

## Programming Ideas

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- "Nothing that anyone ever built can ever compare to Grandmother's Quilt."
- "Your mother brought you up, don't let her down."
- "A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle."
- "Learn from the past to cast a light on the future."

### Roll Calls:

- Bring your favourite handicraft, made or bought.
- Bring an ethnic dish that would be made in your country of origin, along with a copy of the recipe.

### Programs:

#### Quilting

- Why not offer a quilting course for members of the community? Is there a member of your Branch who is an expert? Ask her for ideas, set up a committee to help her and pass on her knowledge. Would some of your members be prepared to go into the local school and teach some simple quilting techniques? Use "wild" colours and gain the interest of the boys as well as girls.
- What about knitting? In many families knitting is a lost art. Offer to teach members of your community how to knit and crochet. You might find that you will get new members from these "heritage" classes.
- Organize a "craft" evening. Set up several stations that participants can visit during the evening. Invite the public. Many of your members may have a craft that they would like to share.

#### Cooking and Baking

- Many young parents these days have absolutely no idea how to cook or bake. As Women's Institute members we have a wealth of knowledge and we are renowned for our cooking skills. Many of us have been or are 4-H leaders. Think of some of the past 4-H courses. For example, "Lets bake Bread." What a great skill to pass on. Over the course of a year, why not ask your members to bring their favourite recipes to share at meetings. These could become the basis of a Branch heritage cookbook.

The possibilities for programming under this theme are endless. Start now to share your heritage stories and skills (etc.), or they will be lost to the new generations forever. Why not open all your meetings to the women of your community? Have your program first and your business after your lunch. Remember, if non-members attend your meetings to obtain new knowledge this is a ROSE Session and these women are all potential members. Ask them to sign in and remember to invite them to your next meeting.

I hope that I have been able to give you some program ideas for the upcoming year. Good luck!

This information was compiled by the FWIO Education Committee under the direction of the ROSE Coordinator Gillian Catto. She can be reached at

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## More Great Program Ideas

### Don't Forget About WI Week and WI Day

The week of February 13 to 20 has been proclaimed WI Week for 2005. Each year, February 19 is recognized as WI Day.

### Summer Theatre – A Great Program Idea!

Russell Village Women's Institute attended a showing of "Rumours," a hilarious mystery-comedy by Neil Simon, performed at the Upper Canada Playhouse. They said, "The total experience was perfect!" The group highly recommends that other Women's Institute groups looking for an outing take in the summer theatre performed in their own local area. It is a great outing!

### A Great Idea!!

This past September the Thunder Bay District Women's Institute published their first District Newsletter. The Thunder Bay District News is printed on a legal-sized sheet of paper folded in half and is being distributed to the 116 members in the District on a trial basis. Each Branch is being asked to phone, fax or email the District Public Relations Officer Jeanne Davies with information they wish published in the quarterly newsletter. Some of the items covered in their first newsletter included:

- Dates to Remember
- Rally Competition Guidelines
- District Officer Contact Information
- Branch President Contact Information
- Letters to the Editor
- Brief Articles
- And, of course, bits of humour!

Congratulations to the Thunder Bay District for their great work in communications. What about trying a District newsletter in your area?

*Submitted by Jeanne Davies, News Editor,  
Thunder Bay District WI.*

### Check These Out!

**For those intrigued by genealogical research, here is a list of websites to check out:**

- [www.Cyndislist.com](http://www.Cyndislist.com) - for passenger lists add /ships.htm
- [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
- [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)
- [www.familytreemaker.com](http://www.familytreemaker.com)
- [www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com)
- [www.myfamily.com](http://www.myfamily.com)
- [www.britishtieslesgenweb.org/](http://www.britishtieslesgenweb.org/)
- [www.usask.ca/archives/menu.html](http://www.usask.ca/archives/menu.html) - this site from the University of Saskatchewan lists a large number of Canadian genealogical sites
- [www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/dir.html](http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/dir.html) - a directory of archival repositories
- [www.sierrahome.com](http://www.sierrahome.com) - links to genealogical information
- [www.home.eznet.net/~kinsella/genealogy/research/Passlist.htm](http://www.home.eznet.net/~kinsella/genealogy/research/Passlist.htm) passenger lists for ships entering the US and Canada
- [www.net.com/~treesrch/ontario.html](http://www.net.com/~treesrch/ontario.html) - Ontario Genealogy Resources