

Snippets from the PRC

By Carol Helfenstein

Thanks to the wonderful response to requests for email addresses, I was able to create a database of names for almost all Areas and Districts in the province. With this in place, I can have a letter, news item, announcement, urgent request or shared joy in your neighbourhood in less than 10 minutes and at no real cost (except my volunteer time). Some Branches have gone so far as to assign one email address for their Branch. Others have members who offer to be the newsperson. And in some Branches, there are several members offering their email addresses.

Today, 57% of homes have email and this number is growing each day. It is the new and fast way to unite your family or support a friend who is ill or depressed, lonely or sad, as well as share news with people who are important to you.

This is my last report for FWIO as I have resigned my position and am challenging myself to some serious writing and to family matters. The email system I developed from your warm and ready response via District reports can put FWIO into a new era of communication. It can save the organization mailing dollars. Good luck with it! And hopefully someone will see fit to continue these initial efforts. Some Districts are already there. Is yours?

In closing, being with WI has been another colourful chapter in my life and I have had the privilege of meeting some truly wonderful women across our province. As I said in a speech at a District Annual a few months before I became PRC, "For FWIO, the best is yet to come!" I still believe this. See it, believe it and it will happen.

Carol Helfenstein is the outgoing Public Relations Coordinator for the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Wild Women Indeed!

By Gwen Doyle

Celebrating Life with Frivolity and Joy!

The "Wild Women of Walden" – the Waters WI – are taking the lead from the Rylestone & District WI Calendar produced in England, which has raised over one million dollars for Leukemia Research. We are dropping "almost" everything in our "Wild Women Indeed," Calendar 2002 to increase awareness about health-related issues impacting women, families and community. The "wild" photos feature favourite deeds of our members. The 12 x 13 inch sepia-toned photos will be artistic and in good taste, with a touch of Northern Ontario humour.

Public Awareness Opportunity for 34 Health Partners

Thirty-four health-related organizations providing programs and services for women, families and communities in and around the City of Greater Sudbury are partnered with the project. The calendar will list their awareness months, fundraising campaigns, special events, workshops and seminars and the programs and services they offer.

Funds Raised to Support Health-Related Programs, Services and Special Projects!

- 10,000 copies of the "Wild Women Indeed," Calendar 2002 are now available

- each calendar is 13 x 24 inches in size
- the cost is \$15, plus PST and postage
- the majority of the proceeds (after costs, PST, the Waters WI share of \$1.50 per calendar) will be used to support health-related programs, services and special projects provided to women, families and communities

A Fundraising Opportunity for Branches

- Should any WI Branch wish to sell a "Block of Calendars," the majority of the proceeds (after costs, PST, and the Waters WI share of \$1.50 per calendar) could be used to support their choice of health-related programs, services or special projects in their community.
- A Branch could adopt one of our health-related partners which provides services and programs in their community (i.e. the Arthritis Society Support Groups or Aquatic Exercise Programs, etc.) and sell a block of our calendars to raise funds for their programs or services.
- Or a Branch could sell a block of calendars to raise funds to support a local health-related program or special project which meets the needs of their community (i.e. purchasing needed equipment for a local hospital, fire department, etc.).

To order a calendar or for information on how to raise funds, write to or call Elizabeth Johnstone, Chair, "Wild Women Indeed," Calendar 2002 at PO Box 1366, Lively ON P3Y 1N1, Phone: 705-692-4398.

Submitted by Gwen Doyle, PRO, Waters WI, Sudbury.

Seymour East WI Donates \$10,000

The Campbellford Memorial Hospital Foundation (CMHF) received a big boost

from the Seymour East Women's Institute. President and CEO Mr. Thibert and Director of Development for the CMHF Wendy Warner (far left) received the cheque from Seymour East President Jessie Poulton. The money will be used to buy a new defibrillator for the Emergency Room. The Branch also donated \$500 to the Heritage Society to help them publish their book on Campbellford.

