

Report of the FWIO Executive Officer to FWIC

By Arthena Hecker

The new President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) is Margaret Yetman from Newfoundland & Labrador; the new President-Elect is Shirley Needham from Quebec.

Major changes have occurred at FWIC. The national office has moved from its Ottawa location to the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. The address is FWIC, Box 391, 395 Blue Lake Rd., St. George ON N0E 1N0, Phone: 519-448-3873, email: fwic@bellnet.ca FWIC has been paying in excess of \$1,000 a month for rent in Ottawa and, in part, to save money are moving into the empty apartment at the rear of the Homestead.

Barbara Sheardown, the new Executive Director for the national organization, started on September 2.

Two emergency resolutions were presented and sustained at the FWIC Triennial Convention held in Lennoxville, Quebec. They are as follows:

- That FWIC request the Government of Canada to expend all efforts to reopen the beef export market inclusive of all trading nations that have been closed due to the incident of BSE (mad cow disease).
- That FWIC request the Government of Canada to commit to joint management of fishing resources with all concerned provinces.



FWIO President-Elect Elsie Stephenson presented a cheque to FWIC President Faye Mayberry in the amount of \$17,606.55, proceeds from Ontario's "Focus High for WI" Project. Mayberry thanked the Ontario membership for their most generous donation.

I was privileged to take the "Stories-To-Go" Workshop at the FWIC Convention. This is a project sponsored by WINS – the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia. The workshop facilitators stated that 52% of Canadians are functionally illiterate and that many children do not understand where food "really" comes from and how it is produced. The "Stories-To-Go" Project is an excellent opportunity to practice literacy and study agriculture at the same time.

Blue nylon bags are filled with a story-book, crayons, a colouring book, toys and other farm related items and are placed where children might have to wait – doctors' offices, chemo treatment facilities, etc. The program is organized so that someone periodically checks to ensure that the bags are always full. Most of the supplies for the bags are purchased at the dollar store. (For more on "Stories-To-Go" see page 11.)

The 2006 FWIC Convention will be held in Red Deer, Alberta. We will be hearing more about that in the future.

My first meeting as your new FWIO Executive Officer to FWIC will be held in November. I look forward to hearing what is happening at the national level and I will relay what I learn to the FWIO Board, and to you!

Arthena Hecker is the FWIO Executive Officer to FWIC. She can be reached at RR 1, Richards Landing ON P0R 1J0, Phone: 705-246-2377, Email: arthena@sympatico.ca

FWIO President-Elect Elsie Stephenson (left) presented the "Focus High for WI" cheque to FWIC President Faye Mayberry (right).

Maple Ridge WI Celebrate Canada



The hall at North Fredericksburgh took on a festive air as the Maple Ridge WI met in mid-June to "Celebrate Canada." The hall was adorned by a large Canadian Flag, which had been flown over the East Block of the Parliament Buildings in May. A new flag is flown each day on Parliament Hill and then delivered to Canadians, respectively, who put their name on a waiting list. Maple Ridge WI Program Convenor Marg Everett (shown in photo) did just that and received a flag in time for the celebration.

Members donned red and white clothing, photographs of the Canadian Flag flying in different areas of the country were displayed on red and white Bristol board and red and white flowers graced the tables. Each member reaffirmed their citizenship pledge and Canadian Flag Pins and Bookmarks with O'Canada and the Pledge of Allegiance were handed out. O'Canada, The Maple Leaf Forever and This Land is Your Land were sung, and member Beryl Jacka enlarged upon the motto, Glorious and Free.

The celebration was completed by the arrival of Larry McCormick (shown in photo), MP for Hastings, Frontenac and Addington, who brought greetings from Ottawa. This event reinforced what a great country we live in and that we should be proud to be Canadian.

Submitted by Margaret Winter, PRO, Maple Ridge WI, Lennox & Addington, Kingston Area.

Helping the Homestead



Mary Derbyshire (right), Provincial Advisory Councillor for Subdivision 17 and a member of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead Committee, accepted a \$500 cheque from Jennifer Edgar, a member of the Whiteman's Creek WI. This "Focus High for WI" donation will go to the Homestead's Upkeep Fund. The Branch raised the money through their successful house and garden tour.

Submitted by Mary Ellen Edgar, Whiteman's Creek WI, Brant, Hamilton Area.