

### Provincial Calendar of Events, 2003

- May 5-6 – Handbook Committee
- June 2 – Handbook Committee
- June 3-5 – FWIO Board Meeting
- Aug. 18 – FWIO Board Meeting/Budget Review
- Aug. 19-21 – FWIO Board Meeting
- Nov. 24 – Handbook Committee
- Nov. 25-27 – FWIO Board Meeting

**Note:** For information about Erland Lee (Museum) Home events refer to page 10 of the Winter 2002-2003 *Home & Country* or contact Curator Michael Gemmell at 552 Ridge Rd., Stoney Creek ON L8J 2Y6, Phone: 905-662-2691. Or check out the website at [www.fwio.on.ca/fwio/events.html](http://www.fwio.on.ca/fwio/events.html)

### National Historic Site Designation

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home was recently designated as a National Historic Site of Canada. The National Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada initiated research of the site in the summer of 2001. The Board accepted the recommendation for designation in June 2002, and a presentation of a historical plaque is expected in 2004. With designation as a National Historic Site, the Museum becomes eligible to apply for funding relating to the restoration of the nearly 200-year old structure.

### Host Families Wanted

Would you like to host a member of the Michigan Association for Family and Community Education (MAFCE) this summer? This International Exchange began in 1999; one year an Ontario Women's Institute member visits Michigan and the next year a Michigan member visits Ontario. This year, two members from Michigan have applied to visit Ontario and we are looking for a host family or families.

These visitors are interested in learning about the Women's Institute, your community and province. In return, they will tell you about their organization, community and state. If you are interested in hosting a Michigan member(s) please contact the FWIO Provincial Office for an Application Form for Host Families for the International Exchange. Also, check out the information that came in the Annual Branch Mailing.

### Another Program Idea

2003 is the United Nations' Year of Fresh Water

### 4th Line Theatre to Remount *For Home and Country*

Robert Winslow, Artistic Director of the 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre, an outdoor theatre company in Millbrook, Ontario, has decided to remount the play *For Home and Country* written by Toronto playwright Leanne Brodie. The moving and entertaining performance tells the story of a divorced, urban mother who returns to her family's rural home area and develops a close friendship with an older resident – a member of the Women's Institute (WI). Through a combination of comedy, song and drama, *For Home and Country* explores community and belonging while uncovering the history of the WI.

**Dates:** Aug. 6 to 17, Wednesday to Sunday, with an additional performance on Tues., Aug. 12.

**Time:** Show time is 6:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Special price of \$18.50, but only if you identify yourself as a WI member and purchase group tickets.

**Phone:** 4<sup>th</sup> Line Theatre Company at 1-800-814-0055

For more information take a look at the President's Letter that came in your Branch mailing.

### Hospitality Homes

Are you planning a vacation? Remember, Hospitality Homes in Ontario are open to all WI members and their companions for \$10 per night per person. To obtain a list of Homes, send three 48 cent stamps to Gillian Catto at Box 16, Site 14, RR 1, Whitefish ON P0M 3E0, Phone: 705-866-0253, Email: [gilcat@sympatico.ca](mailto:gilcat@sympatico.ca)

### Erland Lee (Museum) Home Quilt Challenge

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home Committee is presenting the following Quilt Challenge to members across Ontario.

**Quilt Block Size** – 12 ½ x 12 ½ inches

**Colours** – medium blue, dusty rose and white

**Pattern** – choice of participant

**Note:** please do not quilt the block

**Deadline** – September 30, 2003

**Destination** – Please send the quilt block, with your name and address, to Regina Wagter at 2067 Hwy. 3 E, RR 8, Dunnville ON N1A 2W7.

Quilts and pillows will be assembled and tickets will be sold for \$2 or three tickets for \$5. The time and place of the draw will be announced at a later date.

### Notes from the Provincial Office

Please keep the following items in mind:

- There is a new FWIO Supply Order form in effect as of March 1. It was included in the Branch mailing; ask your Branch Secretary.
- Remember to include a return address on all items mailed to the Provincial Office. If possible include a phone number with your content as well.
- If you have recently moved or are planning to move, please inform the Provincial Office of your change of address. Remember, address information is for internal use only.

### A Volunteer Toolkit With a Rural Twist!

Have you been looking for tools to:

- help you measure the value of volunteers?
- objectively look at the health of your organization?
- give you some new ideas for engaging youth in volunteer activities?
- show you how to use your existing networks?

The intent of The Ontario Rural Council (TORC)'s "Valuing the Rural Volunteer" toolkit is to stimulate rural volunteerism and support rural organizations. But it is really a universal toolkit for rural and urban volunteers alike that can lead to the development of new skills.

Anyone interested can view and download all or part of the kit from the TORC web site at [www.torc.on.ca/volunteer](http://www.torc.on.ca/volunteer) or order a copy of the 70-page resource for \$15 (including shipping, handling and taxes) from The Ontario Rural Council, 1 Stone Rd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Guelph ON N1G 4Y2, or by calling 519-826-4128.

### How to Stay Young

- Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctor worry about them.
- Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.
- Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle.

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