



RSDWI NEWSLETTER

ROSE Workshop

October 5th members of RSDWI gathered in Carleton Place for the ROSE Workshop. The morning started with a refresher on the duties of Secretary, Treasurer and President within our organization. It was stressed that these three executive members work as a team. Enjoy the position. Know the members and what they are willing to do. Convey a positive attitude. Follow a parliamentary procedure. Use your resource material – especially your handbook, fact sheets available from FWIO, old Home and Country articles and former executive members who have valuable knowledge to share.

We were encouraged to attend conference for information updates and networking. Be aware of upcoming events and deadlines for reporting. Broaden your horizons and take on a new challenge.

FWIO have a complete set of Fact Sheets that we can use. It was suggested that all Branches have a complete set of these sheets in a Resource Binder that can be used on a regular basis.

Julie Annett was the afternoon speaker and she presented the ROSE program to us. By partnering with the 14 non-profit organizations, we have an opportunity to improve our visibility in the community, access more information, and introduce new programming ideas. The community is invited to more of our meetings and events – and these include not only health issues but all education topics. We were all provided with new resource guides and information. It is now up to us to organize and invite our communities to our events.

WI is changing, but this is a change for the better for our organization. By partnering with other organizations it gives us the opportunity to introduce important issues and promotional tools that will ensure our programs attract larger audiences.

Because of Trillium Funding, it is important that all of these events are recorded and reported to FWIO as they happen. We need this funding to continue and reporting our work will ensure that the money for these projects will be there for us.

If you were not able to attend the workshop, please get in touch with the FWIO office for your ROSE kit.

ROSEs Are Blooming

The recent "Roses are Blooming" Forum was held in late August at Barrie to celebrate the ROSE program's 5th anniversary. Two representatives from each district were invited. Joanne McDonald and Irene Robillard, District President and Treasurer were your two delegates.

The Forum began with a banquet on Friday evening. There we were each given a blue straw hat to wear as a kick-off to the "Blue Hats for WI".

After excellent speakers, the evening ended with a line dance lesson. Saturday was a learning day with our health partners. The workshops and displays were excellent and enlightened everyone the importance of each cause and provided suggestions for future ROSE programs. See all the details in your latest Home and Country.Irene Robillard, RSDWI Treasurer

New partnership between FWIO & U of Guelph

We are thrilled to announce a new partnership between the University of Guelph and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO). Through the ROSE Program, we will work with the University of Guelph, Department of Rural Planning, to conduct an evaluation on the ROSE Program sponsored by the Rural Planning Department. This is an exciting opportunity for the FWIO and we need your help!

As you may be aware, recently the ROSE Program celebrated its fifth anniversary. The progress we have made is impressive; approximately 579 WI Branches have participated in the program at least once and other Branches multiple times. In addition, thousands of community members and agencies have participated in this program thereby raising the visibility of Women's Institutes across the province.

In the past, we have used *Session Profile Forms* to assess the success of the program. They have allowed us to realize that we have been successful in meeting our objectives of distributing educational curricula to communities across the Ontario. The success of the program has attracted the interest of the University of Guelph researchers who have approached us to participate in a study.

We believe that by participating in this exciting

study we will accomplish several objectives including; being able to establish a stronger relationship with the University of Guelph, increase the visibility of the Women's Institutes, increase possibility of future funding opportunities and further validate the effectiveness of the ROSE Program in meeting its objectives.

To do this, we will need your help! This Fall the University will be looking for at least ten Branches to work with. Volunteers will be asked to participate in two components; distributing a short survey (postage paid envelopes will be included) and to share your experiences before and after planning a session.

We are looking for Branches across the province with varying experiences with the ROSE Program. Whether you have participated in the ROSE Program or not we want to work with you! If this opportunity interests you and you would like to volunteer or to obtain more information on this exciting opportunity please respond as quickly as possible. Your timely response is appreciated! If you are interested, please let us know by October 21st so we can save a spot for you. We are looking forward to hearing from your Branch,

Carolyn Pletch

Julie Annett

FWIO Program, CEDRD ROSE Programing,

Grandma's Apron

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when weather was cold, she wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wipe many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood were brought into the house in that apron. From the garden, it carried allsorts of vegetables.

After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls. In the Fall the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that 'old-time apron' that served so many purposes.

Are you signed up for the Fall Courses yet? Get your name in to Shiela Gibbons as soon as possible. Some of the courses include ribbon embroidery, making a special card and decorating cakes. You will also enjoy the guest speaker. Get your registration in now.....