



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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School days can be the happiest days of your life, providing the children are old enough to go.



LETTERS

Brant District Challenges You

Dear Home & Country Editor:

There is much sadness and disbelief in the Brant District and surrounding area as a result of the recent decision of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) to close the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead near St. George, Ontario, for most of the year. This historical site, officially recognized by all three levels of government, will only be open from May 16 through to September 1, 2002, and for special openings by appointment.

The decision to close the Hoodless was made for financial reasons. FWIC can no longer subsidize the operating expenses of the Homestead, and there is not enough income generated by the Hoodless Foundation Fund to fill the void.

Elizabeth Young, a Moyle Women's Institute member for almost 60 years, has come up with a brilliant suggestion to

solve the problem. She will bring forth a motion at Brant District's Annual Meeting in May to hopefully turn the situation around for the Homestead. Elizabeth will move a motion suggesting that all **Brant District WI members** pay a mandatory fee of \$2/member/year to go directly to the Hoodless Upkeep Fund. She will also challenge every District in Canada to do the same.

With participation from the approximately 19,000 Canadian members, it should work. It is our hope that each District across Canada will consider this wonderful idea and take up this challenge. It's food for thought!

Submitted by Mary Derbyshire, a member of the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead Committee. If you have any questions, contact Mary at 67 Marvin Ave., Brantford ON N3S 3C3.

All donations should be made payable to FWIC and mailed directly to FWIC at 251 Bank St., Suite 606, Ottawa ON K2P 1X3. Please note Hoodless Upkeep Fund on the memo line of the cheque.

The First Customers Return

It was summer vacation time, and my husband and I decided to return once again to the Maritimes. We decided to fly to Moncton, New Brunswick, and rent a car. Our focus this trip would be the Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia and the western half of Cape Breton Island. We had previously stayed at five wonderful Women's Institute hospitality homes in Nova Scotia, and this trip we returned to three of the same homes.

On July 25, we arrived at Ethel Fraser's rural home in Hardwood Lands. Like the others, Ethel and I had corresponded through the years. We had exchanged many ideas, including the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia (WINS) pattern for making cuddle bears. After much conversation, we had supper together. When we returned from supper, six more WINS members had gathered on Ethel's verandah, along with one husband. Pictures were taken and a good deal of talking was done. After strawberry shortcake and tea we enjoyed a restful night in Ethel's spare bedroom. After breakfast the next morning and after hugs and kisses, we continued on our way.

I was a little apprehensive about returning to Yarmouth on August 1 as it had been on August 1, 1995, while visiting there that I had the misfortune to break my ankle. This time, I really

watched my step! I had made plans to stay with Barbara Hinckley in Brooklyn once again. I was determined, however, I would not be reclining on Barbara's couch with a big, white cast on my ankle while the others had fun at the Exhibition. We had a great afternoon at the Ex, came back to the Hinckley home for a barbecue dinner, and then returned to the Ex for the evening's events. While there, we met up with Marilyn Burns and her husband. These two couples had spent two days at our home in 1997 prior to the centennial celebrations. Marilyn had also been kind enough to sit with me that evening in 1995 while the others went to the Ex.

The next day we headed to Grand Pre and Jean Palmeter's home. Jean is a great tour guide and because it was such a hot day, we spent the evening in the air-conditioned car together, enjoying the sunset, the quaint rural churches, the Acadian dykes and Jean's commentary of the history of the area. After another good sleep and a delicious breakfast, we continued with the rest of our three-week holiday.

So, once again, I urge members to experience Hospitality Homes, either as a visitor or a hostess.

Helen Young, Secretary, Lynnvillle WI, Norfolk.