



# Federated Women's Institutes of Canada

Dear W.I. Members:

Your editor requested a contribution from FWIC in Home & Country some time ago. As your Vice President for Ontario to FWIC I am happy to report activities of the National level as often as time permits.

FWIC is in a rather unique position. We sometimes ask "What is FWIC?". The answer, is of course, that it is W.I.'s in ALL the provinces. It is YOU and ME and every member who pays her dues to W.I. But each province has its own constitution and programs.

What then is the *function* of FWIC? The answer is to act on behalf of ALL the provinces at the *federal* level; to consider concerns which vitally affect our members in every province as opposed to addressing concerns in individual provinces. In my opinion any matters which are federal in nature should be espoused by FWIC and, one would hope, be supported by all the provincial W.I.'s.

W.I.'s are growing and appropriately changing as times change. Certainly the issues challenging FWIC are very different from, and more numerous than, those it faced a few years ago. Its visibility is much enhanced. It is recognized by government and other organizations as a very worthy, very stable organization.

Since the very formation of FWIC in 1919 social issues, particularly as they affect the home and its members, have been one of its main concerns. It is perhaps natural then, that emphasis has been placed on legislation. At present FWIC is studying proposed changes to replace the existing Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act to create a new Canada Health Act. It is also monitoring the proposed property rights amendment to the Constitution as it relates to entrenching property rights. Should they be entrenched or not? If they are, how would this affect us?

We are also studying the Criminal Code as it relates to pornography and prostitution.

In September Alice McLaggan, our new Executive Secretary who replaced Jenny Morgan, and I presented FWIC's brief on Pensions to the Task Force. The main thrust of our presentation was pensions for homemakers. We were highly commended for our approach.

By now you will probably know that we have new curators at the Adelaide Hoodless Home - Nancy and Kevin Dodsworth. They are very interested in developing innovative programs to involve the community and publicize the Home as much as

possible. They will enjoy the cooperation you have always given our curators, I am sure. Please remember the Foundation Fund for the Hoodless Homestead when you allocate your donations, for in memoriams and even in lieu of a gift when congratulating a friend.

Warmest greetings to all. May the New Year be rich in God's blessings.

Bernice B. Neblitt

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## New curators named at the Hoodless Homestead

The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) is pleased to announce the appointment of new curators at its museum, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead.

Kevin and Nancy Dodsworth were selected from a list of candidates who were interviewed in mid-August. The Dodsworth's started their new job on Sept. 1 and are taking over from David and Deborah Allen.

Kevin and Nancy moved to the area from the Ottawa Valley. Kevin is a qualified school teacher. He taught for the Lanark and Carleton Boards of Education, and coached several sports teams in the community. He has also done some installation work for Bell Canada.

Nancy spent the past three years working for the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority. She was employed at the Mill of Kintail Conservation Area where she conducted outdoor conservation education programs for school children; wrote and distributed newsletters, press

releases, brochures, and outdoor education resource material; and assisted the curator in managing the R. Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum.

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead was purchased by the FWIC in 1959 and restored as a memorial to Adelaide Hoodless, the founder of the Women's Institutes movement in Ontario and Canada.

The Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead is located near the village of St. George on Blue Lake Road (South Dumfries Concession 3) one kilometre west of the Junction of Highways 24 and 5 East. It is open to the public every day from 2 to 5 pm and other times by appointment. Group tours are welcome. The Homestead is surrounded by three acres of beautifully landscaped park land and picnic sites.

For more information, please call Kevin and Nancy Dodsworth at the Homestead at 448-1130. Better yet - come and visit!!