

Codrington WI Initiates Resolution for Lifestyles Program



Having grown up on a small mixed farm near Mountain View in Prince Edward County, I became aware of and benefited from the Women's Institute early in my life. I recall at 12 years old being

excited to join the 4-H Homemaking Club, The Mountain View Modern Misses, and I still treasure the 4-H spoons which were given by the Mountain View WI at the completion of each project. Throughout our youth, WI was very generous in helping with funds for education. Two of my four sisters were awarded Women's Institute Awards. Most recently, my youngest daughter also won the Codrington Women's Institute Award on her Graduation from East Northumberland Secondary School.

Last fall, after I had retired from teaching, it felt like a good fit to join the Codrington WI. I wanted to meet more people and get to know my community better. What I found was a group of strong women who make a huge difference in our community and who were very supportive when I brought forth my concern about personal cooking and human nutrition falling by the wayside in Ontario's School Curriculum. Thanks to Florence Butcher, our Branch's Advocacy Rep.

Codrington WI's resolution is written out of concern for the health and well-being of future generations of Ontario citizens. We are extremely concerned about the fact that our young people are not being taught human nutrition and healthy personal cooking at school at an

early age. Many people of childbearing age have not had any hands-on training in nutrition, cooking or balanced meal preparation and this puts them and their children at a higher risk of developing health problems. This lack of formal training will make it difficult for them to maintain their health so that they can perform job duties and enjoy a suitable quality of life. We need to bring human nutrition and personal cooking back into the schools so it is delivered consistently across Ontario to both boys and girls.

Our resolution – that the Ontario Ministry of Education develop a Lifestyles Program which will teach students cooking skills, human nutrition and other wellness practices which will contribute to a healthy modern society – has been well received **after being passed by FWIO in April**. It has been officially supported by the Ontario Home Economist's Association and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. There has been a letter writing campaign by WI Branches across Ontario to MPPs, the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals and the Premier, Kathleen Wynne.

This fall, there are plans to get official support from as many places as possible. If you wish to send a letter of support to your MPP, the Minister of Education or the Premier, contact Glenna Smith, FWIO Advocacy Coordinator (advocacycoordinator@fwio.on.ca) for a copy of the letter of support or you can write your own!

*Submitted by Nancy Villneff,
Codrington WI*

For additional information and to read Nancy's full article, visit www.fwio.on.ca.

When One Branch Closes, Another Opens its Arms

Betty Lawson's Branch, Salem-Nilestown WI, disbanded in 2012 but thankfully she was able to join the nearby Harrietsville WI (London Area) and continue her long-time membership in the Women's Institute. Betty's new Branch recently held a special celebration to recognize her 60 years as a WI Member. Family members, friends and former Salem-Nilestown WI Members joined in the celebration of Betty receiving her 60 year WI pin. Elizabeth Thompson spoke of Betty being president of her former Branch, giving interesting mottos and attending several courses. Betty also served as L.H.S.C. Auxiliary Children's Hospital representative. Betty is now sharing her talents with Harrietsville WI.

Pictured: Long-time Member Betty Lawson (R) receives her 60 year WI pin from her daughter, Elizabeth Patience (L).

