

Meet the Members



INTRODUCING Jean Holmes

Growing up on a farm in Southern Manitoba, at the turn of the century, Jean hadn't heard of the Women's Institute. However, her and her sister joined the Canadian Girls in Training which was similar to the Junior WI program.

Getting out into the world, Jean married and had three sons. By the time they had moved from the Prairies to Kingston, Ontario Jean gave birth to a fourth child, a baby girl named Janet.

After seven years in the city, Jean's family longed for a large garden and fresh air and they relocated to Moscow, near Kingston. In a very short time, Jean and her husband became a part of the community. She was invited to join the local WI Branch and enjoyed being a part of the large, active group. Jean was still a "Member in good standing" when the family moved again and although she doesn't remember how it happened, she soon became involved in Rocky Ridge WI in 1973.

Jean says now that she is 105 years old, she is still a "Member in good standing," although she's not as active as she once was. Jean was made "Mayor for a Minute" and is wearing the chain of office as she celebrates her 105th birthday at a special gathering hosted by Carlton Place town council.

According to two-time Nobel Prize winner,
Dr. Linus Pauling:

*"The best way to get a good idea is
to get a lot of ideas."*

BRAINSTORMING 101

by Manon Germain, Rural Development Officer, FWIO

Brainstorming is a collective and creative thinking process that is based on the concept that a dynamic group setting can generate lots of great ideas!

TIPS AND TOOLS

When creating a list of problems or activities within an organization and community it is important to include all members in the resolution process.

Find a volunteer willing to lead the group in a 'brainstorming' session, and to help choose topics that relate to the group's goals, and community needs.

Guidelines & Rules for "Brainstorming"

Choose a question or problem that needs to be solved or answered.

(For example: How to increase FWIO membership through a community project such as a food drive for your local food bank.)

Have one person in the group write down all the ideas, either on a flip chart, or a blackboard for the entire group to see.

Keep these GUIDELINES in mind for your "Brainstorming Session"

- Encourage spontaneous & exaggerated ideas
- Welcome all ideas - the emphasis is on Quantity vs. Quality at this point
- No criticism allowed
- Every person and every idea has equal share
- Build on each other's ideas

REMEMBER ENCOURAGEMENT IS KEY TO UNDERSTANDING