

Home & Country

Federated Women's
Institutes of Ontario
rural ontario
sharing education

Fall 2004

From Buds to Blooms – FWIO Celebrates the 5th Anniversary of the ROSE Program

At the provincial "ROSES are Blooming" Forum held at Georgian College in Barrie on August 20-21, ROSE Program Manager Julie Annett outlined FWIO's commitment to education. "Since its inception," stated Annett, "FWIO has committed to providing educational opportunities for women and their families. Through self-supporting education and support programs, like the ROSE Program, the philosophy that sparked the founding of the Women's Institute still continues today. Despite the many challenges, the members who make up this organization are as enthusiastic and committed to education as their predecessors were 100 years ago. The face of the Women's Institute may have changed over the years but the need for an organization like FWIO remains the same.



Two District Representatives don their blue hats for the "Blue Hat Challenge." Read more about this on page 5 and 16.

The "ROSES are Blooming" Forum, funded entirely by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, was a two-day event for Women's Institute members and ROSE Partners to network and share information. It was the first of its kind for FWIO attracting more than 200 members and provincial Partners from across the province to attend and to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the ROSE Program.

Highlights of the Forum included a celebratory banquet, an award ceremony,

training seminars, skill development workshops and an Information Expo. Each representative had the opportunity to attend three of nine interactive workshops and visit over 25 informative displays. Guest speakers included Dr. Beverly Leiper, Chair of the newly formed Rural Women's Health Research Department at the University of Western Ontario, and Dr. Linda Ambrose, Chair of the History Department at Laurentian University.



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