



By Cindy Lockhart

What does your membership mean to you? Stop and think about why you first joined the Women's Institute. Did you join for fellowship, to educate yourself, or did you want to volunteer?

This is the kind of information you need to relay to potential new members. Let's get back to basics and educate current and potential members on the benefits of being a Women's Institute member. By sharing this information, we will succeed at getting interested women to join our organization. Remember, it is not a job for one person. We all have to be a part of the TEAM, because "Together Everyone Achieves More!"

What a thrill it was this past fall traveling all over Ontario with FWIO President Dianne Orr doing Membership Recruitment Workshops at your Area Conventions. I hope I gave you some encouragement and possible ideas for getting those potential members to join your group. According to the evaluation forms, 85% of the workshop participants felt they learned something new to take back to their Branch and put to use.

Meeting and talking with members was great! Your ideas and concerns will be shared across the province. Although preparing for and presenting a workshop is a huge amount of work, your positive comments and feedback made it all worthwhile. Thank you! To the many hostesses that shared their homes with Dianne and myself, a special thanks. You made us feel welcome and a part of your family.

Thank you for your email addresses. The database is growing. It is my hope to be able to email information to at least one member per Branch who can then share it with others. Please keep me informed of

any address changes. Continue to share with me by phone, fax or email. And remember, you can all succeed by working together as a Branch.

Cindy Lockhart is the Membership Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario. She can be reached at 736 Algonquin Dr., Midland ON L4R 4Z9, Phone: 705-527-7768, Fax: 705-527-1671, Email: lockhart@csolve.net

Focus High for WI

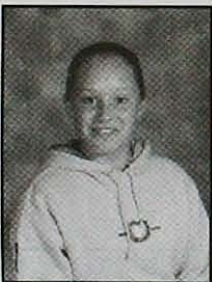


The first year of the 3-year fundraising project dubbed "Focus High for WI" is completed.

Members raised more than \$31,000 for the FWIO Headquarters Operating Fund. To all those members who contributed to this fundraising effort, Board extends heartfelt thanks.

Don't forget about Phase 2 of the "Focus High for WI" project, which will raise funds for the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead Upkeep Fund to be presented at the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) Convention in Lennoxville, Quebec, in June 2003. Remember to make cheques payable to FWIO and make a note on the memo line Focus High for WI - Hoodless Upkeep Fund. Also enclose your Branch and Area name along with your cheque and advise your Provincial Advisory Councillor of your contribution.

Working with Mom



On Wednesday, November 6, 2002, I went to the FWIO Provincial Office as part of the "Take Your Kids to Work Day." I spent the day with my mom Mary Poodry, the FWIO bookkeeper, and the staff. I helped sort incoming mail, prepare supply orders and print cheques and receipts on the computer. Heather showed me how to operate the postage meter and photocopier, and I learned more about computer keyboarding skills.

Thank you very much to Lynn, Heather and Mom for letting me be a part of their work day. It was a great experience!

*Ashley Poodry, Grade 9
Centre Wellington District High School*



The Spirit of Volunteerism

The spirit of volunteerism was recognized in Renfrew County on October 2, 2002, when 42 members from Renfrew South District Women's Institute were recognized for their volunteer work with the WI. As part of a special ceremony in Pembroke, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture presented each recipient with a beautifully crafted pin indicating 30 or 50 plus years of



service and a certificate to commemorate the occasion. Twenty-five of those nominated for the 2002 Volunteer Award had more than 50 years of

volunteer service and received a medallion from the Queen in commemoration of her 50th Jubilee. Shown is a panoramic view of many of those members who could attend the ceremony.

Submitted by Jo-Anne Camelon, PRO, Renfrew South.