

By Marg Eberle

Strategic Planning

At the October Executive Meeting of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC), a Strategic Planning Session was held. If FWIC's Strategic Plan is successful, in three years time they will have increased their membership, possibly doubling it. Consequently, more membership dues will mean a more stable national budget.

Another priority will be to change or eliminate Canada's "cheap food policy." Urban consumers need to be more aware of the role of farmers and farmers need to be able to make a reasonable income or profit.

Other identifiable goals included decreasing the number of farm accidents, working to have legislation enacted to prevent the export of water from Canada and ensuring the safety of water supplies in communities where the Women's Institute is active.

Theme for the Triennium

"Participation + Communication = Achievement – A Formula for Success"

FWIC Convention in 2003

The FWIC Convention will be held in Lennoxville, Quebec, in 2003. This will be the first time the Convention will be held in the province of Quebec.

Twinning Program

This traditional program of FWIC has for many years twinned WI Branches with a twin province for exchanges of programs, provincial interests, pen pals and, occasionally, visits. During this triennium an exciting new feature has been added. It is our hope that Grade 6 classes near the twinned Branches can also be twinned to exchange letters and information. What a great way to help advance the unity of Canada!

Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead

In St. George, Ontario, FWIC owns and operates the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead. The Homestead continues telling visitors the Women's Institute story and presenting programs that enhance the work of the WI. FWIC is suggesting that each Branch across Canada hold one fundraising event a year and forward the proceeds to the national office in support of the Homestead.

In closing, many thanks to the Eastern Area Women's Institute for their generous donation. The national office is now able to update some of their equipment to better serve the members. A portion of the donation was also earmarked for the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead. Please feel free to contact me with questions and comments.

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The Spirit of Christmas at the Hoodless Homestead

It was a clear crisp night and, as always at this time of year, the Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead was decorated with fresh evergreen and ribbons. The picnic shelter was aglow with Christmas lights and trees. Inside the Homestead, hot cider and treats were served, while the art of making bows and creating Christmas centrepieces and fresh garlands was being taught by Carolyn Reed (pictured at left). In addition, local WI Branches participated in a contest for the best decorated tree. The public was asked to choose by ballot. It was a difficult choice to make! The outcome – the tree decorated by the St. George WI was the first choice, followed by the Tansley and Alford & Park Road Branches.

Submitted by Sue Dairon, Curator, Adelaide Hunter Hoodless Homestead, St. George, Ontario. For more information about Hoodless Homestead events, contact Sue at 519-448-1130.

FWIC Tweedsmuir Competitions

In 1945, Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir who was Governor General of Canada, donated three silver cups to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada for competitions to be held each triennium. The successful entrants will receive the prestigious Tweedsmuir Cups at the FWIC Convention in Lennoxville, Quebec, in 2003. All Branches are encouraged to participate fully in each of the following three categories:

Community History Competition

"The History of a Button" – Fact or Fiction

Project Guidelines

- a button or replica mounted to display
- short story – 200 to 500 words, double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper in a duo tang cover
- illustrations may be included

Points

a. story content	50
b. cover	10
c. neatness and grammar	15
d. originality	25
Total Points	100

Handicraft Competition

"Quilt Block of Provincial Flower"

Project Guidelines

- hand embroidered on cotton/polyester (pastel colours) using embroidery thread
- size of block – a 14 inch square, with a 1 1/2 inch border on all sides
- name of flower and province in embroidery on bottom of each block, two inches from bottom
- blocks will become property of FWIC

Points

a. neatness	25
b. colour coordination	30
c. suitability of stitching	30
d. proper size and edging of block	15
Total points	100

Cultural Competition

"Scrapbooking" – Family Memories

Project Guidelines

- historical or recent pictures
- should include community involvement
- decorations or illustrations should suit the theme
- cover – no larger than 14 x 14 inches and no smaller than 11 x 12 inches

Points

a. cover	15
b. contents	50
c. originality	25
d. neatness & presentation	10
Total Points	100