

# THROUGH THE Grapevine

BY FWIO PRESIDENT  
MARGARET BYL



The seasons are changing once again, and the fall harvest is well underway. Many of the seeds that our WI Members have planted are bringing forth the fruits of their labour. It is always interesting to read the "Branch Profiles" and "Down the Garden Path" in the *Home & Country ROSE Garden* to see what our Sisters in WI are doing. Don't forget to send in your submissions too. Did you find Addie in the last edition? Speaking of gardens, thanks to the generous donations of Hollie and Marlene Archer and Perth South District, the gardens and landscaping have been updated at the Museum. It will be interesting to see the colourful blossoms that next spring brings forth. The Women's Institute Rose will be available soon, so don't forget to place your orders this fall for planting in the spring time.

Thank you to the "Women Involved" in the Branches, Districts and Areas for their generous donations in excess of \$1,500 for the Fort McMurray fire crisis. Funds received by FWIO have been forwarded to the Fort McMurray Family Crisis Centre on the recommendation of Faye Mayberry, President of the Alberta WI. Your donations have been greatly appreciated.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the District Annual Meetings and Branch Anniversary Celebrations, including my home Branch, Virgil WI's 100th Anniversary. The 28th ACWW Triennial Conference was held at the University of Warwick, England – August 17th to the 23rd. It was an amazing experience meeting delegates from around the world with *Women Involved*, sharing and working towards a common goal. The theme for the Conference was "Working together for a better future". Congratulations to Mrs. Ruth Shanks, World President; Mrs. Margaret Yetman, Deputy President and Mrs. Sheila Needham, Canada Area President on being re-elected. An invitation was extended at the Canada Area Post Conference Meeting to have the ACWW

Canada Area Conference hosted by FWIO in conjunction with the Provincial Conference at Pembroke, Ontario in June 2017. The invitation was accepted. Arthena Hecker did an outstanding job of organizing the Pre and Post Conference Tours with FWIO partner, Collette Tours. Thank you Arthena, I have heard nothing but positive comments! The next ACWW Triennial Conference will be held in Australia. Watch for information as it becomes available.

I am looking forward to visiting the Area Conventions and speaking with our Members from across the province. Nominations will be accepted for open provincial positions. It is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, learn and become a Woman Involved.

It will soon be time for our AGM – December 1st and workshops on December 2nd at the Casablanca Winery Inn in Grimsby. It is amazing how time flies and seasons change. This will be my last message as Provincial President. I am most grateful, honoured and humbled to have had this opportunity to work with so many talented "Women Involved". I would like to thank our Provincial Board of Directors, Coordinators, Officers, Area Voting Delegates, FWIO Office Staff, Museum Curator and volunteers for their dedication to FWIO. It is because of Members like you, that FWIO will continue to grow. I leave you with the following quote:

"I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint - and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you."  
— Oprah Winfrey

*Wishing you all the best, for Home & Country,  
Margaret Byl*



**Annual General Meeting**  
December 1-2, 2016

**Adelaide Hunter Hoodless  
Canadian Woman of the Year  
Award** – Apply to FWIC by  
December 31, 2016

**Ontario Volunteer Service  
Awards** – Apply to Ministry of  
Citizenship and Immigration by  
January 25, 2017

**Erland Lee Award of  
Appreciation** – Apply to FWIO by  
January 31, 2017

**FWIO Provincial Conference**  
June 20-23, 2017

**ACWW Canada Area Conference**  
June 23-25, 2017