NEWSLETTER
Vol. 109 No 33

Manitoba Women's Institute

October - November 2026



Jenny presented a short introduction to her presentation at our Annual Meeting in May in Dugald. If you would like to learn more please join us via Zoom on October 22 at 7:00. There is no such thing as too much information when it comes to your health and finding out as much as you can about cancer. We can't let our guard down. You may be cancer free or think you are but you still need to be vigilant.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The leaves are turning various yellows and reds, the farmers are turning the fields over after what was hopefully a good harvest, and the days are getting shorter bringing with it cooler weather! Thanksgiving is a day where we give thanks for all the bounty of harvested foods and enjoy a meal with family and friends. It's one of my favourite holidays! Especially the pumpkin pie and pumpkin cheesecake, it's the desserts that I look forward to savouring most!

As I'm writing this report, our Grosse Isle WI is getting ready to host the "Candidates Forum" for our Municipality's upcoming election. We have hosted this Forum in the past, and are pleased to host it once again. It's important for our communities to make informed decisions on who they want to represent them in council, to reflect on what is important to keep our community a wonderful and safe place to live! It's also a good way to show how we are active in helping our neighbours and friends learn about our local WI and what matters in our communities.

Right after the elections Halloween steps up to bring children to our doors for treats. It's always fun to interact with the children and see all the costumes they parade in. Of course, the end of October is always the transition to the white stuff or the freezing rain! November is a hectic month with the WI year end and electing new leaders in our local groups. Then comes Remembrance Day, a day to honour the fallen Canadian heroes and their sacrifice for our Country. Shortly after that we're shopping for gifts and perhaps going to craft sales and getting ready for the Christmas season! Our Grosse Isle group always enjoys a delicious spread of fancy sandwiches, pickles, and of course Norma's mouthwatering dainties. This is always a highlight for our ladies! We usually have a gift exchange with some game involved. For a few years we had a "white elephant" gift exchange, where you wrap up a gift of something you don't love or need anymore. It is amazing how you get a 'new to you' possession that you love!

So, let's wrap it up now with "Happy Thanksgiving", "Happy Halloween", and here's to another wonderful year with your Women's Institute members!

Till next time, Marge



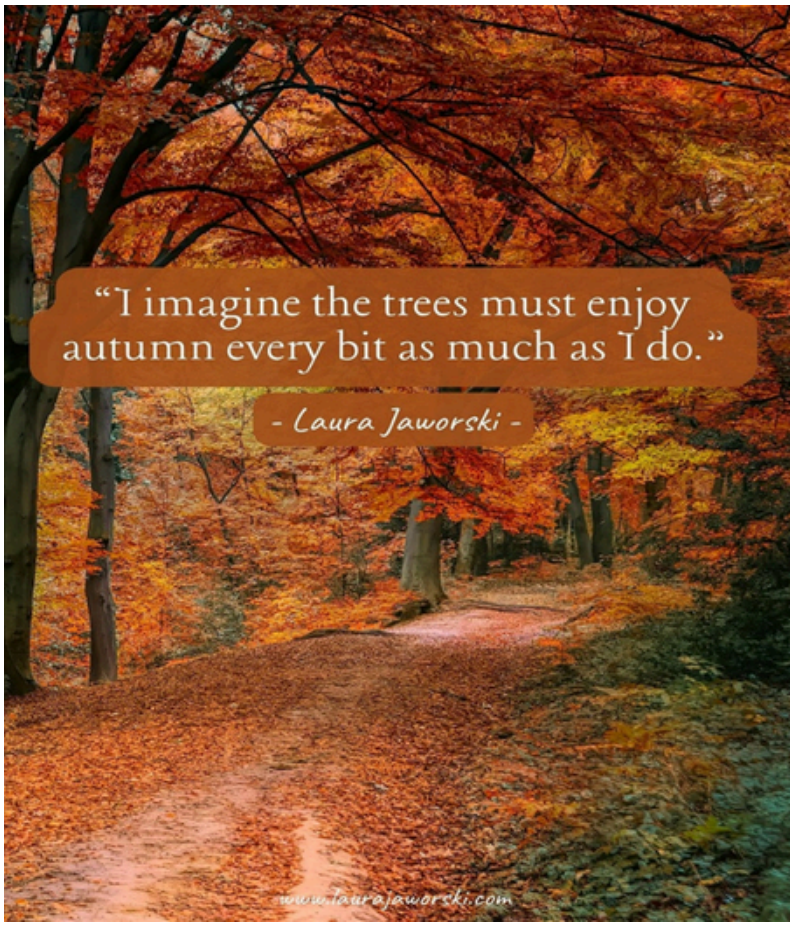
OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS REPORT



Happy Fall to All!

It has been a busy fall as we prepare for the end of this financial year and into the next. By now you should have received your 2026-27 membership yearly forms. Let me know if you have any questions!
A reminder to please ensure that the information on the forms is current, particularly the e-mail addresses. A timely response to these forms would be much appreciated.

Thank you to those who have sent any photos you may have of your events Our social media posts that feature our MWI members receive the most engagement! Any pictures, even if it is of the food, the activity, the decorations, etc. are appreciated. We can also post a story about your Institute's activities without a person in the photo if you prefer! Social media is such a great way to connect with like minded women, not just in Manitoba, but across the world! Our social media posts are seen DAILY by thousands of people worldwide and always increasing.



The fiscal year end is wrapping up, and the office is a busy place, so I better get back to work!! Enjoy the beautiful fall weather while it lasts everyone.

Mallory Makinson
Office Administrator



The Board sends condolences to those locals/members who have lost a member over the past couple of months. It has been a difficult time for many families and friends.
If you wish to have a member recognized in the newsletter, please send a brief notice to the office and it will be kept for the next newsletter.

A little humour for your post Thanksgiving days. Could be compared to the 5:30 a.m. train that goes through town, the neighbour who leaves for work with his noisy truck at 4:30 a.m. or the John Deer tractor that heads out of the yard before 6:00 a.m during seeding.

Crystal Williams · Follow
1d ·

FREE TO A GOOD HOME: KEVIN
Affectionately named after the screaming bird in the Disney Movie "UP". Now accepting applications for the privilege of removing him from our property.

Are you tired of sleeping past 4:00 a.m.? Do you worry that your neighbors might secretly like you? Are the small children in your life becoming a little too comfortable outdoors?

Kevin can help.

This premium Tractor Supply Special was sold as a "100% sexed female," making him both a rooster and an excellent introduction to consumer fraud.

Kevin comes fully equipped with:

A commercial-grade alarm system
Activates around 4:00 a.m. and repeats every 2.5 minutes. No batteries, electricity, sunrise, emergency, or identifiable reason required. Cannot be disabled.

Advanced property-security technology
Deters mail carriers, visitors, toddlers, and any remaining goodwill between you and your neighbors.

Selective predator response
When a hawk attacked our flock, Kevin immediately took control of the situation by shoving past the hens and saving the chicken he values most: himself. The rest of the flock gained valuable independence and problem-solving experience.

A youth enrichment program
Kevin recently began chasing small children, helping them improve speed, agility, situational awareness, and respect for poultry. He is especially courageous when his opponent is under four feet tall and holding a juice box.

Executive-level leadership
Kevin contributes no eggs, provides no protection, accepts no feedback, and spends most of the day loudly announcing accomplishments nobody witnessed. He is ready for upper management.

Outstanding curb appeal
He is, unfortunately, very handsome. This has allowed him to avoid consequences for much longer than his personality warrants.

Kevin would be perfect for an experienced rooster owner with plenty of land, no small children, distant neighbors, strong fencing, excellent health insurance, and a deep personal dislike of silence.

His rehoming fee is **$0**, reflecting both his market value and our level of desperation.

We will include his complete service history, which is just a blank sheet of paper with "SCREAMING" written across it.

Please share. Somewhere out there is a person whose mornings are peaceful, whose children are fearless, and whose neighbors still wave to them.

Kevin is ready to fix all three.



Welcome to new members in the -------- Branch of Manitoba Women's Institute

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE IDEAS YOU HAVE FOR INVITING PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN YOUR GROUP IN THE COMING MONTHS?



'HOW TO KEEP ITEMS OUT OF THE LANDFILL?'





Egg carton flats holding 2 1/2 dozen eggs can be used for putting tomatoes to ripen. You can see at a glance as they ripen also if there are some not good. As shown they can be stacked. Used them for drying onions and garlic.

Liz Chongva

AROUND THE PROVINCE







For our June windup we went to Plum Coulee. We had lunch at Annajo's Bistro then we toured the Plum Coulee Elevator Museum (top photo). On our way home we stopped in Altona and toured the Gallery in the Park.

We had our first meeting of the fall on Sept. 10th. Our guest was the new Eastern Representative Maren Mueller who brought Liz Griffin and Janet Kroeker from Woodmore WI (photo on the left) . Maren & Liz were winners of our birthday draws.

Maren presented Cathy Beavis with her 5-year membership certificate. (Bottom Right)



Not quite in Manitoba but Dryden, ON. Marge Knutson's son and his cousins unloading 400 pound pumpkins in town and the display they were used in. Lovely display for sure.



The **Grosse Isle Women's Institute** hosted a "Community Candidates Forum" on October 5th,2026.
There were about 100 people in attendance and the WI provided refreshments as well. The "Forum" was very appreciated by both the Municipal candidates running, and the individuals attending. They both "Thanked" our Institute for hosting this event so that they could make an informed decision on who to vote for on Oct.28th!



AROUND THE PROVINCE

Unofficial Women's Institute - UWI
Patricia Evans · 3h ·

Our WI has a group called Weekend Warriors: we were founded three years ago by one of our members, new to Calne, who was at a loose end at weekends and was looking for friends to share outings with. We've been to craft fairs, gardens, shopping, a pantomime and meet every Saturday morning for coffee. Once a month we go out for Sunday lunch and the birthday girl of the month chooses the venue. We enjoyed a delicious lunch this Sunday in The Pewsham.



I follow this Facebook page from England. Recently, this item caught my eye, it could be an idea for groups in Manitoba. Some members might like to participate in outings on a weekend particularily over the summer months. Definitely something to explore.

Jocelyn Hamill demonstrated for **Springfield WI** how to make quick table decorations using paper napkins smaller to larger sizes.

The styles were the folded accordion pleat, pockets for cutlery or floral sprigs and the bishops hat. Using napkins either plain, one print or in the case of a large size napkin with two different prints make for a colourful setting. The table decorations can also be made with cloth.



AROUND THE PROVINCE

Bits and Pieces



Ag Report

Manitoba Farm Women's Conference 40th Anniversary Nov. 16-18, 2026 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. There are sessions about leadership, agronomy, estate planning, personal wellness and farm safety.

KAP District Meetings are taking place from Nov. 16 to Dec 11, 2026 across Manitoba.

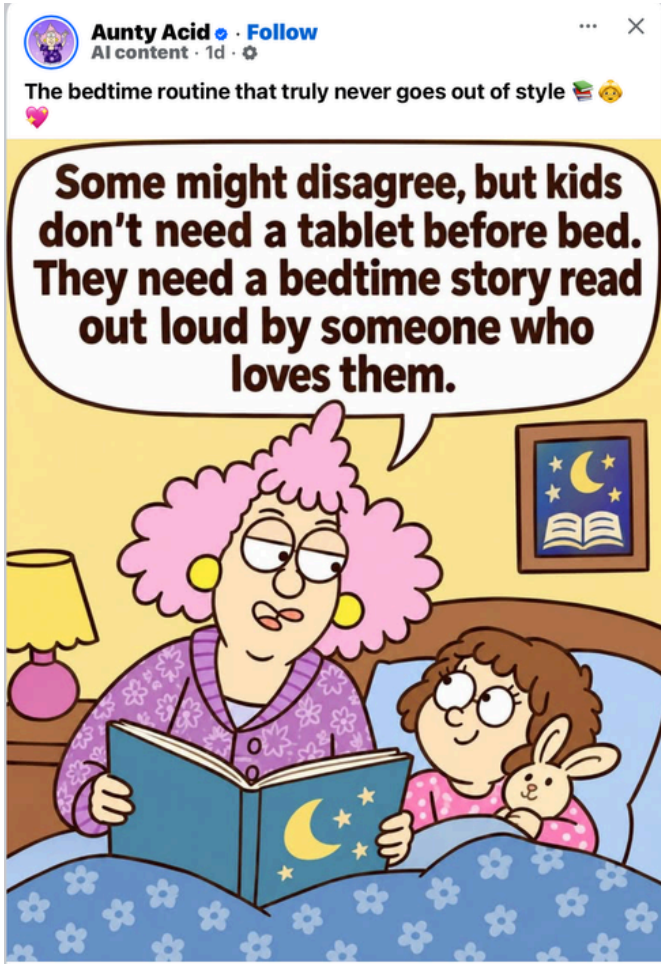
Manitoba AG EX takes place Oct. 28 – 31, 2026 at the Keystone Centre in Brandon. It is the province's largest cattle show with producers and exhibitors from across Western Canada.

Submitted by Gisela Nolting



Bits and Pieces





Growing Manitoba Ag
Inform. Influence. Inspire.

https://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/online-resources/signup-for-growing-manitoba-ag.html
If you would like this newsletter, please go to the link to receive an email sent directly to your inbox.



Happy Birthday to all our members celebrating in November and December.



Don't forget to share the activities of your local/branch with the MWI office so we can let others in the province know what is happening across the province either in our newsletter or in our social media posts.

Share What You Can

This years Made in Manitoba project is entitled “Share What You Can”. We are building off last years project in the hope that we can continue to help others out in some small way. We are asking that you share/donate any surplus clothing, food, time or anything extra that you can possibly give or share with someone else. We hope that we can continue to be a blessing to someone who needs that little bit of extra or who may be struggling. If we can all pitch in, the world will be a better place.

Some examples could include - donating extra clothing to a homeless shelter or thrift store, paying for coffee for the person behind you in line, or donating garden vegetables to a local food bank or hospital. Every little bit will help in some way.

Thanks for your continued support in making this successful.

Michele Gurman
Chair

At a recent Marketing and Promotion meeting we asked committee members to share other ideas for Sharing What You Can--

1. Local WIs donate every 2-3 months to your local food bank.
2. Donate Hats or Mittens to elementary schools in low income areas, in winter.
3. Pay for a take-out meal and give it to a homeless person
4. Send a postcard to a young person in your family. Chances are they don't get much mail and will get a smile out of receiving a note from you.
5. Our local post office was the recipient of a lovely Pumpkin display from a local producer - brightened up not only the postal workers day but everyone else's day as well.
6. Smile and say hi to someone you really don't know.
7. Donate old eye glasses - communities with Lions Clubs generally have collection boxes for eyeglasses and hearing aids.
8. If you are a regular shopper at a store that gives free items when you purchase a certain dollar value take the free item even if you won't use it and donate it to a food bank.
9. Rotate hand-me-downs in your own family before taking them for donation to a thrift store. Baby and toddler clothes, especially, don't wear out they are outgrown first!
10. If you are going on a holiday people often take items that can be given to those in need in that country. I have friends who always take clothes, toys, shoes, etc. to Belize.
11. Elementary schools art programs could be contacted to see if they can use crafts supplies, such as ribbon, yarn, fabric for craft projects.





MEMBER BOOK REVIEW & MORE

The Power of Resolutions

My name is Patricia Witzke. I had the pleasure of becoming a WI member in Fisher Branch in 1998. A colleague and friend, Sheena Letexier invited me to attend. We were both teaching at Fisher Branch Collegiate. I have enjoyed many years of participating in charitable events and social gatherings.

My interest in the WI focused on resolutions. I had the challenge of teaching grade 12 Law, in a few schools, that I have worked at. I always wondered how life might have been different for criminals, if they had more positive life experiences. It made me think about a resolution that I decided to write, about 7 years ago.

The focus of the resolution was rehabilitation for incarcerated individuals who had drug and alcohol addictions. I felt that if the criminals received counseling, while incarcerated, they may lead a honest life, after their releases.

As I did research, I learned that about 80% of criminals do not reoffend, after counseling, in an article that I read. I was impressed by that statistic.

In some correctional institutes, counseling is already in place. I was pleased to learn that. I have worked as a guidance counselor and I know how effective counseling can be for our youth especially teenagers.

I felt a lot of pleasure writing my resolution especially when it was passed by the Manitoba Women's Institute board. Then it was presented to the government. I was excited to learn that.

In the years that I have been in WI, many resolutions have been written and taken to the government. Repainting lines on the highways to make it safer for driving especially at night was one resolution that passed. Another one was asking for more cell towers in rural Manitoba for safety purposes. That resolution was also passed. It was great to see that many WI members wanted to write resolutions to improve our communities.

When the Manitoba Women's Institute board members pass the resolutions to the government, it is an incredible honor. In some cases, they change policies or laws which benefit the citizens of Manitoba.

I am proud to be a member of the Manitoba Women's Institute. Our organization makes changes that benefit the safety and well-being of our communities. What a positive way to help our world.

The motto of WI is Don't Forget to be Kind. Let's continue to follow that path, as we work together, in a cohesive manner. Our continuous efforts make our world a better place to live.

The views contained in the book reviews provided to our newsletter are the thoughts/opinions of the writer and not Manitoba Women's Institute.

ACWW CO-ORDINATORS REPORT

Presidents newsletterAn excerpt from the latest ACWW
Empowering Rural Women is not only a matter of justice and equality. It is essential to ending hunger, reducing poverty, strengthening climate resilience, protecting natural resources, and achieving sustainable development for all. As we mark the International Day of Rural Women 2026, we reaffirm our commitment to investing in the rights, leadership, and opportunities of Rural Women everywhere. Our success is fundamental to the prosperity and resilience of our shared future.

Marie Kenny,
ACWW World President

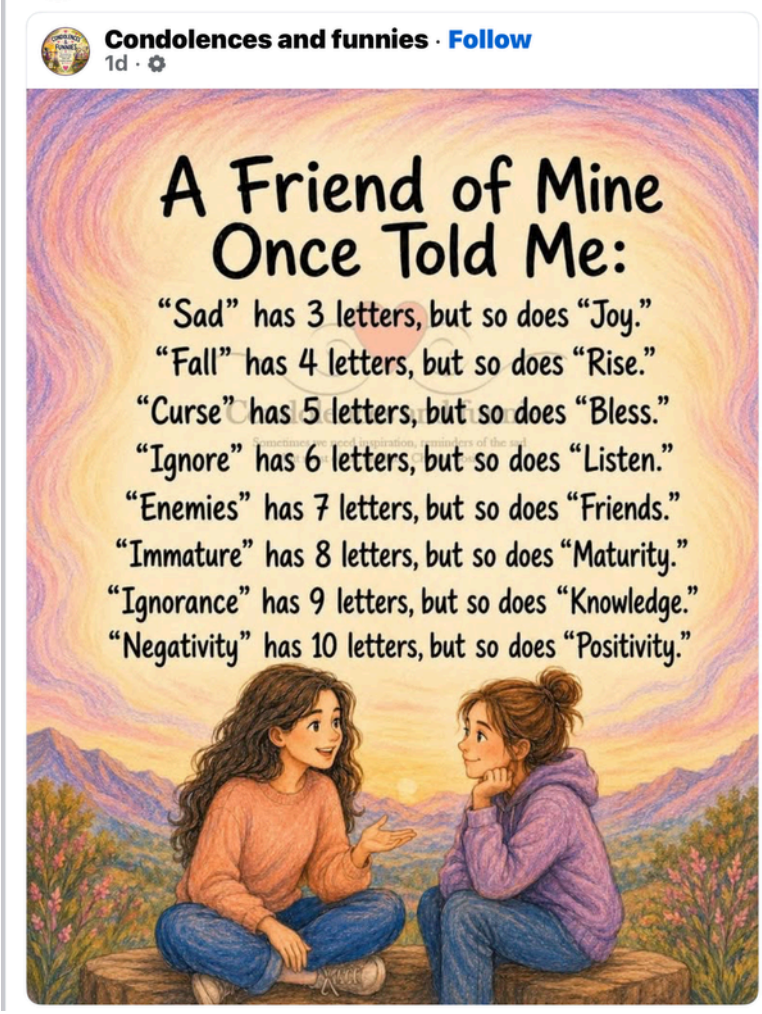




Photo by Darcy Truthwaite

The United Nations declared 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026). The Year spotlights the essential roles women play across agrifood systems, from production to trade, while often going unrecognized. Women farmers are central to food security, nutrition and economic resilience. IYWF 2026 raises awareness and promote actions to close the gender gaps and improve women's livelihoods worldwide.

At the end of COVID MWI asked for submissions from members and non-members to record how as individuals, families, groups we coped with the rules and regulations that surrounded us during the COVID timeframe. We published a virtual copy of the stories submitted to us. It was an excellent read - heartfelt stories from individuals in our communities. If you would like to see a copy of the COVID booklet please let Mallory at the office know.

At a recent board meeting the suggestion came up that we record how, as a rural women's organization in Manitoba, we supported women farmers in our community. So we are asking for short stories about you, or your friend, or family member. Look around your community to see who you think might write a short story, who you might interview and record their story, or tell your own story. The stories don't need to be long - 2 type written pages would be great . If you write poetry, draw or express your ideas in other ways we will try and publish your story.



Our deadline is short as we are part way through the year. We would like to suggest that we gather the stories by October 15 to be published in November. We hope you will consider making a submission for this special project.



Don't miss your opportunity to be part of MWI History - tell us about your role in being involved in agriculture in our province.

Let's Have some COLOURING fun!



Upcoming Events

OCTOBER
11—International Day of the Girl Child
15—International Day of Rural Women
16—World Food Day
28 Manitoba Municipal Elections
28--31 Manitoba AG EX, Brandon

NOVEMBER
11—Remembrance Day
16—18 Manitoba Farm Women's Conference, Victoria Inn, Winnipeg
16 - Dec 11 KAP meetings across Manitobqa
30—Deadline for RESOLUTIONS, newsletter articles/submissions

DECEMBER
25 - Christmas Day

JANUARY 2027
19-21 Manitoba Ag Days, Brandon MB

FEBRUARY 2027
19 - Manitoba Women's Institute Day

SEPTEMBER 2027
14-16 - FWIC National Convention, Charlottetown, PEI

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1. Where did potatoes originally come from?
2. What dos Creme Brule mean in English?
3. What is the name of the Winnipeg Jets farm team?
4. What city is hosting the 2026 Grey Cup?
5. Which came first Batman or Superman?
6. What country has the most volcanoes?
7. Which African country has the most pyramids in the world?
8. Which character was nicknamed Hot Lips?

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1. Peru, South America
2. Burned Cream
3. MB Moose
4. Calgary
5. Superman, 1932
6. Indonesia
7. Sudan
8. Margret Houlihan

