



HOME & COUNTRY is published quarterly by the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). This newsletter has two objectives:

1. To provide educational material which cultivates more knowledgeable and responsible citizens and promotes good family life skills, leadership development and community action.
2. To provide a "communications link" among all members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and other related organizations.

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#### A perk of growing older:

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.



## An Invitation Refused, Is an Opportunity Lost!

Past President of the Jamaican Federation of Women Dotsie Gordon met me at the Kingston airport. Dotsie and her husband Aston were my gracious hosts for the next five days.

Somehow I seemed to have inherited a relationship with Dotsie and with Jamaica when I was on the FWIO Board. Although we had written letters, talked on the phone and exchanged emails, Dotsie and I had not met. Nor could we establish the time of our first communication. I thought I had been invited to Jamaica to speak three times. Dotsie said it was five. Finally I did accept and am happy that I did.

Dotsie set a fast pace for the five-day visit. At each gathering I spoke proudly about the Women's Institute and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW). I brought greetings from FWIO President Dianne Orr and the Ontario membership at a gathering at the Jamaican Convention Centre. Other occasions included:

- speaking with and extending best wishes to the WI President of Trinidad, Margaret Brown, about the Caribbean and South American ACWW Area Conference;
- enjoying refreshments and conversing with the President of the Jamaican Federation of Women in her gardens;
- attending a Sunday brunch fundraiser for the Jamaican Federation of Women;



Dotsie Gordon, Past President of the Jamaican Federation of Women, is teaching Marg Harris how to cook Jamaican style.

- dining with Dr. Lucille Buchanan, President of the United Nations Association in Jamaica, who had travelled the world in this capacity;
- meeting with the Costa Rican Ambassador to Jamaica, Joycelyn Sawyers Royal, a former Congresswoman who began her career as an educator for the disadvantaged and was consequently interested in FWIO and ACWW;
- speaking with CUSO and CIDA officials at a garden reception;
- taking part in The Church of the Good Shephard Palm Sunday Service along with Dotsie.

And, believe it or not, there was time to visit a few tourist sites and take a drive up into the hills. It was a pleasure to be there when Dotsie celebrated her 60th birthday. I know our mutual interests and ideals will maintain our friendship for years to come.

Marg Harris, Ilderton WI,  
Middlesex Northwest, London Area.



## Greenthumbs

Four members from the Ingleside Branch - Pat O'Duffy, Vickie Pollock, Verla Gallinger and Mary Hiscocks - met at the Ingleside Support Centre with the intentions of beautifying the village sign. They planted shrubs and flowers and repainted the lettering on the sign. Branch President Kathy Rutledge (left) and PRO Verla Gallinger (right) are perched in front of the sign.

Submitted by Vera Gallinger, PRO, Ingleside WI,  
Stormont, Eastern Area