

COFFEE *Talk*



Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship

For more than 60 years, FWIO has presented the Ontario Women's Institute Scholarship to a student at the University of Guelph. Students in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences at U of G are awarded in recognition of the women who pioneered our organization.



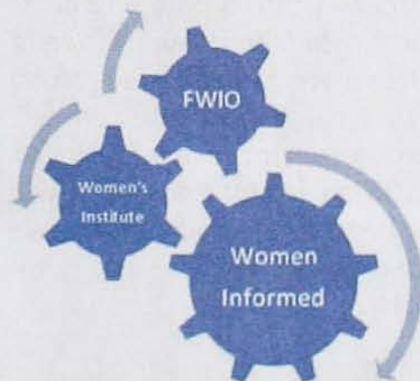
This year's winner was Shirley Walsh, a 22-year-old University of Guelph student, originally from Toronto, who has a passion for food, loves kids, and is devoted to her friends. In addition to her studies, she is involved with an international development club on campus and volunteers with a Brownies group in the community. In her spare time she loves to cook and spend time with friends and family.

Shirley is in her fourth year of U of Guelph's Applied Human Nutrition program. After graduating in June, she hopes to complete a dietetic internship in Toronto so she can write an exam with the College of Dietitians of Ontario and become a Registered Dietitian.

Shirley says although she didn't know a lot about WI before receiving the award, she is surprised by all the work we do in the community. She says "learning about international development has reinforced the idea that empowering and educating women is necessary to improve the quality of life of communities and nations. The same is true here at home".

Shirley has some great advice for other young women. "Find your passion! Take advantage of as many opportunities that come your way as possible because you'll never know whether or not something is for you if you don't try it (and it is so much easier to motivate yourself to study for midterms when you know that you're working toward something you really want to do). Having said that, don't be afraid to change your mind, and don't worry if it takes you what seems like forever to figure out what it is you love!"

Congratulations Shirley! We wish you nothing but success and happiness in your future.



The next Provincial Conference at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo is coming fast! We hope you will join us June 4-6, 2010 for a weekend of learning, sharing and making friends.

What a wonderful gift idea to buy a registration for a relative, neighbour or friend - you do not need to be a WI Member to attend. Why not make it a Girls Weekend away?

A registration package has been sent to each Branch and forms are available online or by contacting Registration Chair Annemarie McDonald at annemarie4@sympatico.ca or 905- 873-2519.