



Home & Country - April 2006

A newsletter from the Women's Institutes of Nova Scotia

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Reach for the Stars Membership Challenge 2005-2006

There is still time to add 'STARS' to your Branch during the Reach for the Stars Membership Challenge.

Remember that new members joining after December 1st, 2006,

need only pay \$10 for the remainder of the year. Deadline to submit new names to the office for the current year is May 31st, 2006. It's very exciting to announce that we currently have 39 new members so far this year!

Welcome everyone! All names of new members will be entered into a hat on June 1st and one lucky new member will receive **free registration to attend the 2006**

Provincial Convention in Truro - a value of \$120!

Please report any errors or omissions to the following report directly to the WINS office.

It looks as though there is going to be a real competition between Sherbrooke WI and Port Williams WI for the 2005-2006 Reach for the Stars Membership Challenge Award!

One Star

- ★ Bickerton WI - Edith Humber
- ★ Churchville WI - Dawn Hodgson
- ★ Fox Brook WI - Marilyn Kerr
- ★ Homeville WI - Christena MacKeigan
- ★ Lyons Brook WI - Jeanette Fleischer
- ★ North Brookfield - Annette Hooper
- ★ Port Clyde and Area WI - Margaret Doane
- ★ Port Hilford WI - Iris Hayes
- ★ Three Cornered WI - Lexie Barkhouse
- ★ Tupperville WI - Angela Bruce
- ★ Waterloo WI - Melda Zwicker

Two Stars

- ★★ Acaciaville WI - Eva Barton, Jacqueline Smith
- ★★ Grand Pre WI - Margaret Gonsalves, Wendy Johnston

- ★★ South Berwick WI - Janice Wagner, Anne Drummond
- ★★ Tartan WI - Kay Dunnage, Sharon Doucette

Three Stars

- ★★★ Burlington and District WI - Alice Bezanson, Verna Hammond, Cindy Usher
- ★★★ New Tusket WI - Carole Doyle, Doris Thurber, Denise Kinney
- ★★★ Spa Springs WI - Mildred Little, Helena Tupper, Betty Crouchman

Five Stars

- ★★★★★ Sherbrooke WI - Muriel Elliott, Mary Jane MacDonald, Doreen Hirschfeld, Dulcie McCallum, Barbara Anderson

Six Stars

- ★★★★★★ Port Williams WI - Barb Gerrits, Eleanor Thomson, Myrtle E. Merrett, Daisy Forsythe, Amy McCarville, Janis M. Naugler



**April 29th is
ACWW Day**

An ACWW Update

A report has been received from Mildred Keith, ACWW Area President for Canada. Mildred reports that the past year has been a very busy one for the ACWW Board and committee members. Projects are ongoing and decisions are being made regarding the distribution and the monitoring of the funds which were donated following the Tsunami disaster.

Plans are well underway for the World Conference being held in Turku, Finland, June 2-10, 2007. Here in Canada, Mildred hopes that many Women's Institute members

will be able to attend the Area of Canada Conference being held in Regina, Saskatchewan, October 13-15, 2006. The World President, Ursula Goh, will be attending both conferences. President Goh is from Malaysia, one of the areas where the Tsunami struck.

Mildred has also sent an update on the KIMAKO project in Tanzania. The aim of this project is to provide courses in nutrition and food preparation management for local women's groups. With knowledge and skills, they will learn to create economic stability. The first workshop with 14 women participating was held in Mamba Village, situated on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. Equipment, tables and chairs were given to the women for their business. The chairs and equipment been hired several times and the money raised has been used to assist poor children of the community. As you can see, there are many spin-offs from this project. Not only are the women learning new skills, others are being helped too. The success of a project is determined by how many other people are touched by the education and knowledge of a few.

ACWW Canada had committed to raise \$7000 for this project by the end of the 2007 triennium. Hopefully, we will meet this challenge.

A good way to keep abreast of all ACWW information is to subscribe to the ACWW newsletter, The Countrywoman. It costs 15 pounds sterling per year or 40 pounds for a three year subscription. Contact the WINS office for more information.

Tweedsmuir Competitions 2003-2006

Congratulations to the Nova Scotia provincial winners of the following Tweedsmuir Competitions. The winning entries have now been sent along to FWIC for judging at the National Convention in June. Good luck to our Nova Scotia winners!

Tweedsmuir History Competition (Story):

Theme: "If These Walls Could Talk"

➤➤ **Millicent Daniels,**
Martock - Windsor Forks WI

Honourable mention (History Competition):

Jean Palmeter, Grand Pre WI; Mary Nickerson, Waterloo WI; and, Gladys Gummer, Martock - Windsor Forks WI

Tweedsmuir Cultural Competition (Story):

Theme: "Grandmother, Mother and Me"

➤➤ **Mary Nickerson, Waterloo WI**

President Elect 2006-2009 Nominations

Two members have been nominated to let their name stand for the position of President Elect 2006-2009;

- **Joan M. Campbell of Tartan WI**
- **Coni Murray of North River WI**

Your Branch Secretary has received more background information on these nominees that should be reviewed at your meeting. An election will be held at the Provincial Convention on July 6th. Nominees will address the convention delegates on July 5th.



Did you know...

You can access up-to-the minute information on the 2006 Provincial Convention on the WINS website, and you can print a **convention registration** or **golf tournament registration** form directly from the site! Go to:

www.gov.ns.ca/nsaf/wi/events/conven2006.shtml

Recruitment Workshops Held

This spring, members of the WINS Executive committee held two recruitment and information workshops to create awareness about WINS. Workshops were held at the Elmsdale Superstore on February 23rd and at the Digby Superstore on March 27th. The community rooms were free of charge to WINS. Digby District Director, Karleen Gale, and the Hants Central District Director, Joann Cory, assisted with the arrangements and with publicity. Thank you to both Directors!

Presenters, Ruth Blenkhorn, Ellen Simpson and Winnie Forbes, took turns talking about our national and international affiliations, our structure, a bit about our history and the impact of Women's Institutes in Nova Scotia, across Canada and throughout the world. Participants enjoyed a slide presentation that showed pictures of our current projects and handouts were given so that potential members could read more about WI at their leisure.

In Elmsdale, we had 21 people attend the workshop and in Digby we had 32. Some faces at the workshops were

familiar but many were new. Existing members said that they enjoyed the overview of the programs and saw this as an opportunity to refresh themselves with WI. Women new to Women's Institutes were pleased to have this opportunity to ask questions and to consider joining an existing branch or to try and start a new branch in their community. This is one real possibility that came out of the Digby workshop. A group of women attending are looking at the possibility of a new branch for that District!

Some of the comments from the evaluations included:

- I enjoyed it all; the history, etc., the enthusiasm of the presenters.
- I enjoyed learning how broad the interests of WI are
- I thought that WI was a church group. I now understand that is not so.
- Have more meetings of this kind to tell people what WI is all about
- Well defined presentations, friendliness of the organizers and the other members and guests

WINS received a small grant through the Nova Scotia Canada Volunteer Initiative to help us hold these two workshops. From the comments on the evaluations we can see that the workshops were a success and we hope to be able to hold more in the future.

If your District is interested in hosting a recruitment workshop, please contact the office. It is clear that the workshop format we have created works and it does help to create positive results for WINS.

NSAC Open House 2006

Thursday, July 27th, is the date set for the next Open House celebration at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Last year, WINS had a beautiful display of quilts, embroidery work and hooked rugs set up in the gazebo in the Alumni Gardens. This backdrop was just as beautiful as the handcrafts on display. Sharon Lynk, Kings East District Director, also brought her spinning wheel and demonstrated this skill. More than 300 people dropped by the display and many were fascinated to see the freshly carded wool being spun into yarn.

This year, we will primarily feature hooked rugs as rug hooking is the designated competition handcraft at Convention 2006. Maybe we can have someone at the display showing how to hook a rug? There are so many ways to create interest at this display to encourage the public to stop and find out more about WI.

Bring a picnic lunch and plan to attend the NSAC Open House on July 27th and join WINS members for a beautiful day in the Alumni Gardens.

Branch Annual Report Forms and the WINS Privacy Act

With this issue of Home and Country, your Secretary will have received the 2006 WINS Branch Annual Report form. Each year we ask members to update their address, email and telephone information on this report form. Due to the privacy policy adopted by the Women's Institutes of NS this past year, we ask that members agree to allow WINS to collect this information for our use. WINS does not distribute your personal information to any other source.

Our privacy policy states:

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.

**Membership dues for 2006-2007
are due June 1st, 2006.**

Notice of Special Resolution

Did your Branch or District review the Notice of Special Resolution sent with the last newsletter? Proposed changes to the WINS by-laws and constitution will be addressed at the Provincial Convention. If you have any questions on this information, please contact the office.



BC Pen Pals

We still have a number of WI Branch Pen Pals in British Columbia wishing to correspond with Branches in Nova Scotia. Please contact the WINS office for more information.

Response to Resolutions 2005

We have received a response from the Honourable Barry Barnett, Minister of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations in regard to two resolutions passed at AGM 2005 in relation to Community Halls.

Here is an excerpt from his letter:

'Responsibility for insurance issues in NS is within the mandate of Department of Environment and Labour. Therefore, I will refer the first resolution regarding Insurance for Community Halls to the Minister of Environment and Labour for a response.'

Regarding the second resolution on Assistance for Community Halls, I am pleased to inform you that Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations, through the Community Access-Ability Program, provides financial assistance to community groups for renovation projects that involve making facilities accessible to the public. The program funds projects such as accessible washrooms, entrance ramps, automatic door openers and other similar projects. Over the last several years we have seen a good geographic spread across all of the province in projects funded under this program.'

You can find out more about the Community Access-Ability Program at:

www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/infr/access/access.asp

or you can call Karen Ramsland, Program Coordinator, at 902-424-7798.

WINS Alumni to Meet in 2006

Pauline Meek, WINS Alumni Secretary, would like Alumni members to know that a meeting is being planned for September, 2006. Place and exact date are yet to be determined. Watch the Home and Country for more details.



The Five R's: People, even more than things, have to be Restored, Renewed, Revived, Reclaimed and Redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Helping Hands: Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms. As you grow older, you will discover the purpose of two hands; one for helping yourself and the other for helping others.

WI Buy Local Challenge

As mentioned in the March Home and Country, WINS has launched a new project for 2006. The WI Buy Local Challenge is a project supported by Agri-Futures Nova Scotia and additional assistance has been made possible through the NSAC Rural Research Centre. WI Buy Local Challenge survey forms are now being prepared for distribution to Branches in May. The survey forms are very short and are being used to gauge the public's knowledge and commitment to buying locally produced food and food products. Promotional items such as pens, pencils and magnets are now ready for distribution and will accompany the surveys. Your branch will receive its **Challenge Pack** in May.



WINS Rural Issues Committee has taken the lead in the development of this project and are planning promotional exhibits later this year at various county exhibitions, the WINS Provincial Convention, the Maritime Fall Fair and Agri-Fest. WINS sees this project as way we can encourage the public and our membership to become more aware of locally grown and produced foods. Let's support local first!

So, what is the WI Buy Local Challenge?

It's simple! We challenge you:

- ✓ To eat at least one home-cooked meal per week, using mainly local ingredients.
- ✓ To incorporate at least one never-before-tried local ingredient into your diet.
- ✓ To 'brown-bag' at least one meal per week that is primarily made of local ingredients.
- ✓ To talk to at least one food retailer (grocery store staff) and one food producer (farmer) about local food choices.
- ✓ To complete the WI Buy Local Challenge Survey.
- ✓ To choose local food products whenever possible.