

Shirley Fraize

Shirley Fraize retired from active service at Memorial University in May 1996 following 27 years of service. Her position at the time of retirement was Executive Assistant to the Academic Coordinator of Memorial's Learned Societies Secretariat although some of us here will certainly remember her Administrative Officer role with the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) as well as her years of service as Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

As her nominators' have noted "During Shirley's working life, she was continually involved in professional and community organizations" and this clearly set the stage for even greater contributions in her post-retirement years.

One of her key areas of effort has been with the Women's Institutes, the largest non-profit women's organization in the world with over 9 million members in 74 countries on 5 continents. It is an educational organization focusing on the family, personal growth, and community action. Shirley is a member of the Mount Pearl Branch and was the organizer of the Topsail Branch of the Women's Institutes. With the Mount Pearl Branch she has served in many roles including, among others, Secretary, PR Convenor, Education and Culture Convenor, Vice-President; Treasurer, Agriculture Convenor ; in the Topsail Branch she has served as President, Education and Culture Convenor and United Nations and International Exchanges Convenor. She has also served in multiple capacities at the provincial level , and as Provincial President ; as well as at the national level including among other roles, Newfoundland's representative on the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada Board (FWIC); Executive Officer on the FWIC Board and member of FWIC's Citizenship and Legislation Committees. She is currently a member of the Personnel Committee and Chair of the Projects and Fundraising Committees. As Chair of the Projects Committee, and focussing on this Triennium's theme, "Coast to Coast: WI ~ Alive and Well," she initiated FWIC's Triennium Project "Hard Facts About Women's Heart Health," which is a major, three-year long effort (2009-2012) to heighten awareness of heart disease and strokes among its 13,000 plus membership across Canada, as well as to the general public. In conjunction with the Heart Health Project, a challenge was issued for participants to wear pedometers and record the number of steps taken each day from January 1st, 2011 through to December 31st, 2011 to encourage members to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

She has been a representative to provincial, national and international conferences and a delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World Conference in Finland. In recognition of her efforts on behalf of the organization, she has been awarded life membership with the Women's Institutes.

A second organization that Shirley has focused on and in which she also held leadership positions since her retirement has been ZONTA International, a global organization of executives and professionals working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy. Through this organization, scholarship funds have been made available to women enrolled in full-time undergraduate studies at Memorial and who are entering or returning, having been away from full-time study for a period of five years or more. The scholarship funds are awarded through Memorial's Senate Committee on Scholarships.

Other organizations which have benefitted from Shirley's involvement in her post-retirement years include the Newfoundland Rug Hookers Guild, Newfoundland Machine Knitters Guild and the Quilter's Guild; the Conception Bay South Gardening Club; and the Retired Citizens' Association Inc. A person of diverse interests and more than considerable energy, she was and continues to be an active dancer (tap,

line, ballroom, and square dancing), has taken courses in sign language, as well as other courses in various areas of interest. For her outstanding contributions to the Community through her work and leadership with the Women's Institutes and Zonta International, MUNPA is pleased to recognize Mrs. Shirley Fraize with a MUNPA Tribute Award.