

Profile

Meet Peggy McLeod, Your New Tweedsmuir Coordinator



Have you done your life story yet? When I retired from the work force 12 years ago that was one of my goals. I had often heard the challenge of the Area and District Tweedsmuir Curators urging us to write a life story, but never undertook the job. After retiring, I felt that my story was worth putting on paper.

My life has been varied. I was a city girl during the Depression and Second World War years. I fell in love, married and lived for 34 years with my husband. We raised seven children, with less than 11 years between the oldest and youngest. Along with my husband and our children, I learned to operate a dairy farm. After joining the Women's Institute, I took on many offices, including at the provincial level. I returned to the office work force after a 25-year absence and I learned to operate a computer! I have travelled across Canada and to many countries in the world. I am the grandmother of 13 grandchildren and two step-grandchildren.

My life story began with my earliest recollection and memory – attending the wedding of my aunt when I was four years old. I was asked to be the flower girl but my mother said I was too young. I did, however, get to wear a frilly pale green dress for the occasion. When I was growing up I had three grandparents and one great grandfather who lived nearby. So I was able to record their stories and memories.

Prior to marrying I had visited a farm only a few times, so I was eager to learn about farm life. I even learned to milk the cows by hand before we had a milking machine. After 18 years of operation, we sold the farm and moved into the village of Cobden. My husband was a diabetic and in poor health and none of our four boys wished to run a dairy farm.

I joined the Women's Institute in April 1959. I was shy and timid. But through courses and taking on executive positions, I developed leadership skills. One of my greatest achievements was as Area President when in the fall of 1993 I chaired and addressed the 365 delegates attending the Eastern Area Convention. This was especially exciting because it was held in Renfrew in my own Subdivision.

During each of my travels, I kept a "Trip Diary" and was able to incorporate and use this information. It took me two years to complete my life story. Now each year I try to record some of the highlights so that my history is kept up-to-date.

How about you? Have you begun your life story or autobiography? I challenge you to do this! You will enjoy the task. Someday your grandchildren and great grandchildren will read the stories and discover first hand the life that grandma lived.

Peggy McLeod is the FWIO Tweedsmuir Coordinator. She can be reached at Box 385, Cobden ON K0J 1K0, Phone: 613-646-2415, Fax: 613-646-2117, Email: mmcleod@webhart.net

Warwick WI Celebrates WI Week with a Tweedsmuir Tea



Warwick Women's Institute held their first ever Tweedsmuir Tea to celebrate WI Week in February. They displayed their eight Tweedsmuir History Books and seven scrapbooks of newspaper clippings of local events at the Warwick Township Hall. Members dressed in period clothing and the Hall was decorated with certificates of achievement of the Warwick Branch and tea towels of various ACWW societies. Warwick member Mary Janes (standing) is shown with several generations poring over the Tweedsmuir Books.

Submitted by Mary Janes, title ???, Warwick WI, Lambton North.

Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award - Call for Nominations

Since 1996, the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) have recognized the significant contribution made by women in agriculture at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) by presenting them with the prestigious Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award (formerly called the Excellence in Agriculture Award).

FWIO invites you to recognize a deserving woman who has tirelessly contributed to excellence in agriculture at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. The Award is open to all women currently or previously involved in agriculture at the Royal Winter Fair.

The nomination package must include:

- a typed profile (not to exceed 500 words) describing the work of the nominee, particularly volunteer activities at the Royal Winter Fair,
- letters of recommendation (not to exceed one page each) from three nominators to include their contact information, and,
- The nominee's contact information.

The closing date for submissions is September 15 of each year. The winner will be selected by an appointed committee of FWIO representatives and notified by September 30. Call the FWIO Provincial Office for a nomination package. Send completed nomination packages to Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award, c/o FWIO, 7382 Wellington Rd. 30, RR 5, Guelph ON N1H 6J2, Fax: 519-836-3094.

Once a Year, Country Comes to the City!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair from November 7 to 16 at the National Trade Centre in Toronto. Once again, FWIO will be participating with a booth. We will be promoting our quality education programs and recruiting new members. If you would like to assist at the booth, please contact Pauline Weiland by email at weilands@sentex.net and leave all of your contact information. What a great opportunity to share your personal experiences and promote your Branch contributions to potential new members!