

Supporting Education – the tradition continues

● Melissa Skerret is a 20-year-old University of Guelph student who was awarded one of the FWIO Scholarships. We had the opportunity to speak with Melissa on the evening of the scholarship presentation and she agreed to share her thoughts on being a young woman in university.

H&CRG - What are you studying and why did you choose this program?

I am studying Gerontology, which is the study of aging. I chose this program at age 18, after I began working at a local Long Term Care Facility as a part-time Nurse's Aide, where I have now been employed for over two years. I discovered from first-hand interactions with these older adults whom I refer to as my 'Grandpals', that I wanted to work with them at a professional level.

H&CRG - What has been the biggest challenge of University life? What's the best part of University life?

The biggest challenge of university life is to balance class, homework, travel time, friends at school, friends at home, family and employment simultaneously. The key is organization and prioritizing. You won't just hear it from me, but income is certainly a large factor in the way university students live out their daily lives. The best part of university life has to be learning about what you love most, working towards a career you're passionate about and meeting new people.

H&CRG - What do you want to do in the future?

In the future I hope to publish the book I am currently working on about my experiences as a frontline worker in a Long Term Care setting, engage in public speaking on behalf of older adults, and work in a setting/environment with and for older adults. I'm hoping the University's co-op Program will help narrow the fields for me.

H&CRG - Did you know about Women's Institute?

I knew much about the Women's Institute, as it has become quite reputable. A colleague further guided me towards the Institute, and made me see it as a resource and a community connection.

Good Idea!

Have you signed up for "Eat to Give" yet? You, your family and your friends can support FWIO by doing something you already do on a regular basis – grocery shopping. Shop at most grocery stores as you normally would and for every \$100 you spend, the store returns \$3.50 to FWIO. New stores include Tim Horton's, M&M Meat Shops and Canadian Tire! The Eat to Give gift cards make great birthday presents and thank you gifts for friends and teachers! For more information speak to your Board Director or contact the Provincial Office.

HOT NEWS

In recognition of FWIO's 110th Anniversary In 2007 the Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship (formerly Macdonald) at the University of Guelph will be changed to three \$1,000 awards.

The Rosedene WI Bazaar

Pictured here is President Brenda Vaughn of Rosedene WI along with Marie Janssens, President of Warwick WI, Lambton North District from the Sarnia area. Mrs. Janssens was visiting relatives and decided to go bazaar hopping where the two met. They enjoyed a day filled with the wonderful smell of home made soups and sandwiches made from freshly baked buns. There were also tickets sold for door prizes, which was a change made this year.

