

THROUGH THE Grapevine

BY FWIO PRESIDENT
MARGARET BYL



It was a long and cold winter but spring has finally arrived. It is amazing to see the vineyards that surround my home bursting forth with new life! Birds are nesting and a new season is upon us. It is the season of growth, renewal and rejuvenation. We are facing exciting, yet sometimes challenging times. We have said goodbye to some and welcomed others, new to our WI Team. The Membership Tour across the province is well underway with rave reviews! The Restructuring/Revitalizing Committee met at the April Provincial Board Meeting and has presented recommendations for the Board to review. We will meet again in August. The final report will be presented in November. The Canada 150 Project received more than 350 Real Life Stories which are being reviewed. Thank you to everyone who submitted their stories and to all of our Provincial Coordinators and Officers.

In February, we celebrated 118 years of WI with a "Tea at the Lee" and a full house. Members of the Lee family and dignitaries were there to help us celebrate Women's Institutes. Ron Robinson and members of the Golden Horseshoe Chapter of the HRAI (Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada) presented the FWIO with a cheque in the amount of \$10,000 for the exclusive use for the upgrade of the heating and air conditioning systems in both the Museum and Carriage House. The Golden Horseshoe Chapter have also arranged for manufacturers to donate a new boiler, furnace for the office wing, heat pumps for the Carriage House and Museum and air conditioning units as well. Donations in kind are totalling more than \$50,000. We are also very grateful to receive an additional \$10,000 from the Archer Family, \$5,000 from the Cranston Family and an additional \$1,000 from the Golden Horseshoe Chapter of the HRAI. The heat pumps have been installed and are operational in the Carriage House and the Museum upgrades are underway.

More exciting news! FWIO and the Erland Lee (Museum)

Home received the Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce Community Recognition Award on May 21st. For more, see page 12.

The Erland Lee Community Committee (ELCC) is now known as the Erland Lee Museum Committee, a standing committee of FWIO. The terms of reference will be defined at their next meeting. The Provincial Board was at the Carriage House for the Volunteer Appreciation Day to recognize and thank the Friends of the Lee, the ELCC and all of the volunteers, Branches and Districts that have helped with the Museum.

Our Motto, "For Home and Country" and the Mary Stewart Collect are reminders that we sometimes take our families for granted. The Provincial Office Staff are part of the WI Family and are all doing a wonderful job. We certainly appreciate all that they do for us!

The FWIC Convention is being held in Fredericton, New Brunswick in June. I am looking forward to meeting the delegates from the other provinces and sharing our ideas. Marie Kenny will be finishing her term as President of FWIC. She has been a great inspiration to me personally, and to everyone that has met her. We wish her all the best for the future.

In closing, I would like to share with you this quote from Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) Nobel Peace Prize Winner – Medical Missionary and Philosopher. *"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each one of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."*

Yours for Home and Country,

Margaret Byl

Mark your calendars!



Pictured: FWIO President, Margaret Byl accepting the \$10,000 donation from Ron Robinson on behalf of HRAI, Golden Horseshoe Chapter.