



By Membership Coordinator, Debbie Bauer

I am happy to be back. Now, it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

I need everyone to understand two things: one, our membership numbers are critical; two, we are going to turn those numbers around together.

I will be touring the province giving workshops and offering opportunities to open new Branches in communities where population supports a Branch for a younger demographic. We will try to emulate the WI revolution taking place in the UK in our own way.

My workshops are interactive and fun. We will develop new ideas and skills to help identify future Members.

My plan will include selecting sections of our province to be toured one to two weeks at a time. It is a huge province and I would like to minimize or avoid "ping-ponging" around a large District or Area, so I will ask for as much cooperation and even leeway as possible in choosing dates as I set up this huge tour. Please watch your E-Blasts and the website for a way to get involved in this exciting and vital process.

I cannot do this alone. I ask that we turn our dedication to Women's Institute into a groundswelling equal to that in the UK for our "new WI".



Please do not hesitate to call me at 519-529-7820 or email me at wdbauer@hurontel.on.ca.

I am eager to see you all soon.

Russell Village WI

WI is, of course, about support and volunteerism. Well, it struck me as we were making sandwiches and cutting pies to sell at the 156th Russell Fair WI Tea Room, that we not only support our community and the Fair through our volunteerism, but we are also promoting WI - just through those actions!

We have our WI banner front and center! We are wearing our blue aprons with our FWIO logos on them. We are promoting our Frozen Berry Sales at the counter and taking orders, but we are also promoting participation to the young people who we embrace to volunteer for us. The young people this year, Isabelle, Savanagh, Ryan and Amber, were curious and asked us about WI. What does WI do? They asked about where we met and what being a Member means to us? Who knows, these young people may become our next generation of WI! We should never underestimate our presence in the community and the power we have to teach about volunteerism and WI at the same time. Not only did these students help us, they learned about the joy and fun of volunteerism - a perfect example of volunteerism giving back! Thank you Isabelle, Savanagh, Ryan and Amber!

*Jean Williams
President, Russell Village WI*



Pictured: Student volunteers, Amber and Ryan helped cut and wrap pie for Russell Village WI.