



RSDWI NEWSLETTER

RSDWI ANNUAL FALL WORKSHOP

Did you attend the Fall courses at Admaston School October 25, 2003? What a great time and a very full day. Thanks goes out to all who coordinated the day especially Sheilah Gibbons and her elves from Balsam Hill who helped with the set-up of the school for the day. Thanks also to our instructors who provided us with excellent guidance as we created beautiful treasures and skills to take home with us. Thanks to Sheilah, Lynn, Joan, Hilda, Roxanne and Jo-Anne for helping to make our day a success!! If you have ideas for our next workshop, please get in touch with Sheilah as soon as possible so she can start planning for our next fun day. Did you receive your letter from Sheila with the questionnaire? *Your input is valuable – so please take time to fill it out and return it to her.*

WELCOME TO THE FAIR

Congratulations to all the Institutes and individuals who entered the Arnprior Fair, the Ottawa Exhibition and the Renfrew Fair this year. Your involvement makes these events a success. Joanne McDonald writes: "Thanks to all who participated in the Renfrew Fair. Burnstown and Balsam Hill were the top winners this year. 2004 is the 150th anniversary of the fair and hope that many will be involved in this celebration." Those attending the Arnprior Fair judging for the first time really enjoyed seeing how this process is

done. It was an enjoyable day that enabled us to learn what the judges were looking for when looking at the exhibits.

Special thanks goes to Jean Henderson who is working hard to keep the WI presence alive at the Ottawa Exhibition. Jean is the force that picks up and delivers our articles for this event. Jean's dedication allows us to partake in this event with worrying about transporting all the exhibits to Ottawa. Thanks again Jean!

As you may know, it seems that the fair may become a distant memory to some of us. With cutbacks to funding, lack of volunteers and support from the community, many fairs are sadly thinking of dissolving. Ottawa is trying to keep their event alive and have succeeded in planning an event for 2004.

Arnprior is also facing problems as they look at management changes, information transfer and tight timelines that will affect the life of the fair forever.

Are we as WI members doing enough to keep these traditions alive? Could we do more? Are we missing out on this great event to promote WI and to enlist new members? This is your heritage and it would be a shame to only tell stories of the fun you had at your local fair.

CHANGES IN WI

Members of the Provincial office have been working hard to eliminate costs and get FWIO finances under control. They were working with a large deficit and after many long meetings have come us with some changes that will take effect in 2004.

You have heard about the raise in our fees. Don't panic. Some Branches are meeting that change head on by supplementing their fees with special events or projects (i.e. – collection has to equal \$4 each month. Donating proceeds from garage sale for fees.). Our PAC members will be non-existent after 2004. It is proposed that One (1) Voting Delegate from the Area will be sent to the annual Provincial meeting. There will be four (4) mailings sent out per year to the Institutes.

Mileage rebate has been reduced to 25cents per km.

The Provincial Office will be closed to the Public certain days of the week, but can still be reached by e-mail or phone.

HOME & COUNTRY

Home and Country is your magazine. It is the main link for all WI news and is a good tool to use to get information to everyone in our organization. So here is your chance. Assign homework to your Branch to find something of interest in a present or past issue and report on it at your next meeting.

DID YOU KNOW>>>>

Items we would like to bring to your attention – RSDWI will need a Treasurer and PRO for the coming year. If you are interested please feel free to let us know. Rosebank WI will disband in April 2004 leaving our District with 10 branches. Please welcome these members to your branch.

So there you have it – our First Newsletter for Renfrew South District WI. We hope that you have enjoyed reading through the articles we have prepared for you and look forward to your input for our next issue.

Hope that your Christmas meetings are filled with special memories and your homes are filled with laughter and good will. Don't forget those less fortunate. Much success as we start another year in this wonderful organization.