

# International Connections

By \*International Officer, Cindi Rabstein



Cindi Rabstein

To all my WI Members,

I am coming to the end of my term as your International Officer. I cannot believe it has been 3 years, but it has been a very enjoyable experience, and I would urge any of you Members to try your hand at it, as you will find it a real learning experience.

Canada Comforts is alive and well. This organization sends containers all over the world, which I think is the only way to go. If there is a disaster in a country, then the next container goes there. They have people on the ground in those countries that let them know when the container gets there. I know of 3 containers that have gone just recently, one to Ghana with items for the hospital, such as washcloths, baby outfits, newborn hats, diapers, bed blankets, receiving blankets, soap, towels, and bandages. The second container went to Zimbabwe, helping day schools, setting up a library, and helping to equip an old age home and local churches to look after poverty stricken people in the area. The third container went to Thailand in the middle of October. From there, supplies will go to help rural Myanmar (Burma) to set up some day schools, teacher training school, and help a displaced persons camp. Over 17 containers have gone this past year to different countries in need.

I always suggest you get membership in ACWW, either individually, or one for the Branch and you will receive their magazine 'Country Woman'. They also have a website [www.acww.org.uk](http://www.acww.org.uk), while the United Nations is [www.unac.org](http://www.unac.org). Both are very informative.

I am in the process of putting an ACWW manual together. It is taking longer than I thought, due to getting it into a format that we can print, but I hope to have it finished by January 2014. Look for it on the FWIO website in the Members Section (International Box).

Thank you so much for all of your support and encouragement. It has been a pleasure working for you all. Happy New Year and take care.

*\*As of January 2014, Margaret Christenson has been elected as International Officer. Margaret recently completed her term as Northern Regional Board Director and is also Chair of FWIO's Restructuring Committee. Margaret can be reached at [internationalofficer@fwio.on.ca](mailto:internationalofficer@fwio.on.ca) or 705-779-3996.*



Margaret Christenson

## Meet the Members Introducing...Jean Flemming

Jean joined the Kilsyth WI, which is now Kilsyth-North Derby WI (Grey-Bruce Area), in 1964. She served as Secretary-Treasurer and Treasurer from 1994-2003 and has also filled in when needed. Jean has lived in Derby Township, now Georgian Bluffs, since she was a child and still resides in the village of Kilsyth. Jean has always been an active member of the community, including WI. She is a great quilter and also enjoys knitting and playing euchre. Jean is now 92 years young and was recently honoured at her Branch's October 2013 meeting with a Life Membership. Her Branch wishes her continued good health in the future.



Pictured: Jean Flemming with her daughter, Joan.