



The *Home & Country* is published three times a year by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO).

Home & Country Mission Statement:

The *Home & Country* is a vital communications tool of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) that informs and inspires WI members and their affiliates. It provides educational material that cultivates more knowledgeable and responsible citizens and promotes good family life skills, leadership development and community action.

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Letters

Dear WI Members:

What is more important than education? We can be taught right from wrong when we are very young and it stays with us throughout our lives. During my school days, the Bible was read, the 3 Rs were taught and discipline was practised. Recently, we have been learning about food safety and food handling practices, especially in regard to thoroughly washing our hands before and after handling raw meat and fresh vegetables. Education is certainly the key.

We need to pause for a moment in our busy lives and appreciate the many things we take for granted, especially such things as education, food, homes and the friendship of our Women's Institute sisters. ROSE - rural Ontario sharing education - is truly what the Women's Institute is all about. The most important thing it emulates is friendship and education. What an opportunity for friends to learn more about crafts, gardening, history, or any number of topics.

Never let the brain idle; always keep thinking and learning. The ROSE Program is helping to do just that and to focus FWIO's educational and membership efforts. Remember, the power of knowledge and the value of education can never be measured.

Helen Rath
Harrietsville WI, Middlesex East
London Area

Note: *Helen Rath is a remarkable lady. At 97 years of age, she still drives her own car and lives in her own home. She rarely misses a WI meeting unless driving conditions are not favourable. Helen recently hosted a WI meeting where she served homemade rhubarb pie and presented a program on education.*
Norma Shackelton,
Secretary-Treasurer, Harrietsville WI

Dear Editor:

Just a brief note to let you know what a fantastic experience I had at the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Conference in March. After meeting many of the other Canadian delegates I was so impressed with their commitment to the goals of this larger group. And what a group it was – 640 women from 41 countries!

Attending a conference of this magnitude and scope, as well as being in Australia for the first time, will forever remain a highlight in my life. I am so glad I joined the Navan Women's Institute when I retired and am now affiliated with such community-minded, dedicated women from across Canada and from around the world.

Our Branch corresponds with a group from Arno Bay in South Australia and I went to meet them. It was like meeting old friends. What a beautiful day they planned for my husband and me. We left there with a warm and thankful heart. It was a wonderful time. I just wish we weren't so far away!

Sincerely,
Sheila Minoque-Calver
Navan WI, Russell, Eastern Area

Give the Gift of Membership

Have you run out of ideas for gifts for guest speakers or family and friends? Why not give the gift of a Women's Institute membership. Some Branches have given gift memberships to prominent community members as a way of recognizing their contribution. Gift memberships are available for both Associate and Branch memberships and can be purchased from the FWIO Provincial Office. Call 519-836-3078 or email fwio@sentex.net

