



# President on the GO!

A beautiful fall made for great traveling across the province to attend Area Conventions. Thank you for your invitations and to those who hosted me. Your programs were educational as themes included various topics with speakers, demonstrations and a variety of entertainment.

ROSE Buddies gave me an opportunity to participate in a two-day training workshop with other WI Members that allows me to facilitate the Memoir Writing Program in an elementary school in my community. Jennie Wilgress and I hosted one program already at the East Garafraxa Public School and it was a great experience which I hope to repeat again. Read more about ROSE Buddies on page 11.

Once again I had the opportunity to attend the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to present the Woman of Excellence in Agriculture Award. This year's recipient was Doris Aitken from Mount Forest in Wellington County.

The photos and story are on page 10.

Construction has begun at the Erland Lee (Museum) Home to address the ongoing water problem in the basement. Other maintenance issues are being addressed in a Branch mailing – be sure to send us your feedback as the Provincial Board looks for your input to plan for the future of the Home.

The new Strategic Plan for FWIO is in place. Updates will be given in the Provincial Board Highlights. Some of the key areas are Membership expansion and retention, financial sustainability including income generating activities and revitalizing the advocacy function at both the local and provincial levels. Download your own copy today at [www.fwio.on.ca](http://www.fwio.on.ca).

I'm pleased to announce a new partnership with Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS). As part of this new relationship, the OGS will digitalize each Tweedsmuir Histories across the province. Stay tuned for more information on what is required and how this project will be carried out. Information will be sent to Branches and Districts.

Congratulations to all Branches that have been successful in obtaining new Members! I know this is not an easy

task, but there are times when we need to extend out of our "comfort zones" and reach out to other women. It's important for us to discover their needs and then ensure our Branches can meet those needs. We need to offer encouragement and assistance to women interested in forming their own Branches – they are the FWIO future.

The Provincial Annual Meeting in January has brought my two-year term as your Provincial President to a close. It has been an honour and a great experience to serve as your President, to meet so many wonderful WI Members across Ontario and Canada and to make new friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Provincial Officers, especially the Board Members and Office Staff, for all their work and dedication to ensure that FWIO continues to be a strong vibrant organization. Thank you to our Curator and the Lee Committee for all the work and dedication they give to the Lee Home. I wish to thank everyone who supported me during my term and provided encouragement along the way.

I wish you all the very best and encourage you to grow in your Branches, go forward with enthusiasm and enjoy your friendships and experiences as WI Members.

Yours for Home and Country,  
Joy

