

Meet the Members

INTRODUCING Isobel Purdon



Photo by Kassina Ryder

Long-time WI Member, Isobel Purdon, recently compiled a local history book in honour of the Second Line of Drummond WI's 50th Anniversary. Isobel spent five months interviewing, taking pictures, writing and designing the book, often devoting 12 hours a day to the project.

Isobel has been the Branch's Tweedsmuir Coordinator for over 25 years and was able to use some of the information she gathered during that time for the Branch's Tweedsmuir History Books. With the help of her daughters, Lynn and Connie, Isobel captured numerous photographs of buildings and homes along the Second Line – located in the Perth area. Isobel then enhanced her computer skills creating the book, learning how to scan old photographs and using Word Perfect.

Perhaps it is her long-time involvement in WI or her 35 years of teaching that has inspired her life-long learning. As a teacher, Isobel recalls bringing her Grade 3 students from Smith Falls to her farm and showing them where their food comes from. She always believed that this was vital to a child's ability to make the link from farm to table.

The Second Line of Drummond WI (Lanark South District, Eastern Area) is still very active in their community. The Branch donates to charities, libraries and playgrounds, and caters for weddings, funerals and community functions.

Isobel plays an important role in her Branch and her fellow Members are very proud of her dedication to creating such a special keepsake for members of the community.

Adapted from Kassina Ryder's article, "The History Keepers".

GET INVOLVED WITH THE RURAL VOICES NETWORK 'LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD' Public Survey: Become a Unified Voice for Rural Communities across Ontario

Enjoy a recap of what's been happening, where the RVN Project is headed, and how you can get involved! - *For Home & Country, The RVN Team.*

A BIG THANK YOU to the FWIO Board Members, Officers, Coordinators, Area & District Officers, WI Members, the RVN PAC, Collaborators & Volunteers for spreading the word about the RVN Project!

The Rural Voices Network is gaining momentum, and a big reason why is because of WI Members doing what you do best – socially networking with your communities!

How did the 7 RVN Public Forums do? The planning process brought to life the expression 'The Journey is the Destination!' A collaboration, bridging gaps in distance, time, and across sectors with rural citizens across Ontario, was just as rewarding as listening to the forum participants co-create and communicate how they experience civic engagement in their community. Visit the RVN website for Public Forums results.

Now we need your help to distribute the RVN 'Let Your Voice Be Heard' Public Survey to as many people and networks you know!

Goal: 7,500 completed surveys from rural citizens across Ontario.

This Public Survey will poll Rural Citizens in Ontario on the enablers and barriers to civic engagement. A province-wide public survey **influenced by rural citizens to be completed by rural citizens** has huge potential to strengthen this network of learning and sharing between communities, organizations and municipalities in Ontario.

For more information, visit the RVN website www.ruralvoicesnetwork.ca or contact the RVN team: Naomi Cho info@ruralvoicesnetwork.ca or Manon Germain manong@ruralvoicesnetwork.ca - by phone 519-836-3078.



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