

Celebrate WI Week



FWIO Public Relations Officer Mary Janes proposed that all members celebrate WI Week annually in February. WI Week should be celebrated during the week of the anniversary of the formation of the first WI in Stoney Creek - some time during the week of February 14 to 20 in 1999.

Purpose of WI Week

- to celebrate the history of WI - its formation, the birth and death of Adelaide Hoodless and the organization of FWIO and FWIC all took place in February
- to bring public and media attention to Women's Institute, who we are and what we stand for
- to encourage members to be proud of their membership in Women's Institute
- to draw government attention to Women's Institute and its strengths in "making a difference" in society
- to make February a month to look forward to in WI
- to enhance Membership Recruitment Month in May

Suggestions for Implementation

- have a provincial proclamation of WI Week by the Premier
- FWIO PRO provide a media release on most interesting current WI initiative
- request proclamations at municipal level and have them printed in the local papers
- use WI creatively to plan celebrations during the week, considering the interests of the local community
- fly a WI flag at the hall
- hold a Tweedsmuir Tea
- have a birthday party
- hold an open house
- prepare profiles of active WI volunteers to be published in the local newspapers with photos
- arrange a radio station tour and interview
- hold a combined leadership/craft workshop
- arrange a TV station tour and interview
- study the history of WI using the Ambrose history and study guide
- donate WI books, videos and other WI memorabilia to the local library and/or museum
- arrange displays at libraries, museums, OMAFRA offices, malls
- hold a family/visitor fun night
- put on a play or skits
- present awards to members
- ring church bells
- twin with another Branch or District
- celebrate with your twin Branch in another province

The ideas are limited only by your imagination!

Five Fabulous Fund Raisers

When the challenge went out to raise funds for Peterborough District, Trent River WI members did it with "fun, flare and flamboyance." They designed a signature quilt, which featured a home, the maple leaf and over 700 names. People could have their names embroidered on the quilt for one loonie. The quilt was the focal point at many events, including the Trent River WI Flower Show.

The quilt is now part of the permanent collection at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives. Encouraged by their success, Trent River members have adapted the idea to a signature table cloth. This creative quintet have given over 3000 volunteer hours to WI last year. From left to right are Irene Tyler, Maureen Pollock, Genny Graham, Joan West and Edna Lee.

Submitted by Mary Macfarlane, PRO, Trent Valley Area.



Ontario Twins with Nova Scotia

During the current Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) triennium, Women's Institute Branches across Ontario are "twinning" with Branches in Nova Scotia. Twinning gives members the opportunity to learn first hand the culture, customs and geography of another province and to learn about the challenges facing residents in other parts of the country.

Branches can exchange programs and videos; they can send each other letters, photos and newsletters. Some members even organize exchange visits and attend meetings.

Here are some quick facts about the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia (WINS):

Membership: 996

Branches: 75

Year Founded: July, 1913

First Branch: Saltsprings WI in Pictou County, which is still going strong

Mission Statement: The Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia continue to provide opportunities to enhance the quality of life, through education and personal development, allowing us to meet the changing needs of our local and global communities.

For more information about the WI Twinning Program, contact Donna Russett, FWIO Unity Convener at Phone/Fax: (613)395-4305.



Tea Time

Michael Gemmell, the new Curator at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home hosted a Volunteers' Tea in August. Approximately forty WI members who have volunteered attended. Planned so Michael could introduce himself to the volunteers, he met personally with most of them. Curious about the activity on the lawn, the event attracted a visiting British family who subsequently toured the Home!