The PEI Women’s Institute received a lot of positive attention at the Rural Beautification Society Banquet held on October 24, 2018.

Carol Jenkins, President Elect; and Liz Spangler, Environment Convener, presented the PEIWI sponsored awards for Best Community Flower Gardens to the St. Teresa Social Club and Town of Souris.

Miriam Lank, FWIC Executive Officer was in attendance, as well as Doreen Cole, former PEIWI provincial President and former Environment Convener was on hand with the Town of Kensington.

Jean Pickard was honoured posthumously with the Walter Shaw Award. Other prizes were sponsored by the New London WI, Brackley Beach WI, North Milton WI, and Sterling/Stanley Bridge WI. Reta MacDonald and the family of Jean Pickard, both with WI connections, also presented prizes they sponsored independently of the WI.

Norma Pasatieri, Malpeque WI member and speaker on Parliamentary Procedures at the 2018 Fall Workshops, won a prize in the window box competition, and in the Prince County Homeowner Flower Garden Competition.

-Liz Spangler, Environment Convener

Liz Spangler (second from right), Environment and Agriculture Convener; and Carol Jenkins (right), President Elect, present two members of the St. Teresa Social Club with their first place prize.

Liz Spangler (centre), Environment Convener; and Carol Jenkins (right), President Elect, present a member of the Town of Souris with their second place prize.
President’s Greeting

I hope everyone had a wonderful start to the New Year, and are braving the cold weather!

The Board has been very busy over the last few months, with our Founder’s Day program; a yearly meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, The Honourable Robert Henderson; and planning for spring events.

To continue to educate ourselves, we hope you take advantage of the Speakers List which can be found on peiwi.ca. Please contact the WI office if you have speakers to add to the list.

As a reminder, the 19th Annual Spring Is in the Air Gala Dinner is coming up on Friday, April 12th in New London, so please get your tickets.

I hope you have a great year, and keep up the excellent work!

-Doreen Wall, PEIWI President

International Affairs Report

The International Affairs Convener'ship allows us to study, understand, and inform the membership on projects connected with the United Nations and its specializing agencies and with Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

PEIWI promotes the understanding of people and countries around the world. Projects must be for the benefit of women and children.

The ACWW Area Project donations are used for current projects.

Before approval of any application, the Projects Committee must be aware of the amount of funds available.

Two project administrators receive submissions for projects and seek to verify their legitimacy before passing them on to the Committee Chair, who, along with her committee, will request further information if necessary. This Project Committee is celebrating its 40th anniversary!

When an application for funding has been accepted and meets all the criteria, the ACWW Board is made aware of the fund recipients and they are contacted by ACWW and informed that their projects have been granted approval.

Monitoring costs are included in the project grant as ACWW deems it very necessary to monitor and evaluate all projects in progress.

More information on the ACWW Area Projects is available at acww.org.uk.

-Pat MacKinnon, International Affairs Convener
As you may have noticed, FWIC has now been rebranded to WI Canada. This change comes into effect with FWIC’s new logo. While every province/Branch continues to use their own traditional logos, we welcome everyone to incorporate the WI logo with their regional name to unite WIs in a uniform and recognizable image nationwide.

The WI Canada merchandise has been produced featuring the new logo. Pens, pins, and fashionable polo shirts will be available for purchase through the FWIC website very soon. Table-top flags were provided to each Provincial Office to be distributed to WI Branches. If your Branch hasn’t picked one up yet, they are still available at the PEIWI Office. Saskatchewan WI Provincial Representative Karen Gerwing (pictured right) models the new WI Canada shirt and pin.

Below is a portion of a report from new FWIC President Joan Holthe. I encourage you to take the time to read her words, as she gives great insight into the goings on of FWIC. Joan’s full report can be found at fwic.ca.

-Miriam Lank, FWIC Executive Officer

“President’s Words of Inspiration:
I am so happy to relay that the WI Canada Board has completed our first Skype Board Meeting call. What an agenda we had to get through. With only a little twisting of arms (lol), Board members took on the challenge to chair all the new committees which are: Administration (Executive: Joan Holthe, Margaret Byl, Jill Copes, Liz Chongva, Linda Zelem & Wendy Hamilton, staff), Lobbying & Advocacy (Jill Copes, British Columbia WI); Communications & Marketing (Karen Gerwing, Saskatchewan WI); Community, Culture & Heritage (Margaret Byl, President Elect) and Outreach & Development (Judy Page-Jones, Québec WI). So now work can begin on the issues and projects we have that are necessary to move our organization forward.

A great new theme was decided on, and it is…. “Women Inspiring Change”. Isn’t that a great one? It is a real play on the WI Canada letters. We have been in the change mode for almost a decade now and I am so glad that this organization can see the need for change in order to become a force to be reckoned with in this fast-paced world.

One challenge facing the WI movement has been that many people don’t know what Women’s Institute is all about. We need to change this and not be seen as a ‘secret society’ anymore? One way to do this is to use your new table-top flags which are being distributed through your provincial networks to each branch and donated by WI Canada/FWIC. Another way to show how proud we are about being WI members is to order our new WI Canada pens, pins and polo shirts and when we wear them, talk about this great organization and what we do? It does pay to advertise!

Our WI Canada website is in the process of being upgraded and please bear with us as we make ongoing changes. Keep checking it out and I am hoping that we will have more postings to Twitter and Facebook that will keep everyone informed and excited about what is happening. Regular snippets like this will be the norm from now on.”
The Malpeque WI hosted the Kelvin Grove WI at their October 2018 meeting.

Following a light lunch, special guest speaker Alice Taylor shared information on the Handle with Care program and additional community outreach programs.

Members participated in an interesting discussion with lots of questions and answers following the presentation.
The Knutsford WI held their Community Christmas Party on Thursday, December 6th.

Christmas music and stories, along with games and crafts were enjoyed, followed by a visit from Santa who brought a sack loaded with gifts.

The evening ended with lunch and an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbours of all ages from 6 months to 87 years.

An fun time evening was enjoyed by all in attendance!

Grandfather, David Harris (left); mom, Olivia (centre); son, James MacDonald; and great-grandmother, WI member Isobel Harris (right) pose in front of the Christmas tree at the 2018 Knutsford WI Community Christmas Party.
“The members of the Oyster Bed Bridge WI know we can make a difference and saw the proof of this in July 2018 when the construction of a roundabout was completed in our community. The intersection of Routes 6, 7, and 251 has been a dangerous intersection for many years. Some persons avoided it, if at all possible. Others, were relieved when they got through it safely.

Many years ago, before some of our members can even remember, letters were written to MLAs and Ministers of the Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy. We did get results, including the hill on one road being cut down, flashing red stop lights were installed, warnings were painted on the pavement, rumble strips were installed, the intersection was reconfigured and speed indicators were erected. Finally, in the fall of 2016, the Department of Transportation informed us that there appeared to be only one solution to making the intersection safe, and that a roundabout would be constructed in the spring of 2018.

It took much persistence on the part of our WI members to finally make this intersection safe. Many phone calls were made; many letters were sent; and many meetings were held with officials, sometimes while standing on the cold windy corner.

Everyone who uses this intersection now can feel safe doing so. This includes the local residents, those coming and going to other communities, farmers, and tourists. To date, all comments we have heard have been positive.”

-Members of the Oyster Bed Bridge WI
The Uigg-Kinross-Grandview WI celebrated its 95th anniversary on November 25th at the Uigg Community Center.

Committee Chairperson, Crissy Czank, welcomed all present, which included former Branch members and members from District Area 14, as well as family and friends. The program was opened by singing O Canada and reciting the WI Ode together.

Congratulatory greetings and certificates as well as regrets were brought by Premier Wade MacLauchlan and The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. Congratulations and certificates were personally presented to the WI by The Honourable Alan McIsaac, and PEIWI President, Doreen Wall. Branch President, Sheila MacLean also welcomed attendees, and spoke about her positive relations with the WI as a relatively new resident to the area.

Recognition was given to guest, George Doughart, who authored of a history of the Federated Women’s Institute of PEI to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013.

A meaningful and inspiring memorial service was conducted by WI member Jane MacPhee. She paid tribute to the many who were faithful dedicated members of our WI during the past years.

Life Memberships were presented to Jane MacPhee and Winnie MacLeod by the provincial President and President-Elect, Carol Jenkins.

A skit titled Looking Back was performed which recalled the activities of the Branch through the years. Readings from old minutes brought to light the many ways that work was carried out “For Home & Country”.

The objective of the provided information was depicted as a positive determining factor in procuring a new WI member.

A traditional sing-song, conducted by Sheila MacLean was enjoyed. The program closed by singing “God Save the Queen” and repeating the WI Grace.

Refreshments were served in keeping of by-gone days with Life Members. Dinie Speelman and Isabel MacKinnon served tea, and a social hour followed as guests enjoyed refreshments and viewed an artifacts display.
The fifth annual lighting of the WI Christmas Treat Tree took place in December in the Royalty Centre lobby with children and adults alike flocking to the tree to take a candy cane.

The WI Christmas Treat Tree began in 2013 in honour of WI’s Centennial year.

Treats were replenished daily, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus even stopped by to grab a treat along their way to collect money for the Feed a Family Drive, which collected nearly $800 this year from Royalty Centre tenants to purchase turkeys for families in need for their Christmas dinners.
Farida Chishti, Home Economics & Health Convener (left); and Pat MacKinnon, Citizenship & Legislation Convener (right) were in attendance to light a candle at the Confederation Centre to light a candle at the 2018 Montréal Massacre Memorial Service candle-lighting in memory of the 14 women who lost their lives during the mass shooting at l’École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.

The candle-lighting also served as a vigil for the 10 women who have been killed on Prince Edward Island since 1989, signifying that there is more work to be done to prevent violence.

The memorial service is coordinated by the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women as part of the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence.

“Everyone has a part to play in preventing violence against women. It is indeed our turn to step up, listen, and believe.

We can be ready to act when we observe risk factors for using violence.

We can work to create a world where being a woman or a gender minority is no longer a risk factor for being a victim of violence.”

-Yvonne Deagle, Chairperson, PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women
Fall Workshops

The Fall Workshops were held in October at the Sherbrooke Community Centre, the Farm Centre in Charlottetown, and the Cavendish Farms Wellness Centre in Montague.

This year, each workshop was held at a different time of day to give more people a chance to attend, which was met with positive feedback.

Among the presenters this year were Norma Pasatieri with a presentation on Robert’s Rules of Order and resolutions; Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Campbell with Veterans Affairs Canada ( pictured above) with a talk on life in the military; and Carol Jenkins ( pictured above) presenting ideas on fall and Halloween themed crafts.

Mary Doyle ( pictured above) of Alberry Plains WI assembles her pipe cleaner and lollipop spider, which was the craft that Fall Workshop attendees participated in.

Some ladies were feeling particularly mischievous, as they placed their spiders on the chairs of their neighbours to give them a fright!
Festive Country Christmas

The 2018 Festive Country Christmas held at the Farm Centre in Charlottetown was a hit, once again!

The wide variety of prizes were most generously supplied by presenters Alan and Janet Preston of Hearts and Flowers.

Below are photos of just a few door prize winners who were lucky enough to take home some of Alan and Janet’s beautiful pieces.
March Wind
Author Unknown

March wind is a jolly fellow; He likes to joke and play. He turns umbrellas inside out And blows children’s hats away.

He calls the pussy willows And whispers in each ear: “Wake up you lazy little seeds; Don’t you know that Spring is here?!”

March Wind is on Facebook!
Visit the PEIWI office to purchase WI Items!

- WI Water Bottles - $5.00
- Centennial History Book - $20.00
- Island Product Cooking Contest Cookbook (V1-4) - $5.00
- Centennial Cookbook - $10.00
- Savour the Flavour Cookbook - $10.00
- Treats and Treasures Cookbook - $5.00
- PEIWI Pens - $3.00
- PEIWI Pencils - $.50
- PEIWI Notepads - $1.00
- PEIWI Logo Pins - $3.00
- WI Napkins

Package of 25 - $7.00

REMINDERS

Notes & News - Deadline for submissions is the 5th of every month.
Institute News - Deadline for submissions for the June issue is March 10th.
Life Memberships - Applications are available in the PEIWI Office or online. Please include photo, citation and fee with application.

The PEIWI Website contains information for upcoming and past events. Current issues of Notes & News, Institute News and Convener Kits can be viewed and downloaded online at peiwi.ca.

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