

RENFREW SOUTH DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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Here are some summaries from Lynn Ruigrok's newsletter for your information.

Good morning everyone!

I can not believe it is already September.....if you ever discover how to slow time down please let me know. What's happened since our last email?

The month of July:

Personally I attended two ROSE Workshops with Julie Annett, ROSE Program Manager, both for the Northern Area. The day started with the Officers Training workshops and in the afternoon Julie presented ROSE.

The members who attended were enthusiastic, asked lots of questions, and shared ideas. Everyone seemed to have a better appreciation of the position of President, (presented by Eastern Regional Board Director, Cecilia Maines) Secretary, (presented by Eastern Regional Board Director, Norine Empey) and Treasurer, (presented by Past President, Christine Reaburn). It was great for me to learn more about your positions than what I read on paper. I even learned that Secretaries are generally new members in their first year...its almost a prerequisite of joining. As well Julie Annett, ROSE Program Manager did an excellent job of explaining ROSE. When the workshop started members seemed a little confused about what ROSE was all about but by the end had a clear understanding and were excited to get home and work on their next ROSE Session.

In a nutshell ROSE is merely a marketing strategy. A one word marketing tool that tells the general public what Women's Institutes has done for over a hundred years. Its hard to catch their attention when you have to list everything that WI is about right up front. The word ROSE

catches their attention and has them asking you to explain it. The bonuses over and above what WI has always done is a person available 5 days a week for questions, help, to research partners and determine those that can provide WI with information that will assist members in educating their communities. That person also promotes ROSE to the province. If you look at the Board Highlights and note what is happening with the University of Guelph you will see what a great job Julie is doing. Her contacts at the University helped her get the door open and once she did that ROSE did the rest. They were so impressed with what Women's Institute members do in their communities that they wanted to become more involved. Julie is working on some other things with the University that if they come to be, will have you jumping up & down if you're not already! To think that a university gives permission for an Honours Thesis to be written on ROSE and then is so interested in the program that they are willing to evaluate it through their Masters Rural Planning Program!! You should all give yourselves a pat on the back!!! The recognition you so rightly deserve has started and can only continue to grow. I know you don't do the work for recognition, but to attract new members the general public needs to learn about you and your accomplishments. The competition for volunteers is very strong and people need to recognize you and understand what you are about. Their decision about where they want to put their volunteer time is made so much easier.

Please watch your next ROSE Garden for more information about the ROSE

Forum, as well check the website at www.fwio.on.ca/rose. Membership Update: We have 7 more new members since July making the total for this year 167. Congratulations!!! You are doing a great job out there of letting people know what you are all about. Good luck to all of you!! Scholarship Update: The 90th and Helen McKercher were awarded to Allison Kubiseski a member of Balsam Hill WI. Congratulations Allison and all the best with your studies! Quincy Story Writing Contest: Congratulations go out to the winner Loreen Ambler of Reid's Corners WI! The runner up is Catherine Freymond of the Victoria II WI. I am really looking forward to seeing the book next year.....it sounds so exciting and I know my Grandson will love it! The FWIO Quilt block Competition winners are as follows: 1st place - Doreen Brethour, 2nd place - Paula Johnson, and 3rd place Cassie Lovie. The blocks have been made into a quilt that will be raffled at Area Conventions, the Quilt Show at the International Centre and tickets will also be available at the office

Stoney Creek Historical Society's 13th Annual Christmas House Tour will include the **Erland Lee** (Museum) Home, December 5th, 2004, 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The tickets are \$12. I am really enjoying corresponding with you and hope that the information being sent is helpful.

Fall is quickly approaching and I hope that each of you enjoy the most colourful time of the year. Relax take a nice country drive and enjoy what mother nature has to offer.

Until next time,

Lynn

