

Home & Country

Federated Women's
Institutes of Ontario
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sharing education

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Women Remember World War II

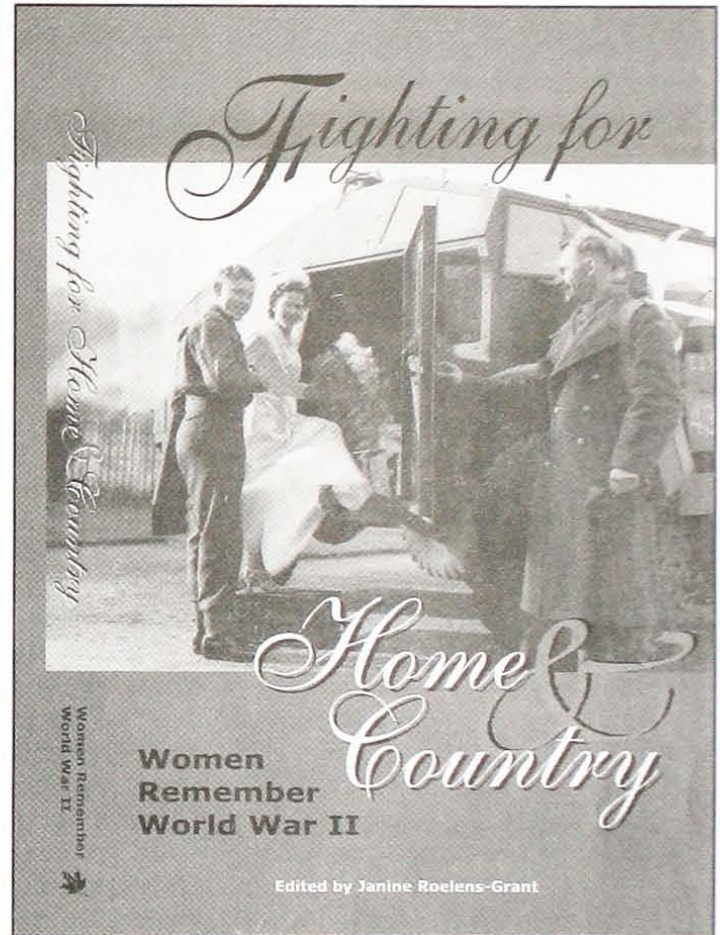
Following the tremendous success of *From This Place: Recollections of the Lives of Women in the 20th Century*, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) have just published a second book of the same genre - *Fighting for Home & Country: Women Remember World War II*. This new book edited by Janine Roelens-Grant documents Women's Institute members' wartime experiences. The aim of *Fighting for Home & Country* is to reconstruct a sense of time and place experienced by Women's Institute (WI) members as young girls and women during the years of World War II from 1939 to 1945.

In *Fighting for Home & Country* WI members from across Ontario have shared their wartime stories. Many lived in another province or country at the time of the war. Some stories are told from the perspective of a child; others encompass growing-up years from a "just turned teen" to a married woman. Others experienced these years as war brides, factory workers, Land Army girls or farmerettes, mechanics, refugees and prisoners of war. Many served in various capacities - as nurses, cooks, truck drivers, wireless operators, mechanics, etc. - in the army, navy or air force.

Depending on where they lived, the degree that these young girls and

women were touched by war varied. Almost all of them wrote about blackouts, the rationing of food, clothing and gas, air raid shelters and gas masks. These things became matter of fact; many even became blasé about these war measures. Others recorded living in constant fear of the devastation caused by V-1s or buzz bombs, V-2 rockets and other weapons and vehicles of warfare. Many chronicled the real horrors of war - death and destruction, suffering and starvation and the grim cruelties and realities that engulfed their days.

Within *Fighting for Home & Country* are accounts of altruism. Many of these recollections are simply about giving. Other stories are about the taking of people's homes, dignity and lives. These stories will test your emotions criss-crossing the spectrum from grim lows to glorious highs.



The cost of this 225-page book is \$21.95, plus shipping and GST. Make cheques payable to FWIO. To obtain a copy, call the FWIO Provincial Office at 519-836-3078 or write FWIO at 7382 Wellington Road 30, RR 5, Guelph ON N1H 6J2, or email fwio@fwio.on.ca

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