



Welcome Irene Robillard, Provincial Tweedsmuir Coordinator

After nearly three decades of commuting to Ottawa, working for the Government of Canada, I decided to leave the fast pace and spend more time at home.

I joined Burnstown WI (Eastern Area) shortly after being married as a way to meet neighbours, and I am still a Member of the Branch. Besides being the Branch's Tweedsmuir Co-ordinator, I am Renfrew South District's representative on a local archives board. I have also written books on local community history and have extensively used Tweedsmuir Community Histories for research.

The recent launch of the Tweedsmuir Histories Digitizing Project with the Ontario Genealogical Society is great news to the organization. Besides having the original documents remain locally, the whole world will be able to access the Tweedsmuir Collection online to conduct family research, learn about our rich rural communities, and discover the wonderful work that has been created by WI Members. It will be astonishing to see the quantity of Tweedsmuir Histories that we have in the province. As an added bonus, the digitized versions will provide a back-up in case the original becomes damaged or lost.

This project has brought forward a number of concerns and issues, such as privacy and copyright implications. I am working with the Ontario Genealogical Society and other organizations to resolve the issues sensibly and consistently across the province. This project has also halted the revision of the Tweedsmuir Manual, as it does not yet include the digitizing project. Please be patient as we work through these items in the upcoming months.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you as this worthwhile project proceeds. Please contact me if you have any further questions or concerns by email (irener@renfrew.net), phone (613-432-6987), or mail (1075 Calabogie Road, R.R. #1, Renfrew, ON K7V 3Z4).

WITH THANKS!

It is with mixed emotions that I write this message to Women's Institute Members.

I regret to inform you that Patty Pizziola, ROSE Program Manager, tendered her resignation and will no longer be with FWIO when you read this. Patty has been a joy to work with and has made great strides in generating public awareness of the ROSE Program. She has provided assistance to Members, Branches, Districts & Areas in a professional, yet friendly and enthusiastic manner. Her presentation skills at workshops made them a delight to attend. For those that participated in her most recent introduction, 'ROSE Buddies,' the successes well exceeded expectations. Principals, teachers, students and the seniors who met with the students to tell them their life stories were delighted with the results. Principals have offered to call other schools to encourage their participation; others want another session right away!

Last but not least, I would like to thank her for bringing the newsletter to life with her creative writing style.

Patty has taken a position in the corporate world that will provide her with stimulation and boundless opportunity, while at the same time use her creative and past work skills to encourage community members in the Guelph area to be involved.

On behalf of everyone who has met or worked with Patty, I would like to take this opportunity to wish her every success in her future!

Lynn Ruigrok,
co-worker and friend

Thank you to our Partners

