Brome county merged with Missisquoi county, to become Brome Missisquois, also Stanstead county lost Hatley Centre Branch.

In Jan into the spring, as we were gearing up to get ready for convention, BOOM, the whole world shut down!! At that time, I thought I would get some spring cleaning done, but that didn't happen, Covid didn't just shut the country down, it shut me down, I couldn't do anything, it seems I was just turning in circles, it took whatever brain I had left.

Over the past year, we have lost quite a few of our most dedicated members, just to mention a couple, past president Joan Griffeth.

I am proud to mention, that one of our own, Evelyn Lewis, long standing dedicated member, has been named for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Woman of the year award.

Days for Girls; every girl & woman has inherent worth and dignity. D F G is committed to supporting a girl throughout her entire lifecycle, from providing her with a DFG Kit, to providing her with support & education,

and in that, she will contribute to making kits herself, support hygiene needs in her community.

We registered with Days for Girls Canada as the DFG Hault St Laurent group. We now have a bank account in our name, any money we give stays with our group. So far, we are the only group in Quebec, we are also working on a program to start distributing them to schoolgirls, grade 5 in Quebec. We have already done one class in Huntington in the spring.

DFG is also partnered with Diva International, to supply Canadian Chapters and teams with Diva Cups, that will be used in our Hybrid Kits. These kits will be distributed to homeless shelters, women's shelters, and northern areas of Canada. We had been working on getting a contact to start this part of the project, but it has also been stalled because of COVID.

SASKATCHEWAN WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Virginia Kreklevich, President

Since COVID 19 took over our lives, we have been sitting quietly at home hoping it doesn't touch us. So far, we have been lucky!

I personally have been busy at the sewing machine. I made 5 quilts: - one for SWI; one for FWIC and one for our raffle, proceeds to our local health centre.

We did not have our AGM this year, but we will have a board meeting, Oct.5 at my place and do all that is necessary to keep our SWI going!

We will keep everyone in our prayers to help fight this COVID.

PEI WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Carol Jenkins, President

2019 got off to a great start. After our provincial exhibition, we had two fall workshops Kings and Prince county with good attendance at all. Well known Chef Michael Smith was a guest judge at our youth cooking contest with plenty of recipes made with Island products. We also had a cooking school with local well-known home economist Margaret Prowse. There were lots of samples enjoyed by all. This was followed with Country Christmas, where a variety of beautiful Christmas arrangements were made using flowers, greenery and Christmas ornaments. 2020 brought founders day, it was a great success one of the guest speakers were the Buddhist Nuns. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Unfortunately, everything came to a halt with COVID 19. This was a time when P.E.I. women pulled together and started making masks. Many were donated to nursing homes and non-profit organizations; many more were sold to companies who requested them with the proceeds going to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. To date the value of these masks made by Island women exceeds fifty thousand dollars.

BRITISH COLUMBIA WOMEN'S INSTITUTES REPORT

Submitted by Brenda Devauld, President

As the new president (2020 - 2023) for the British Columbia Women's Institute I would like to introduce the new BCWI board:

Brenda Devauld - President

Shelly Simrose - Vice President, Publicity / Finance

Wanda Mason - Newsletter

Fay Van Horn, Victoria Salliss, Kim Coy - Resolutions

Ruth Davis

Colleen Hooper - Past President

Jill Copes - FWIC Provincial Representative

Of course, I can not mention Betty Bartlett., our BCWI secretary, without whom we would all be lost!

I am looking forward to working with these ladies as we go forward during the next three years.

At our recent Zoom AGM in June/2020 a Task Force was formed to try to put forth ideas and actions to help with recruitment of new members and to revive interest in WI. The members of this committee are resourceful and dedicated WI members and I am looking forward to seeing their ideas.

Our WI members passed two resolutions at our June 12/2020 Zoom AGM they were:

1. On Single Use plastics - "Be it resolved that the British Columbia Women's Institute urge the British Columbia Government to enact legislation to ban the use of single use non compostable plastic dog waste bags and instead encourage products and methods that are proven environmentally safe and will degrade into natural substances."

2. On reducing our environmental footprint - "Be it resolved that the British Columbia Women's Institute petition the Solicitor General of the Government of British Columbia to amend the Cemetery, Interment and Funeral Services Act and all regulations to include a definition of cremation and in that definition include the provision for Alkaline Hydrolysis to be an approved method of cremation within the Province of British Columbia."

We have also been campaigning for the last 2 years to educate ourselves and our families on the problems of Single Use plastics and how to lessen the use of them in our homes.

Our 2020 BC Triennial Convention was cancelled due to COVID pandemic and like many others we had to have a Zoom online meeting. It has been a challenging year in many ways, but as always, we have adapted and learned new ways of doing things.

LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT ELECT IN 2021

Submitted by Jill Copes And Linda Mason, Nominating Committee

British Columbia	Manitoba	Quebec	Prince Edward Island
Janet Bangs	Liz Chongva	Judy Page Jones	Miriam Lank
Colleen Hooper	Ann Mandziuk	Norma Sherrer	Doreen Cole
	Denise Joss		Jackie Liard
Alberta		New Brunswick	
Diane Dammann	Ontario	Holly Hersey	Newfoundland
Faye Mayberry?	Linda Zelm	Angela Scott	Delores Jones
	Mary Shortt		Elizabeth Young
Saskatchewan	Evelyn Peck	Nova Scotia	June Young
Karen Gerwing		Lynn MacLean	
Virginia Kreklevich		Coni Murray	

The Nomination Committee consists of two members of the FWIC Board.

Duties include:

1. Fifteen months prior to Convention prepare and forward a nomination form and the list of those eligible for nomination for President Elect to the Provincial Associations. (Those eligible for nomination for President Elect should have served on the Board during the last two trienniums: 2015-2018 includes Provincial Presidents)
2. The Chair of the Nominations committee must receive the nominations four months prior to Convention.
3. Three months prior to Convention a list of all nominees plus a resume a of their qualifications is forwarded to the Provincial Associations.
4. Receive the name of the Provincial Executive Officers (now Provincial Representative) one month prior to Convention.
5. Present the list of Nominee to the Board at the pre-Convention board meeting.
6. Post the list of Nominees for President Elect at the opening session of the Convention.

Following is from the Bylaws – Nominations for President Elect

1. Nominations for President Elect shall be made by Provincial and Territorial units.
2. Nominations for President Elect shall be made with their consent and with the knowledge and assurance of support of the Provincial Board and Territorial Board of that candidate.
3. Nominations shall be received by the Nominations Chair four (4) months prior to the Triennial Meeting

ACWW REPORT

Submitted by Linda Hoy, Acww Canada Area President

This is not the way that I was planning to greet you - via Zoom! It has been a very different 6+ months since we have had group meetings and travel ceased. Instead we learned how to conduct meetings via Zoom.

It was a most difficult decision to postpone the ACWW Canada Area Conference from June 2020 to June 2021. The ACWW Committee Chairs, Donna Jack, Ruth Fenner and Colleen Hooper, have agreed to stay on and are working with the Memorial University Staff in St. John's, NL. The dates have been confirmed for June 19th-21st following the FWIC Convention.

Save the date to meet in St. John's, NL June 17th to 21st, 2021 and take in both the FWIC and ACWW events.

ACWW Central Office continues to provide us with updated promotional information that can be used in your meetings. Many are downloadable from the website www.acww.org.uk. The last two issues of The Countrywoman Magazine were not mailed out due to the COVID pandemic, but they are available to download from the website.

Your Pennies for Friendship and donations to the Women Empowered (WE Fund for Projects) are needed now more than ever. You can send them to your Society who will in turn forward them to me. I send a bank draft along with a spreadsheet of names and addresses of donors to Central Office.

I would encourage you to take an individual membership to ACWW. 1 year (£27) or 3 year (£68).

October 15th marks International Day of Rural Women and this year, the postponed Women Walk the World will take place on the

same day. It is a great opportunity for you to help your community learn about ACWW and the unique role played by Rural Women in food systems.

I wish that I could include more here but everything and more is available on the website and resources are downloadable.

Until we meet again – stay safe and healthy.

"Our Diversity is our Strength"



FWIC OFFICE REPORT CONTINUED...

prior to COVID shut down. During closure, we have hosted well being seminars and a day with the Raptors bird demonstration. I am quickly trying to work up a fall schedule of events and thus far, I have the following in the works. I want to include members from across the country. I am always open to ideas how to make that happen. My email and phone are always available, and I would love to collaborate ways to connect with the membership.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Psychic and Wellness Outdoor Fair, September 26 Rain date Oct 2
- Drive-in Fairy-Tale Theatre: October 10 with Playful Fox Productions, rain or shine
- Halloween Walk: Adults night walk Oct 30, Kids day walk Oct 31 work in progress
- Home for the Holidays Radio Drama and local brewery tasting December, work in progress
- Croquet Tournament and Victorian Lemonade Picnic moved to spring 2021

Upcoming events:

- FWIC National Convention, NFLD - June 17-19, 2021
- ACWW Canada Area Conference, NFLD - June 19-21, 2021
- ACWW World Conference, Kuala Lumpur, May 18-24, 2022

