



Home & Country - April 2005

A newsletter from the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia

Box 550, Truro, NS B2N 5E3 ♦ (902) 893-6520 ♦ www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi

Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) Report

by J. Lynn MacLean,
FWIC Executive Officer for Nova Scotia

Greetings from the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada. Since my last report the full Board, which includes executive officers and provincial presidents, met in Brantford Ontario in July and the Executive met in Mississauga in November 2004.

The Brantford meeting provided opportunities for provincial presidents to share ideas and concerns and give input for the future direction of FWIC in the form of the strategic plan and the creation of a national project. It also allowed the Board to visit the Adelaide Hoodless marker on the Brantford Walk of Fame and to visit the Homestead. This was valuable in that it not only allowed the Board to meet the staff but also to see the FWIC office as part of the activities of the Homestead. The new curator, Karen Richardson, is an enthusiastic individual who has brought new life to the Homestead and the work of "Addie". Karen's interest and connection to the museum circuit in Ontario as well as the various special days she has planned will no doubt increase the visibility of the Homestead.

One of the most significant items to come out of the Fall Executive meeting was the finalizing of a national project. For many years Women's Institutes members in Canada thought there should be a project that would help women and children in our own country. After much research it was agreed that FWIC's project would work with women and children of the North. In order to maximize the help to these communities letters were sent to communities in Labrador asking for their input in how the Women's Institutes members could help. Not surprisingly, the responses included assistance for young mothers in the form of layettes, clothes for small children, financial aid to buy proper food and clean water for breast feeding mothers, and supplies for women's centers. With this newsletter, your branch secretary will have received a flyer entitled, *Into the North*, which includes information on how branches can participate in this project. Other exciting information involves the FWIC Annual Convention to be held in June 2006 in Red Deer, Alberta.

Planning is well underway and this promises to be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the work of the Women's Institutes both at the provincial and the national level. It is a balanced mix of education and fun. As part of the convention there are a number of competitions. These include the Past Presidents' competition, the Wilson competition and the Tweedsmuir competitions. Check other issues of the Home and Country for contest details.

To receive up-to-date information from the national office, members are welcome to obtain an individual subscription for the Federated News for the low price of \$5.00 or check out the website at www.nald.ca/fwic.htm

If you have questions or ideas that you would like to share, please contact me at macleanjl@netscape.net or 902-485-8358. I would love to hear from you.

Every Stamp Counts!

Thanks to the Branches, Districts and individual WI Members who have been donating postage stamps to the WI office. Your continued support is important.

Tsunami Donations

We estimate that more than \$1000 has been donated by WINS members for Tsunami relief. Most donations have been sent directly by members to the Red Cross or other agencies. Donations for the fund are also being accepted by ACWW. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

Resolutions 2005

Five resolutions have been received by the provincial resolution committee. Your branch secretary has received the full text of the resolutions with this newsletter. Please review these resolutions at your next meeting.

- **Usage of Salt on Highways** (North River WI)
- **Power Interruptions** (Port Williams WI)
- **Accessible Pedestrian Signals for the Visually Impaired** (North River WI)
- **Insurance for Community Halls** (West Kings District WI)
- **Assistance for Community Halls** (West Kings District WI)

FWIC Past President's Essay Competition 2003-2006

Essay Title:

Where are we going? Directions to the 21st Century

Guidelines:

- 500 words minimum to 1000 words maximum
- double spaced on 8.5 x 11 inch paper
- typewritten

Content:

- Your vision for Women's Institutes
- Outline the direction/course - how do we get there, including the methods to obtain your vision
- Conclusion - what will happen when we get there

Presentation:

- Pages to be enclosed in a blue duo tang cover
- Entrant's name, address and Branch are to be enclosed in an envelope and attached to the inside back cover

Two Categories of Entries:

- Category A: new members with less than 5 years of membership
- Category B: members with more than 5 years of membership

Essays will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. Essays will be judged in each of the provinces first. Deadline for entries in Nova Scotia is January 31st, 2006. There will be one winner only from each province for each category that is sent on to the national level. The final judging will be done prior to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) Convention 2006. Cash prizes will be awarded by FWIC.

Tweedsmuir Competitions 2003-2006

In 1945, Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of Lord Tweedsmuir, who was Governor General of Canada, donated three silver cups to the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada for competitions to be held each triennium. The successful entrants will receive the prestigious Tweedsmuir cups at the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Convention in Red Deer, Alberta, 2006.

All Branches are encouraged to participate fully in each of the three following categories.

**Deadline for all entries to arrive at the WINS office:
January 31st, 2006.**

Anyone winning the same category of the Tweedsmuir Competition for three consecutive trienniums is ineligible to compete in the following triennium.

Cultural Competition

Story: "Grandmother, Mother and Me"

Regulations:

1. Story to be told in pictures and words.
2. Story shall be more than 700 words.
3. Story to be placed into a folder or duo-tang.

Points - Total 100

Story content: 60

Cover: 10

Originality: 20

Neatness & presentation: 10

Handcraft Competition

Hardanger Table Runner

Regulations:

1. Size 12" to 16" wide and 22" to 30" long (finished size).
2. Fabric - colour of your choice
3. Thread - colour of your choice, suited to fabric
4. Edges must be finished, no lace or additional edging.

Points - Total 100:

Neatness: 50

Appearance & suitability: 25

Size & finishing: 25

History Competition

Story: "If These Walls Could Talk"

Regulations:

1. Attach a picture of the building or walls you are describing.
2. Story to be approximately 500 words, double spaced.
3. Story to be placed in a folder or duo-tang.

Points - Total 100:

Story content: 50

Cover: 10

Neatness & grammar: 15

Originality: 25

Farm Safety Day Camp Manual Available

Is your Branch or District holding a Farm Safety Day Camp for kids this spring? Would you like more information on how to hold a day camp? Contact the WINS office for a free planning manual.



Step Back in Time... AGM 2005 Sherbrooke

*A little bit of history
from the Nova Scotia
Museum website:*

The French were the first European visitors to Sherbrooke, as early as 1655. By 1815 the settlement which developed at the head of navigation became known as Sherbrooke, in honour of Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia. For years the community prospered, supported by farming, fishing and the timber trade. Busy mills produced deal, planks, laths, spars, ships' knees and shingles for the British and West Indian markets.

Then in 1861, the cry of "Gold!" was heard and the town became a live and energetic mining camp. Nineteen mining companies had flocked to participate in the discovery by 1869 and Sherbrooke boomed. The boom lasted approximately 20 years, a time which could be described as Sherbrooke's Golden Age.

Mining was reactivated in the early part of the 20th but never reached the same success. Lumbering continued as a major industry. Until the Restoration Project was established, the chief visitors to this area were sportsmen fishing for salmon in the pools of the St. Mary's River.

The Sherbrooke Village Restoration area was established in 1969 to conserve a part of Sherbrooke as it was during the last half of the 1800's.

Sherbrooke Village is administered by the Sherbrooke Restoration Commission under the direction of the Nova Scotia Museum, part of the Department of Tourism & Culture.

AGM 2005 - July 5th & 6th

The theme for AGM 2005 is *Our Nova Scotia Heritage*. In keeping with that theme, it seems fitting that we welcome Robert Frame as our keynote speaker.

Robert is a past Director with the Nova Scotia Museum and has been instrumental in the development and success of the Sherbrooke Village restoration. He will take us back in time to discover the rich heritage of the area.

We are also planning a walking tour of the Village on the afternoon of July 5th at 3 pm - 5 pm. If you are able to travel to Sherbrooke on the 5th you will not want to miss out on this tour. Later in the evening, local musicians will

entertain at the St. James Presbyterian Church in the heart of the old village. A light lunch will be provided by Guysborough District WI Members, our hosts for AGM 2005.

On July 6th the official opening of the AGM, business session and the keynote speaker's presentation will take place at St. Mary's Academy in Sherbrooke. Don't miss the handcraft competition and embroidery display! Other displays will also be featured along with a selection of quilts made by WI Members that will be donated this fall to Homeless shelters, food banks and other agencies across Nova Scotia.

If you've never visited Sherbrooke Village or the beautiful St. Mary's District area, this is your chance. Your branch secretary has received copies of the registration form and accommodations listing. Book your accommodations soon and we'll see you there!

If you have computer access, check out the Sherbrooke Village website at:

<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/sv/index.html> and take the virtual tour.

District Director Positions

This spring, various Districts will be electing District Directors or re-nominating their current Director for a second three-year term. District Directors can serve a maximum of two three-year consecutive terms.

Information has been sent to Hants West, Hants Central, Queens and Digby Districts and also to their respective Branches regarding upcoming nominations.

Hants West District is in the position to nominate a new District Director at the next District meeting. Joan MacNeil, the current Director will be finishing her second three-year term in July 2005.

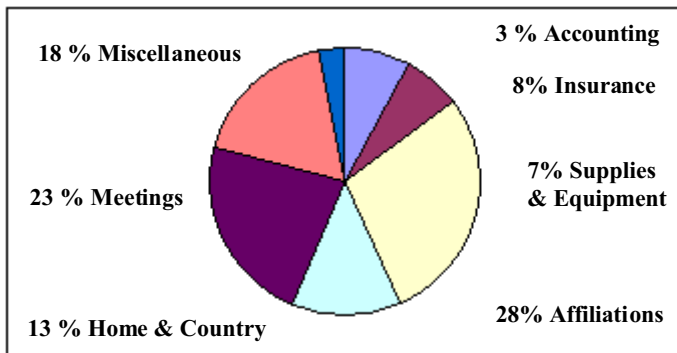
District Directors in Hants Central (Joann Cory); Queens (Lauren Seaton); and Digby (Karleen Gale) are each finishing their first three-year term as a District Director. These Districts will have the opportunity to nominate their current Directors for a second three-year term or choose to hold an election.

WINS history is made - February 2005

At the February 2005 WINS Board of Directors meeting, history was made. With the inclusion of Irene White as our new Yarmouth District Director, Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, for the first time since the restructuring of the provincial organization, each District in Nova Scotia has their own District Director on the Board. Congratulations!

How Is My Membership Fee Used?

An excellent question and one that is simply explained. As you know, WINS is fortunate to receive a yearly grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries that helps to defray expenses. Revenue from this grant, along with revenue from clerical work performed by the WINS office staff for the Nova Scotia Adopt-A-Highway Program and the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists helps to pay salaries. Your \$20 annual membership fee helps to cover all other items. The graph and list below will help you to see how your membership fee is currently used.



Supplies and Equipment: (7% or \$1.40) Expenses such as paper, pens, computer equipment, nametags, folders, disks, envelopes, etc.

Meeting expenses: (23% or \$4.60) Expenses to cover meetings of the board, committees and travel costs for WINS representatives to attend meetings such as the Federation of Agriculture, AgCot, meetings with the Minister of Agriculture, etc.

Home and Country: (13% or \$2.60) Expenses that cover the cost of printing and postage.

Affiliations expense: (28% or \$5.60) Expenses such as our annual dues to FWIC, ACWW, and other affiliated organizations.

Miscellaneous expense: (18% or \$3.60) Expenses such as newspaper ads, plaques for awards, bank charges, etc.

Accounting expense: (3% or .60) Expense of having our finances reviewed annually.

Insurance expense: (8% or \$1.60) Expense of liability insurance for Directors and Branches and contents of WINS office.

Privacy Statement Adopted by WINS

At the February Board of Directors meeting, the Board adopted the following privacy statement:

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia is committed to respecting the personal privacy of people who choose to share personal information with us. This includes protecting the privacy of the personal information of our members, employees, and other partners. It has been, and continues to be, the policy of the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia, to ensure that personal information collected from our membership is not distributed outside the organization.

Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia adheres to the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and other legislative requirements with respect to privacy as they pertain to non profit organizations.

The privacy policy statement will be added to the WINS website, handbook and branch annual report forms.

April 29th is ACWW Day

ACWW is the largest international organisation for rural women. It has a uniquely down-to-earth approach, offering mutual support, friendship and practical help to its members. The organisation has a membership of nine million through its 365 *Member Societies* in over 70 countries. WINS is a Member Society of ACWW.

ACWW's Aims & Objectives

- TO RAISE the standard of living of rural women and families through education, training and community development programmes.
- TO PROVIDE practical support to its members and help them set up income-generating schemes.
- TO GIVE rural women a voice at international level through its links with UN agencies.

To learn more about ACWW go to:
<http://www.acww.org.uk/index.html>

New T-shirts for 2005

WINS District Directors will have new t-shirts available at Spring District Meetings. Shirts are 100% cotton and are white with the blue WINS crest. A great value at \$10 each! If your Director doesn't have your size on hand, contact the WINS office.