



Alberta  
Women's Institutes

# Home & Country

Spring 2020



## Mission Statement

Women of all ages  
who achieve change  
through personal  
growth, communication  
and education.

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**Executive Director**  
Fern Killeen



Find us on  
**facebook**

## Quilting for a Cause !!!

**QUILTS FOR HOSPICE** – Three ladies from Ridgewood WI made a commitment to provide sixteen quilts to the Red Deer Hospice. These quilts would cover all ten beds in existence and the six new beds that would be added due to the Red Deer Hospice expansion.



We had also made the commitment that these quilts would be presented at the re-grand opening to be held later in the fall. We had donations of fabric from Angie Scott, Hogadone Women's Institute, Round Hill Women's Institute, Patti Repas-Barrett, Bernice Stoller and Joyce Silbernagel. Vi Moore, Grace Schefelmaier and Marilyn Wattenbarger worked from June thru September. We completed 15 tops. These quilt tops were sent out to Quincey's Quilting in Leduc for commercial long-arm quilting. Then with the help of

(... continued on page 6)

**ENERGIZER BUNNY QUILTER** – Doris Campbell, the embodiment of the “Energizer Bunny” is still going strong! Although the Burdett Branch of the Women’s Institute had to close in 2016, she still retains an associate membership in A.W.I. and is



actively at work supporting her community. Doris recently celebrated her 95th birthday and has for several years now been living in a local senior’s residence, but she continues collecting cast-off blue jeans which she turns into denim quilts and carry-all bags. These are donated to every worthwhile cause she is aware of; many have raised considerable amounts at

(... continued on page 6)



Round Hill WI long time member Annie Banack (96 years old) created a quilt consisting of 63 squares. Unable to finish it, Annie's daughter Martha Bawden (right) along with the help of the Round Hill WI are working hard to finish hand-stitching the beautiful quilt.  
submitted by Denise Campbell, Round Hill WI



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Mrs. Magdie de Kock, South Africa



The Alberta Women's Institutes form an educational organization for rural and urban women. Our aims are to promote leadership among women, to encourage local community development, and to assist women both locally and globally. The Alberta Women's Institutes is affiliated with the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada (FWIC) and the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW).

Home and Country is published three times a year. Deadline for submissions are February 1, July 1, and October 1. Submitted articles should be no longer than 300 words in length and are subject to editing. Submissions may be screened by the editorial board.

**Editorial Committee:**

Cathleen Thurston, Diane Dammann and Denise Campbell.

**Proof Readers:** Cathleen Thurston, Diane Dammann, Elizabeth Rushton, Barb Stuart and Denise Campbell

**Printing:** ASAP Desktop Publishing, Camrose County

**Editorial Policy:** The opinions in articles printed in Home and Country do not necessarily reflect the endorsement, official attitude or position of the Alberta Women's Institutes unless so stated.

Permission to reprint information from Home and Country is gladly extended provided that proper credit is given and one copy of the material is sent to the editor of Home and Country.

No article will be printed that is deemed to be discriminatory.

**Dates & Deadlines**

Book of Remembrance .....	No deadline
District 3 & Ohaton Constituency Joint Conference.....	March 28, 2020
Nominations for President Elect .....	March 31, 2020
Creative Writing.....	March 31, 2020
Bursary Applications Deadline (extended) .....	March 31, 2020
Stony Plain/Lac Ste Anne Constituency Conference.....	April 4, 2020
District 5 Constituency Conference .....	April 17 & 18, 2020
District 1 Constituency Conference .....	April 18, 2020
Bow Valley Constituency Conference .....	April 30, 2020
AWI Provincial Convention and General Meeting .....	June 2 to 4, 2020
Area Canada Conference of Associated Country Women of the World (Sidney, BC) .....	June 13 to 15, 2020
July Home & Country Deadline .....	July 1, 2020

**Congratulations!**

Lena and Kenneth Williamson, long time residents of Berwyn, celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary with a party at the Heritage Towers Lodge in Peace River on November 30th.



Joan Bogner, President of Berwyn Women's Institute, presented them with a certificate of Congratulations on behalf of the Branch.

Lena joined the Berwyn WI Branch in 1955, and belonged until moving to Peace River when the Autumn Lodge in Berwyn was closed.

Lena was a Golden Book Award Winner and Kenneth has received the Erland Lee Award.

# WI CANADA Alberta Executive Officer

respectfully submitted by Linda Mason, FWIC / WI Canada Alberta Provincial Representative

It has been a very busy past few months for FWIC and myself as Alberta's Provincial Rep. As with all WI's, more money is going out than coming in and some drastic changes need to be made. The Addie's Kitchen Renovations are costing more than is being received in donations, so it was decided to only finish Phase One until other resources could be found. Margaret Byl and Wendy Hamilton are working on an "Online Lottery" to run from April to June 2020, which hopefully will bring in much needed revenues.

At the WI Canada/FWIC Virtual Board Meeting held on Nov 19, 2019, Board Executives were elected: President, Joan Holthe, President Elect, Margaret Byl, Jill Copes, Lynn MacLean, Linda Mason and Executive Director (ex officio) Wendy Hamilton.

I have assumed the duties as Board Treasurer, taking part in the reporting and review of financials, which upon receiving access to the accounting program realize that a lot of work needs to be done in order to consolidate FWIC and Homestead Ledgers in order to make reporting and audit smoother. I have been in contact with Tracey, Wendy and a Certified Accountant, Cindy, and we have made some progress in achieving the necessary work to be done.

Tracey, our part-time bookkeeper/office worker left our employ January 1, 2020 as she has found full time employment elsewhere. Tracey was a very dedicated hard worker and a great asset to our organization and will be greatly missed. We are also in the process of re-negotiating a contract with our present Executive Director, Wendy Hamilton.

It was decided at the Dec 5, 2019 Executive Virtual meeting that plans be made to hold a face to face 2020 AGM and board meeting upon review of finances for feasibility. I will keep members updated.

February 2, 2020 I flew down to Ontario for an FWIC Strategic Planning session with the executive which was held at the Adelaide Hoodless Homestead Office. We have come up with Triennium Goals which need a little more tweaking before being sent out to all members. I will keep everyone updated. After many long hours of brainstorming we all left for our respective homes on Feb. 5.

## WI Canada/FWIC Mission Statement:

**An organization for personal development, the family, and community action.**



## Call for Nominations for PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT ELECT

This position is for a 3 year term  
beginning June 4, 2020.

Please submit all nominations before March 31 to:

**Nominations Chair**  
Faye Mayberry, 28338 Twp Rd 372  
Red Deer County, AB T7E 2C4  
gfmayberry@hotmail.com

**NOMINATE**

## Call for Nominations for DISTRICT DIRECTORS

These positions are for 3 year terms.  
Please submit all nominations to your  
current District Directors  
(see page 2 for contact information).



## 2019 New Members

### ROUND HILL

• Denise Campbell • Cara Wocknitz

### STONY PLAIN

• Uta Preuss • Sharon Bray

### WILD ROSE GO-GETTERS

• Linda Livingston • Jackie Easy • Cheryl Kirkpatrick  
• Janice Walls • Sandra McCloskey • Teresa Dukes

**Star Supporters**

**FAYE MAYBERRY**

# TUTORING SCHOLARS

submitted by Frances Bogner

The Berwyn Women's Institute ladies learned about a very special and different type of Tutoring Educational Facility, called SCHOLARS, located in Peace River, AB. On February 8, 2020, a tour led by owner/operator, Barb Drummond, showed the ladies how it is geared to children and adults who might have more specialized learning needs. With different testing, and in consultation with parents and teachers, they are able to determine which areas of the brain need assistance to enable the clients to reach their full potential. Through specialized worksheets, and equipment such as a balance board that helps to connect the two sides of the

brain or earphones that connect with the skull for music therapy, the Centre uses various methods to correct any type of brain issue. It might be a hearing or an eye problem that is undetected by other means. The WI members found it to be a very informative and interesting tour about the methods used for Brain Therapy, something that most people have never heard of.



*For all individuals working to better themselves, they have the opportunity to gain stamps that can be used to purchase items at the Scholars Store. This is especially important for many younger clients.*

## Council Meeting Motions

submitted by Fern Killeen, Executive Director

*Motions from Council Meetings - October 21, December 9, 2019 and February 3, 2020:*

**Motion 01-10-2019** to accept the changes to the Creative Writing competition as presented. Carried

**Motion 20-10-2019** to accept the changes to the Handicraft list as presented. Carried

**Motion 03-10-2019** to change the deadline dates for the Cornelia Wood Scholarship, the Award of Excellence and Golden Book Award nominations, Resolutions, and the FWIC Erland Lee Award to January 31st of each year. Carried

**Motion 04-10-2019** to proceed with the Sophie Miles Award as long as there are enough donations to cover the costs. Carried

**Motion 05-10-2019** to change the cost of the report book to the convention expenses. Carried

**Motion 01-12-2019** – that we pay the regular bills (Rent, phone, internet, Toshiba for copies, postage to mail Home & Country magazine, ACWW and FWIC dues, etc.) Carried

**Motion #2-12-2019** to put the price of FWIC pins at \$12.50 per pin and the price for the FWIC bags be \$10.00. Carried

**Motion 3-12-2019** – to accept the archivist job description as distributed and discussed. Carried

**Motion 4-12-2019** that Associate Members from out-of-province cannot hold a position in Alberta Women's Institutes. Carried

**Motion #01/2/2020** - that Linda Mason be reappointed as FWIC Alberta Provincial Representative for a three-year term starting June 2020. Carried

**Motion 02-02-2020** – that we use for convention 2020 what we have in the Sophie Miles account as of April 1, 2020 or the amount of registration and shared accommodation as in the Award criteria. Carried



*Fern Killeen  
Executive Director*



## District Three



*Yvonne Erickson  
District 3 Director*

2020 is here and Happy New Year to all! Our Christmas was spent in Sudbury, Ontario with my daughter Desiree and grandchildren. Taylor, a girl, is 12 and Brady, a boy, is 14. Teens that they are, and the fun begins Mom, heads up! We traveled by Via Rail to and fro. We met people from all over the world: Cambodia, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Great Britain, Hungary, and more.

New immigrants moving here, others, students looking for work, interesting as most had no idea how big this Canada of ours is! This is why my husband and I love traveling by rail, meeting all these wonderful people.

Branch reports are as follows:

Argyle Branch has invited me to Feb 12th meeting, so I am bringing a car load. March 28/20 is Constituency Conference so lots of planning ahead.

Halfway Grove secretary, Shirley Greene, reports they have finished all quilts for Red Deer Hospice. They say "Thank You" to all whom helped with donations to make this happen.

Heather Brae, Jean Teeple, has nothing to report.

Lougheed Branch is resting.

Ridgewood, I have not heard from.

Round Hill Branch is busy quilting, trying to get ready for June Conference. They hosted a Ladies Night Feb 7/20, which is an excellent fund raiser.

Some of our meetings had to be canceled or were down in attendance due to the nasty cold snap in January, as was the case for many other Branches throughout Alberta. Thank goodness we're out of that nasty period; it sure was a shock to the system after such nice weather preceding it! Hopefully we won't see any more weather like that this winter.

Branches are busy with meetings and planning for the year, including their program, speakers and fundraisers, as well as helping in their communities.

Planning is underway for the District Conference and Handicraft Competition which takes place yearly in April. This year it is on April 17 & 18 at Hope Pointe Community Church in Olds and is being hosted by our new Branch, Wild Rose Go Getters WI. We are certainly hoping that we can bypass the snowstorm that hit the Conference last year!

We have held the cost to \$25 for registration. Please RSVP to me by April 13 with attendance numbers and names

## District Four

Irvine had their Christmas lights competition in December.

International Wild Rose did the Community Hall decorating and their "Community Christmas Card" Fundraiser, the 2019 funds will go to the Coutts Fire Department.



*Colleen Bianchi  
District 4 Director*

Langdon is having trouble meeting due to weather hoping that February is better - WARMER. But Langdon DID meet with Pres. Elect Diane the last week in of January. The Group discussed the AWI future, and working with the EGG Board to promote AWI at the Calgary Stampede.

Westoe invited everyone for their Christmas Brunch ... still have not made one ... BAD Director. These Ladies met in January setting up the 2020 year.

District Four has a new Associate Member!

This is the time that District Four needs Conveners for Bow Valley and Chinook ... AND a New Director. So please consider stepping up, learning about WI, meeting wonderful ladies, make a difference at "Home" and even across this earth--if you are interested!

Call me and we can discuss CELEBRATING the WI RIDE!



*Linda Toews  
District 5 Director*

Branches are busy with meetings and planning for the year, including their program, speakers and fundraisers, as well as helping in their communities.

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We have held the cost to \$25 for registration. Please RSVP to me by April 13 with attendance numbers and names

of any we should be recognizing for memorials. For those entering in the Handicraft Competition, your entry sheets will need to be in to me by midnight April 3, adjustments can be made up to midnight April 15, and entries must be received at the Hope Pointe Community Church on the evening of Thursday April 16 or by 9am on Friday April 17. Judging will be starting very shortly after that. As always, we are seeking helpers, door prizes and silent auction items, and the delicious goodies that each Branch provides.

There will be time on the agenda for Constituency meetings for any Constituency that has not held its annual meeting. Please advise me of Constituency meeting dates or if you would like to use the time at the District 5 Conference

This is also an election year, so if you are interested in being the next District 5 Director, or are thinking about nominating someone for the position, please contact me.

All AWI members are welcome to attend the District 5 Conference. We always try to have interesting speakers. If you would like to be a guest at our Conference, please let me know by April 13. My contact information is 403-224-2881 or 403-507-1389 cell or [awi.district5director@gmail.com](mailto:awi.district5director@gmail.com).

# President-Elect Report

submitted by Diane Dammann, President Elect



Diane Dammann  
President Elect

Our organization has been talking about change for a few years. We are making changes. Changes in the way we communicate, email, Skype, Facebook, web site, phone conferences have all increased our communication and lowered our costs. In our Provincial Council we are faced with restructuring due to the retirement of Executive Director Fern Killeen. We have formed a hiring committee to find a new ED (executive director) created Convention Chair and Financial Officer positions that are volunteer. I have asked Branches to advertise for new members and individuals to invite potential members to join. There are some new members being registered. My goal is for each member to bring in one new member and then we would be doubled in size. This is one weight gain that is very positive. I am chipping away at my problems with the web site [www.awialberta.ca](http://www.awialberta.ca) and it is getting more attention all the time which is the end goal. Send me pictures of Branch activities along with your reports. Pictures can be emailed to me or sent via Facebook. I do enjoy hearing from the Branch Secretaries but there are still some Branches that do not seem to want to talk to me. I may be calling you. Let's all work together and take this wonderful organization or ours to the next level. There are lots and lots of women out there who would benefit from a solid base of friends.

## HOSPICE QUILTS (... continued from page 1)

many hands the bindings were sewn on. Those who helped were Connie Morrison, Trudy Nylin, Joanne Comeau, Zara Wattenbarger and Bernice Stolee. Linda Ramey donated one quilt for the Red Deer Hospice. We were able to present all sixteen quilts to the Red Deer Hospice on October 5, 2019. We would like to thank everyone for their generous donation of time, fabric or monies. Linda Ramey also donated a quilt which Ridgewood WI raffled off to cover our expenses in constructing the quilts and the balance to be donated to the Red Deer Hospice. All our members sat at tables at the Innisfail Coop, and the two Christmas markets in Red Deer. We were so fortunate that all our tickets were sold. With the donations of monies and the raffle we are going to be donating \$3000 to the Red Deer Hospice in addition to the quilts. Value of the quilts is approximately \$12,500. It was a very busy time but the reward is that everyone in the Red Deer hospice will enjoy these quilts for years to come. The winner of the quilt was Holly Davidson from Abbotsford, BC.

Submitted by Marilyn Wattenbarger, Ridgewood WI

## ENERGIZER BUNNY (... continued from page 1)

local fundraising events. Finding the weight of a full-size denim quilt too hard to manage now, she has resorted to child-sized ones which are embellished with appliqued animal/tractor/toy pictures. When Doris learned that a new Ronald McDonald House would soon be opened in Medicine Hat, she volunteered to make six quilts for use there and is hard at work making them. She has already donated similar quilts to the Women's Shelter where the kids love them!! Doris may eventually wear out, but she certainly won't rust out. She is an inspiration to all who know her.

Submitted by Sheila Bjerkseth, Burdett WI Associate Member

## Spring Word Search



B I B I R D S V U Z E P T O G C C F O Q  
E O D Z Z Z E O M Z I A B Q O T H S T Q  
B H W E W F A N L A B C Q L Y E F I I B  
J E K A Y I S S S P R I N G O N B Q C U  
R C E I E U T E F E W C W T P S X A O K  
L W E S T J E E S U N S H I N E S R L B  
T B R M T E R D Y Q T U L I P G Y O B U  
E G G S J Z S S H X N N P G W O O I M T  
U Q Z E E G A R D E N X C I N S J R F T  
S M P E B J K M Z X X V P L K L V U Q E  
P I C N I C Z Q M M C S E A S O N R D R  
F N E S T U M A H U M A F L O W E R S F  
D W A R M R A I N B O W Q U W Z I D T L  
O A C Z S L Y O S K A I K W B U N N Y Y  
G W F E J G R E E N Q V V F D M R J Q E  
G Q Y H F M O A P R I L D W E X G I R Z

NEST	SEASON	BUNNY	KITES
MAY	SUNSHINE	BLOSSOM	BUTTERFLY
BEES	GREEN	RAINBOW	EGGS
MARCH	PICNIC	SEEDS	EASTER
CHICK	WARM	GARDEN	BIRDS
FLOWERS	TULIP	APRIL	SPRING



## International Affairs

submitted by Diane Dammann, International Affairs

I haven't had any reports from Branches but I do know that the world is in a political mess and there is a world wide health threat of Novel Coronavirus coming out of China. The United Nations, with the help of ACWW, is still gathering information on the lives of rural women around the world. The least represented people in the world are rural

women and children. We have an opportunity to make our voices heard but I warn you the Global Survey makes us realize how privileged we are in Canada. 271 million people live outside of their country of birth. According to a UN report, if all of the world's refugees and migrants were in one place it would be the largest city in the world. Now if we could only all get along. Our Mary Stewart Collect is so very

## President's Report

*submitted by Cathleen Thurston, A.W.I. President*



**Cathleen Thurston**  
A.W.I. President

This is it! This is my last "President's Report"! At the Provincial Convention members will be voting for a new President Elect and Diane Dammann will be sworn in as the President of Alberta Women's Institutes!

What to say....what to say....

Let's start with a thank you to Linda Mason who has agreed to stay on as our FWIC/WI Canada Alberta Provincial Representative for another term. Linda has recently been appointed to the FWIC Executive and has also stepped in as AWI's new Finance Officer. Please offer up your congratulations to her and your thank-yous – she is doing a lot of work on our behalf!

Some years ago a wonderful award was made available to new members of AWI. Margaret Hanlan made a donation to set up this award in the memory of her mother, Sophie Miles. This award covered the cost of a new member's registration to the Provincial Convention, as well as her shared accommodations. A couple of years ago the last of this money was used and we have been depending on donations from the members of AWI to keep it going. Last year enough money was donated to cover the costs of the award and we hope that this year will be the same. I think it is important to get new members to the Convention so that they can see beyond their Branch into the wider Women's Institute world. As one of last year's evaluations said, "The business meeting was so valuable as a newish member. It was like getting the last piece of a jigsaw puzzle." If you want to make a donation to the Sophie Miles Award please send it to Fern at the Office and help us fill in that puzzle for other new members!

Another way we have of introducing members to the Provincial Convention is through the Assistance Bursary. This was made possible through the donation of a very great supporter of AWI and allots \$200.00 per year to help a member attend their FIRST Provincial Convention. This is not just for new members. Any member who has never attended a Provincial Convention can apply. Or her Branch can apply on her behalf. Applications are held in strict confidence. The cut-off for this Bursary is March 1st, but in the event we do not receive any applications by that deadline we will extend it.

As I said earlier this Convention is a chance to elect a new President Elect. Out there amongst you is someone who has what it takes to fill this position, even if they do not know it. It is up to us as members to encourage those women to let their lights shine and convince them that they can do this. Because we know they can! The nominations deadline is March 31. Please send your nominations letters to Past President Faye Mayberry; her contact info is elsewhere in this issue.

And now I'd like to say thank you to Denise Campbell, Editor of the Home & Country. It has been one year since she took on this volunteer job. One year of learning as she goes, one year of putting up with the members of Council (including me!) not submitting their articles by the deadline, one year of dealing with a half-crazed President who has missed something that needs to be put in the magazine at the last minute. Denise was not a member of AWI when she took on this task, but boy!! Has she learned a lot! Thank you, Denise, for taking on this hectic, under-appreciated job, and putting up with the insanity! And thank you for joining AWI, even after all you've seen!

I am really looking forward to the Provincial Convention in Camrose. See you ALL there!

## Know Your Medical History

*submitted by Eunice Horte, Health Convener*

As I start this report I hope everyone made it through the very cold weather the whole province had to endure. Maybe some were lucky enough to find a nice warm holiday and hopefully they didn't have any health problems.

I was reading an article about a couple who had travelled with pre-existing health conditions. Their insurer presumed because the health issue had been stable for three years that they would be covered by insurance. They were not. According to Snowbird Advisor every medical condition you have ever had no matter how trivial qualifies as a pre-existing condition. The good news is you have been stable 90, 180, or 365 days depending on your policy, your condition and your age at the time you apply. As well changes to your medication or even dosages can also be considered a precondition.

The moral of the story know your medical history, talk to your doctor, fill out your policy with all your information. No one wants to have a problem outside their home country and end up with a six figure medical bill.

On a happier note some of the medical and surgical advancements that are being worked on worldwide in 2020 are: artificial blood cells which will help treat sickle cell anemia, gene therapy, artificial intelligence and wearable fitness devices to monitor your heart.

Thank you for your reports and have a good year! Good health to all.

# Resolutions and Legislation

submitted by Linda Toews, Resolutions

I am pleased to relate that resolutions are coming in from different Branches. A number of Branches have been quite busy over the last few months working on these resolutions. That is so good to see that so many of our members are concerned about bettering lives in the community and advocating for improving conditions where they see a need.

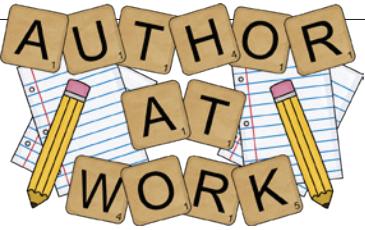
We have extended the deadline for resolutions to February 29 to give you more time to work on resolutions that you might have thought about putting in but didn't get around to yet. We all have busy lives and we've just come through the busiest time of year so sometimes things get put off. Resolutions do take a bit of time to put together to do the research necessary to present a good resolution. I applaud those Branches that have already sent in resolutions, and encourage others to put theirs forward also. For more information on resolutions, refer to the Resolution Guidelines sent out to Branches by email. If you didn't get a copy for any reason, feel free to contact me at [awi.district5director@gmail.com](mailto:awi.district5director@gmail.com)

I look forward to receiving your resolutions.



## Creative Writing

submitted by Linda Toews, Creative Writing



There was one category of writing which I did not discuss in last Home & Country's article. That category is poetry. Sadly, we have had few entries in poetry in recent years. Hopefully, a brief discussion on poetry will inspire some of you to express your thoughts in poetic form.

The AWI Creative Writing Competition is intentionally vague on the subject of poetry. It merely states "minimum 12 lines to a maximum of 72 lines." This gives the poet or aspiring bard more choice in terms of the style of poetry, as well as more scope for expression. There are many classical, or more formal, poetic forms which are written following fairly strict rules of metre (also spelled meter) and rhyme, and there is modern poetry which may follow fewer or no rules at all but still have a rhythmic quality and tries to create beauty through their words and the feelings generated by those words.

Poetry is the oldest literature, mostly in epic poems telling the tales of ancient mythology. Rhythm and rhyme make a text more likely to stick in one's mind and easier to preserve for cultures that did not have a written language, for example, the Anglo-Saxon epic poem Beowulf. There are many classical written forms that include rhyming at the ends of certain lines; some may have a specific metre or number of stressed syllables in a line, or both. All require a rhythmic, lyrical quality.

An example of this would be Joyce Kilmer's famous short poem, Trees:

"I think that I shall never see / a poem lovely as a tree.../ poems are made by fools like me, /But only God can make a tree."

The first two lines rhyme, as do the last two – AABB, a fairly common rhyming scheme. Further, the metre, "iambic tetrametre" is quite obvious. As one reads the poem, it stands out immediately that there are four stressed syllables per line. This is a typical metre used in poetry for younger readers. Of course, there are many more rhyming schemes and forms of metre, all of which are beyond the scope of this short article. But you get the idea.

Modern poetry finds rhyming unnecessary – although it can rhyme if the writer so wishes. Nor does it adhere to any specific form. Modern poetry has only two important considerations. The words should flow together and have a musical, rhythmic quality. The second consideration is where each line of the poem breaks. Each line acts like a musical phrase.

The first four lines of Walt Whitman's poem A Noiseless Patient Spider ably demonstrates 'free verse, a form of modern poetry: "A noiseless patient spider, / Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding, / It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself, / Ever unreeing them, ever tirelessly speeding them."

Poetry expresses emotion and beauty through the words and lyrical quality of the lines. The words create imagery in the reader's mind, even with something as simple as a spider's web or a rose.

Try your hand at some poetry – 12 lines isn't so much, after all. But you will need to stop at 72 lines to be able to enter the resulting masterpiece.

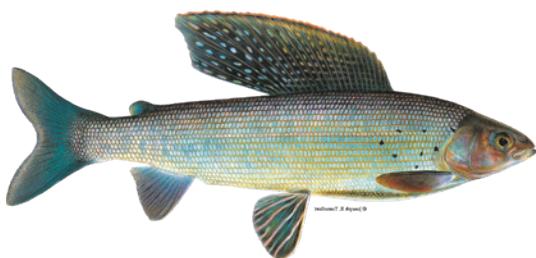
## Environment / Conservation

submitted by Kay Saastad, Environment / Conservation

Spring ! This means it is road side clean up time. In the County of Grande Prairie, thirty one community groups collected over 12 tonnes of litter from 229 kilometers of roadside, earning \$46,130.00 for their organizations. This clean up occurs the first part of May. Last year, heavy runoff clogged ditches with eroded top soil, reducing their ability to handle runoff water. Local farmers that wanted the topsoil returned to the land, coordinated with the County to clean the ditches, and return the topsoil.

The County of Grande Prairie has been selected to participate in the CleanFarms and Alberta Plastic Recycling Group's agriculture waste pilot program. This means that they will be accepting agricultural grain bags and twine for this three year pilot program.

The November/December issue has an article on hidden plastics in your



life. Did you know that fleece and other garments made from synthetic fibers shed tiny plastic threads in the wash water that goes down the drain, and into our waterways. Many personal care products contained micro-beads as an exfoliants. These have been banned, but you should read the labels and choose items with natural exfoliants, such as walnut shells. Many cotton swabs contain plastic, as does their sticks. Wet wipes, softener sheets, milk cartons, Tetra Paks, coffee bags, stickers on fruits and chewing gum all contain plastic. To avoid plastic in teabags, use loose tea in a strainer and pour the water through it. Plastics can take centuries to break down. The Arrow Road plant processes more than 60 tonnes of plastic per hour, bales it, sells to buyers then to manufacturers and back to consumers.

Are there fish filled rivers in your

area that no longer have fish in them? Is there a person or group trying to reverse this? The Beaverlodge River near Grande Prairie once recorded the largest run of Arctic grayling in Alberta. In 1981 a weir was put in to withdraw water for the town of Beaverlodge, and the Arctic grayling have not been seen since. In 2013 a team was formed and joined government groups to come up with a restoration plan. One of the team's first tasks was to complete a restoration plan for 2015 – 2040, the goal to restore fish habitat, and still have Beaverlodge's water supply. To start this project, trees were planted to reduce erosion and stabilize stream banks.

Are there any of these projects in your area, and how are they dealing with? Also, do you have any to lessen plastic usage?



## Agriculture

submitted by Colleen Bianchi, Agriculture Convener

No white in the bottom of the Province! Just was in Medicine Hat ... There are STILL lots of crop out in this Province; not the south part fighting a drought and then September moisture.

So there are one million acres of canola in the fields, ladies. Depending on your crop insurance not ALL bills are paid. Need to find work for families, another stressful year. We need to help ourselves and neighbors BUT it is not easy. SHARING can help with each other and any issues. COULD MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Peace River farmers met Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister, for one and a half hours. Carbon tax was a major topic especially relating with grain drying. There may be a need for adjustments. Markets that farmers feel have been influenced by Government decisions ... China was mentioned. The importance of reliable rail service. AgriStability was a topic, which is a program under review. There is concern of lack of childcare in rural areas and the affect on the

family. The group felt that they were listened to and did not expect answers. That this Deputy wanted to understand their issues and feelings on how things are going and what needs to be addressed. The government group from the eastern Canada could not fly due to the weather and "got the real idea of distance and time" to attend this meeting in northern Alberta.

I realize that "protein other than meat" is hitting menus everywhere. So that is your choice but on the AG side this certainly brings forward another market. With drought and cash limited for some, this may affect the cattle industry. Should herds hold in size or reduce the numbers? Lots on AG minds.

There was Winter Baling in January last weekend in Lethbridge County.

I realize not many of you are farming or working cattle, any more. So are there ideas or topics that members have?? Please let me know and we "CAN DO IT".

# In Memoriam

## Dorothy Johnson

1921 - 2019

Dorothy Muriel Swain, the daughter of Cleland B. and Ruby (Taylor), was born in Mannville on April 17, 1921. Dimp, as she was fondly called, married Mirrel Johnson in 1940 and farmed in the Creighton district south of Mannville for thirty-three years. They had two children – sons Leonard and Kenneth. Both were active in the community; she with the AWI, the Anglican church and the Home and School Association. In 1972 Mirrel and Dimp sold their farm and moved to Victoria, BC. They then moved back to Wetaskiwin, Alberta in 1975 where Dimp became a member of that WI. After Mirrel and son Leonard had passed Dimp moved to Ottawa where son Kenneth lived. At age 98 and of sound mind, Dimp passed away peacefully on September 10, 2019 with her ashes later interred in Mannville.

Dimp joined the Creighton WI (formed 1932) in 1941. She served as Constituency Convener and as Social Services Director on the provincial level. She was also the Birch Creek member along with her sister Nellie Whitson who also served on the Provincial Executive.

Leaving before her were Dimp's husband, two sons, one grandchild and her nine siblings, the last sibling less than one month before. Dimp will be ever remembered in the area for her coffee pot always being on, her homemade buns and her kindness.

## Patricia Mary (Pruden) Mayne

1924 - 2020

Patricia Mary (nee Pruden) Mayne passed away at home on February 23, 2020, a bright Sunday morning with a bouquet of spring flowers and the photo of her beloved husband Graham by her side. She was 95.

Patricia was born August 2, 1924, in Grantham, England, the only child of Albert and Kate Pruden. Her lifelong enjoyment of handicrafts, music and gardening began in early childhood. Throughout the war years, she was wooed by the love of her life, Graham Edwin Mayne, and they married on February 5, 1945, in Peterborough, England where they had two children, Tony and Virginia. In April of 1952, they emigrated to Red Deer, Alberta where they ran two family businesses, Mayne & Mayne Decorators, and Red Deer House of Decorating. Their young family grew with the arrivals of Jeremy, Julian and Pamela. Patricia and Graham's family was joined by their parents from England.

In those days, life was filled with the joys of weekends at the Rocky Mountain House farm and later sailing, swimming and skating at Sylvan Lake. Ever the Matriarch, Patricia's household was one filled with laughter, music, a multitude of 'projects', and general mayhem.

And yet, she experienced loss: A daughter was born in 1957 and died the same day and Patricia's parents and in-laws passed away in the 1970s. An accidental fire with Pamela and Julian left its mark on the family. The deepest grief of all was the sudden passing of her husband of 33 years, Graham, on October 30, 1978, just as they finished building their acreage dream-home. Patricia devoted the rest of her years enjoying the acreage, nurturing their land, trees, gardens and their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Patricia was the Matriarch of the family home, making it a gathering place to mark life's milestones. It was a magical place for home movies to be made and watched, Easter egg hunts, water fights, flying kites, fireworks, and crafting. Laughter and sorrow; the fullness of life.

Patricia was heavily involved with Highway WI, and St. Leonard's Anglican Church Women (ACW) from which she received recognition with the Silver Cross.

## Norma Willes

1927 - 2019

Born April 27, 1927 in Mannville, Alberta to Eber and Dorothea (Wagner) McFadden, Norma was the youngest of their five children. She married George Watling in 1947 and they raised six children: Georgia, Lorraine, Bernard, Susan, Lois and Vicki. After George passed away suddenly in 1969 at age 51, Norma married Jack Willes who had two children: Linda and Don.

In 1979 they retired from farming to reside in Mannville and a few years ago moved to the Vermilion Care Centre. Her partner of 48 years, Jack, passed away in November of 2018 at the age of 102. Norma passed away September 6, 2019 after living 92 years with fulfillment and memories.

To Norma family, friends and community were things most important in life. She gave back to her community by volunteering with numerous organizations – the Birch Creek WI, the UCW, the Clovelly District and the Royal Purple. During her over 50 years of membership with the Birch Creek WI (formed 1934) Norma held various positions as has her sister Dorothy Bryden and had her mother, Dorothea – a member for over 50 years.

Norma will be missed for her community commitments, her wit, her humor and the glint of mischief in her eyes.



# In Memoriam

## *Irene Pearl (Hamilton) Moir*

1928 - 2019



Irene Pearl was born in Miami, Manitoba on August 18, 1928, to Sarah (Sadie) Elizabeth Stewart and Albert Hamilton. Irene was very proud of her Irish ancestry. Her mother was from Iskaheen Co. Donegal, Northern Ireland.

Irene moved to Victoria, British Columbia where she met and married Robert Moir. In 1956, they and their two children moved to a home east of Edmonton, Alberta. Irene became a vital member of the Colchester Women's Institute. In her own words, she said

“We lived in a farmhouse. It was a very old house, but the farm family who owned it were nice and helpful to us. My neighbor came and invited me to a WI meeting. I was happy to attend because I did not know anyone and felt this was a good way to meet the ladies of the area. I have become lifelong friends with them.”

Irene held many positions within the Branch: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. At the Alberta Women's Institute Provincial level, she was a Constituency Convener, District Director and Archivist. Irene made a point of visiting every Branch in her area travelling many miles on dirt and gravel roads in rain or snow and mostly at night.

Irene became the manager of the Control Centre at Edmonton Centre for 17 years until her retirement. While working and during her retirement, she travelled extensively, primarily with The Friendship Force, to many countries including China, Burundi, South Africa, Norway, New Zealand, Australia and more. And after each trip, stories abounded. When time permitted, she bowled, floor curled and attended theatre and musical productions. She was a reader of all things sports and biographical.

Irene was an avid volunteer at the Commonwealth Games, Universiade, the Brier, the Fringe, the Northern Alberta Pioneer and Descendants Association and the Millwood's Seniors Association including other activities. Irene was an integral part of the genesis of the Ellerslie Curling Club, baking her to-die-for Flapper Pie.

In later years, Irene's considerable organizational abilities were put to use volunteering with the Provincial Archives of Alberta putting in more than 1,000 hours processing documents. In conjunction with the Provincial Archives, she was instrumental in creating a panel display for the Alberta Women's Institute's 100th Anniversary. The twenty-two-panel display still stands as the Archives most travelled exhibit. It travelled within Alberta for almost three years, to events, archives and AWI Provincial and Branch activities.

Irene passed away November 8, 2019 and left family and friends with strict instructions “to get off your butt and volunteer”. Those family members include son, Mark (Elsie); daughter, Carol (June); grandson, Phillip (Holly) and great-grandson Alex; granddaughter, Kimberly (Brad) and granddaughters, Janaia and Kendra; brother Stewart Hamilton and daughter of another mother, Mae Deans.

Always Remembered ~ Colchester Women's Institute

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## *Dorothy Audrey (Syme) Williams*

1926 - 2019

Dorothy Audrey (Syme) Williams was born on February 24, 1926 in Claresholm, Alberta. Until age 5 she lived on the McKinney farm at Willow Creek hill and at age 5 moved to the Frank farm near Granum. After finishing high school she went to Calgary Normal School and began her teaching in Alston (1944-46); Stavely (1947-48); and Champion (1948-49). In July 1949 she married Evan Williams. Audrey and Evan farmed and lived on section 33 of the Alston community, Kirkcaldy district until 1975 when they moved to the Little Bow coulee of 05-15-25 – JED-CAR Ranch. In 1995, Audrey and Evan retired to Lethbridge where they remained actively involved with family and especially with their grandchildren, thoroughly enjoying watching them grow and succeed.

For many years, Audrey was an active member of the Kirkcaldy Women's Institute, taking her responsibilities very seriously.

Dorothy Williams of Lethbridge, passed away peacefully on November 10, 2019, at the age of 93 years. Audrey was pre-deceased by her husband of 64 years, Evan Williams. Audrey is survived by her two daughters, two sons, 10 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.



# My Wonderful Years as a Women's Institute Member

submitted by Shirley Greene, Half-Way Grove WI Secretary (as dictated by Anne Teeuwsen)

The other day I found myself thinking about the 89 years of my life, and I realized that AWI was such a big part of it.

My name is Anne Teeuwsen and I have been a Women's Institute member since 1983, when I joined the Half-Way Grove Women's Institute Branch.

My husband and myself and our four sons, moved from Lloydminster, Saskatchewan to Sherwood Park, Alberta where we had a plumbing business. Then we fulfilled a dream of having a farm and moved to the remote rural area of Sylvan Heights, which is about 25 miles west of Ponoka. The people who settled the area were friendly but very close knit and I always had the feeling that I was a stranger.

Then the Half-Way Grove WI ladies held a tea to promote their Branch and the Women's Institute. I wanted to be a part of the community. I wanted it for myself as well as my family and here was my opportunity!

Joining the WI was the best decision I could have made. If I have one criticism it would be that I was completely lost during the meetings, as the terminology was not familiar, but the ladies were friendly and the lunch was good. I just had to learn on my own. I willingly held the office of President and Vice President, Branch Director and Constituency Convener of the Ma-Me-O Constituency when I was a member of the Half-Way Grove Branch. I was also a member of the Pigeon Valley Branch where I held the office of President.

I attended the Conventions. The Conventions were held at the Olds College and we stayed in the dorms. We had a lot of fun and got into way too much mischief for educated adult ladies, like the time we short sheeted Faye Mayberry's

bed! I felt like a school girl at the college, but unlike the students, I only had to stay three days. When I gave my speech, as Constituency Convener, I was so nervous that I broke out in a rash all over my body. All the Constituency Conveners were so supportive and we worked so well together for several years.

Then there was going to be a FWIC Conference in Nova Scotia. Would I dare go on a trip like that? With the encouragement of such ladies as Ruth Stangey, Lois Kline, Olive Meyer, Beryl Ballhorn, Helen Moonen and many more brave ladies, I found the courage to travel and attend. While at the FWIC Conference, the spouse's program looked so interesting ... some of us gals joined them and we really got to see Nova Scotia. Places such as Peggy's Cove, Bible Hill and the Ivy covered walls at Turo, N.S. After the conference I continued my tour of eastern Canada and visited my blended family in New Brunswick, which was another courageous feat for me.

As a member of WI, I have gained, among many other things, courage, support, knowledge, appreciation, kindness, encouragement, excitement and fellowship. I appreciate this opportunity to share and to thank the Women's Institute for all I have received and keep receiving.



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