

For Your Information

Join the Blue Hat Challenge!

By Rose Marie Smith

I was thinking that the Women's Institute (WI) should be seen as a "fun" organization in order to generate public interest and potential new members, so the idea of "Blue Hats" came to me. A friend and I had bought \$5 mesh, dollar store sun hats and sprayed them with a royal blue paint and decorated them with gold items found in our sewing stash.

I wore the hat to my District Annual in May and issued a challenge to the membership to wear a blue hat at all WI functions. Since the challenge was given at the Brant and Wentworth Districts, the idea has caught on. The hats have generated public interest and the question is asked, "Why wear blue hats?" This, of course, is a window of opportunity to tell people about the WI and interest potential new members.

Here in Norfolk County, the ladies have taken the idea one step further. Some members are now wearing blue and gold or yellow clothing along with the blue hats!

So, here's how you make the blue hats.

- Any hat, even plastic mesh hats from the dollar store, will do.
- Spray paint it royal blue and let dry. If the hat is flimsy stuff the crown with crumpled newspaper until the paint is dry, so it will retain its shape.
- Paint both inside and outside the hat making sure all areas of the hat are well covered with paint.
- The first hats were painted with a tractor royal blue paint found in the TSC store, but any royal blue enamel will do. When dry, enamel paint gives stability to flimsy or straw hats.
- Note of caution – spray paint the hats outside.
- Using a glue gun, add decorative items to the hat to suit.
- Wear with pride!!

The Hamilton Area has issued a challenge to all members to wear their blue hats to all WI and other functions. Just picture a sea of blue!

Rose Marie Smith is the Interim FWIO Public Relations Coordinator and a member of the Marburg WI, Norfolk, Hamilton Area.

Provincial Office News

Audited Financial Statements

Arrangements have been made for members to obtain audited financial statements as an email attachment. These attachments will be forwarded to your Branch email contact a few weeks after the FWIO Board Meeting in November. All other Branches will receive a copy in the December Branch mailing. Districts wishing to obtain a copy should forward a contact and email address to lynnr@fwio.on.ca. Additional Audited Financial Statements are available from the FWIO Office for \$3.

Cell Phones & Refuelling

The Shell Oil Company recently issued a warning after three incidents in which mobile/cell phones ignited fumes during fuelling operations. Please take note of the following:

- cell phones can ignite fuel or fumes
- cell phones that light up when switched on, or when they ring, release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition
- cell phones should not be used in filling stations, or when fuelling lawn mowers, boats, etc.
- cell phones should not be used, or should be turned off, around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust (i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.)

The Four Rules for Safe Refuelling:

1. Turn off engine
2. Don't smoke
3. Don't use your cell phone, leave it inside the vehicle or turn it off
4. Don't re-enter your vehicle during fuelling

The Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI) is working on a campaign to try to make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. PEI stresses to never get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely have to get back in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure that when you get out, you close the door while touching the metal, before you pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

For more information by go to www.pei.org/. Once at this site, click in the center of the screen where it says "Stop Static."

Extracted from a notice from the Shell Oil Company.

4th Line Theatre's For Home and Country

Toronto playwright Leanne Brodie has compiled a book of her 4th Line Theatre production *For Home and Country*.

Place your order based on the following:

Number of Books x \$17 =
Plus \$6.95 Shipping =
Subtotal =
GST on Subtotal =
Total =

Mail your pre-payment payable to FWIO.

Note: All stock will be ordered quarterly beginning September 2004.

International Report

Thank you to the Branches who sent their annual International Report. Your comments and suggestions were most helpful and will be incorporated in the Provincial Annual Report, which will be shared with you.

Sixteen members from Ontario attended the 24th Triennial Conference of the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) in Hobart, Tasmania. They are willing to share their experiences with you and are just awaiting an invitation. Please email me to find out if there is a member from your area who attended.

ACWW has published a history book entitled *Working with Women Worldwide*, which highlights the organization's 75 years of existence. To obtain a copy, send a money order for seven and a half pounds to ACWW, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB England.

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