

We are celebrating our success!



rural ontario
sharing education

By Julie Annett

The ROSE (rural ontario sharing education) Program continues to receive high accolades for improving access to vital health and social service information across Ontario.

ROSE - More than Just a Health Program!

Due to the overwhelming success of the ROSE Program and the mandate of the "ROSES are Blooming" Expansion Project, we have expanded the Program to include any and all educational topics, including health. This means that any educational program where the community is invited to attend is a ROSE Session.

I urge all Branches to continue to be diligent in returning their Session Profile Forms; they are an integral part of our continued success and growth. Each Session Profile returned to the FWIO Provincial Office between October 1, 2003, and June 1, 2004, will be given a ballot to be put into a draw for a prize basket. Each profile returned with a photo will receive two ballots.

ROSE Goes Live!

We have expanded the FWIO website to include a new ROSE section. Check out <http://www.fwio.on.ca/rose> for regular updates from our Partners, WI and ROSE Partner event listings and ROSE Session Profiles. If your Branch has an upcoming event they want posted on the website, email the details to juliea@fwio.on.ca

A Sign of Our Success

- Since December 2002, over 85,000 people have been reached through the ROSE Program (i.e. including promotional items, website, brochure distribution, session attendance, etc.).
- Over 6,000 new ROSE Brochures have been distributed to date.
- Over 40 associations, foundations and societies have participated/hosted a ROSE Session.
- Over 42 community-based organizations

- have participated in a ROSE Session.
- Over 30 health units and 7 health centers have participated in the ROSE Program.
- Over 50 agencies have expressed an interest in working with the WI Branches through the ROSE Program within the past seven months.
- Since November 30, 2003, over 10,000 people have attended a ROSE Session; over 180 ROSE Sessions have been held.

Imagine if each Branch committed themselves to hosting at least one ROSE Session each year? The ROSE Program has created significant opportunities for FWIO, including national recognition, increased membership and increased awareness of WI activities. Commit yourself and your Branch to share in the success of the ROSE Program in 2004!

The Buzz

Coming up in 2004, the ROSE Program will travel across Ontario to conduct the second phase of ROSE Leadership Workshops to approximately 1200 WI representatives. Each Branch will have the opportunity to have two representatives attend for FREE! The focus of the workshops will be to provide new information

on ROSE Partners and practical tips for membership recruitment, fundraising and session planning.

A "ROSES are Blooming" Forum will be held August 20 and 21, 2004, in Barrie, Ontario. Each District will have the opportunity to have two representatives attend the two-day event for FREE! The Forum will strengthen the skills of WI members and provide them with the necessary skills to sustain the program.

On a personal note, this program would not be possible without the hard work of the WI Branches, Districts and Areas. I am grateful for your continued support and dedication to the ROSE Program and I congratulate you for your achievements. I have had the opportunity to attend several ROSE Sessions over the past year and I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you. Over the next year, I believe the ROSE Program will continue to grow and that together we can truly be rural Ontario sharing education!

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Weird Homes of Ontario

The Rylstone WI had a tour of the miniature model buildings designed by Len Jackson. The miniatures are built with great care taken to detail and authenticity. They are displayed on the lawn of his home in Codrington.



Rylstone member Donna Phair (left) is shown with Mr. Jackson, along with guest Diane Reid (right), with the model of the Rylstone Cheese Factory, which burned to the ground in 1946. With the help of the Branch's Tweedsmuir History, Mr. Jackson was able to build a replica of this historic building. Jackson's miniatures have been featured on a TV program called "Weird Homes of Ontario."

Submitted by Dorothy Thomson, PRO, Rylstone WI, Hastings North, Trent Valley Area.

Village Beautification



One of the main summer projects that the Russell Village WI Branch tackles is the beautification of the downtown core in the small village of Russell. The group collects funds and donations for hanging baskets, planter boxes and watering expenses. They say the result is a kinder, gentler downtown with people taking pride in the village once more. Members will soon be gearing up for this year's beautification.