

Russell Village WI

It's all about learning at every meeting of the Russell Village WI (Russell District, Eastern Area)! In May, the Branch welcomed guest speaker Carl Schutt, an accomplished Art Teacher and local artist in many mediums ranging from gem cutting, marble sculpting, water colours, jewelry making, and oil painting. Roll Call was to bring in a favourite piece of art or a personal creation! The Branch also welcomed new Member, Nicole Labelle and congratulated Diny Achtereekte and Jane Adlard on receiving their 50 and 20 year pins respectively.

Pictured (L-R): Nicole Labelle is welcomed as a new Member of Russell Village WI by Jean Williams.



Harrowsmith WI

Women attending the first Harrowsmith WI meeting, in March 1924, wore the fashions of the time – dropped waist dresses, above the ankle hemlines, and wide brimmed hats. The current Harrowsmith WI (Frontenac District, Kingston Area) decided to celebrate their 90th Anniversary in 2014 with a display of photos, news, fashion, and memorabilia from the 1920's to the 1970's. When vintage clothing began to appear for the displays, the idea of a vintage fashion show was born.

A scouring of attics, basements and closets, revealed over 60 treasured outfits and accessories of family and friends. On April 26, 2015, items from the "Roaring Twenties" to the "Psychedelic Seventies" (pictured) were enthusiastically donned by 40 models from ages 2 to 80. Poodle skirts, bell bottoms, fur coats and vintage wedding dresses were among the many fashions worn. Models from Harrowsmith WI, the local community, and participants and staff from New Leaf Link, were accompanied by music representative of each decade.

The standing room only event took place at St. Paul's United Church in Harrowsmith, with proceeds of \$2,100 going to New Leaf Link, a non-profit charitable organization that supports the continuing education of youth and adults with developmental disabilities. One Harrowsmith WI Member is a volunteer with New Leaf Link and she connected the Branch with this dynamic group and its activities.

This event was a huge success in so many ways. It gave Harrowsmith WI a focus for the year, and Members had an opportunity to learn more about each other as they shared the personal history of each vintage item. Harrowsmith WI is a vibrant force in the community and this event was one more opportunity to highlight their activities and raise their profile. Together, they made many wonderful connections within their community and are looking to the future with optimism and energy.

