

Down The Garden Path

News and Information
on the *roSe* Program

The Buzz

Last month I had the great pleasure of attending the Waterloo District Women's Day held in New Dundee. It was fun, informative and, most importantly, it showcased the scope of the Women's Institute. I was thrilled to discover that over 100 women of all ages and interests were there to enjoy the day. For a reasonable admission fee of \$23/person, the day began with a speaker on proper foot care, followed by a presentation on how to be a "better you." After lunch there were two presentations on home decorating and preparing flower arrangements. Information booths were also available offering a wide variety of health information. I was pleased that Waterloo District took the opportunity to promote WI membership and the FWIO Quilt Show & Sale by having a booth at the front entrance.

What was the secret to their success? If you ask me, their success was a result of three things. First, they planned a program geared to women of all ages and with a wide variety of interests. Secondly, they were extremely thorough and organized from beginning to end. Finally, (and I believe most importantly) the women of Waterloo District had fun! It was evident to every person who walked through the door that this would be a day to get together with family and friends and have fun! Thank you Waterloo District for including me in your day and congratulations on a job well done!

For more information on planning successful sessions, please refer to the Top Eight Tips for Session Success on the opposite page.

FWIO continues to make great strides towards a prosperous future for the ROSE Program.

Since December 2002, a total of 257 sessions have been held with an average attendance of 54 people per session. Members and the general public have participated in hundreds of fairs, public education sessions, workshops and exhibits - attracting a total of over 15,000 people! Over 25,000 brochures and at least 300,000 educational resources have been distributed through the ROSE Program.

As well, the ROSE Program has trained over 1,000 members between April and November 2004. As ROSE Program Manager I have received over 150 requests from community agencies, partners, universities, colleges and provincial and national organizations requesting to work with the WI. There has been over 400,000 hits to the FWIO website and the Provincial Office has received dozens of calls from the public - just simply wanting to know more about WI! Most importantly, we have had a steady increase in membership that continues to rise everyday!

Please keep in touch in 2005. I have been thrilled to hear from you about your upcoming programs. If you have a session coming up, post your session on our online events calendar, order some brochures, pamphlets or bookmarks and reserve the display. If you would like assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am here to help!

For more information on the ROSE (rural ontario sharing education) Program, or to get help planning your next session, please contact

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ROSE Program Manager
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Email: juliew@fwio.on.ca

Important Information You Need to Know!

- Please continue to return your Session Profile Forms to the Provincial Office. Watch for the winner of this year's Session Profile Draw to be announced in July 2005. Session Profile Forms are available from the Provincial Office or by visiting the Member Services Section of the FWIO website at www.fwio.on.ca
- Let us help you promote your session! Contact the Provincial Office today to post your upcoming events on our website (www.fwio.on.ca/rose).
- Reserve the ROSE Display for your Branch by contacting the Provincial Office. Remember, a \$25 shipping charge applies.

TOOLBOX

Here is a sampling of ideas to consider when planning your upcoming ROSE Sessions.

Drive Wise Program

Drive Wise is a free driver education program presented by off-duty police officers across Ontario. Your Branch is welcome to host a drive wise education seminar by emailing drivewise@50plus.com or by calling 1-888-532-8888 or visit www.drivewise.ca

Protect Your Money - Schemes, Scams and Flimflams

If you are interested in speaking with a representative, contact the Ontario Securities Commission at inquiries@osc.gov.on.ca or call 1-877-785-1555.

Safe Medication Awareness

If you wish to host a Safe Medication Awareness seminar, please contact Sherrie Hertz, the Director of Programs at the Ontario Pharmacists' Association, at 416-441-0788, ext. 4232, or via email at shertz@opatoday.com

Green Communities

There are more than 20 Green Communities members in Ontario who work on locally defined priorities that include energy and water conservation, pollution prevention, waste reduction and green space enhancement. Green Communities work with municipalities, businesses, community groups and, most importantly, one-on-one with homeowners to achieve environmental change and a better quality of life for everyone. A sample of some current program topics include Waste Reduction, EnerGuide for Houses, Demonstration Gardens, Active & Safe Routes to School, Well Aware, Green Shopping Guides, and much, much more. If you are interested in starting a new Green Community in your home town let the Green Communities Association know. For further information on Green Communities and for local member contact information visit their website at www.gca.ca