



RENFREW SOUTH DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

NEWSLETTER

SEVENTH ISSUE - JANUARY 2005



Hello WI Members

I want to tell you about the wonderful Tea that we enjoyed at Islandview Suites in Arnprior on January 15th. Event Coordinators Susan McGregor and Sonja Campbell invited WI member to honour **Bernice Noblett** – a new resident at their complex. What a wonderful experience to hear how Bernice has made WI such an important part of her life – from a small farm girl in the western provinces to a young housewife in Combermere, and later Kars area – she told of her achievements (and there were many), and how WI held such a special place in her heart and in her life. What a pleasure to meet her and to listen to the many memories WI members shared with her. We are very fortunate to have her living in our midst and if you have a chance, please visit her to see what she has done to help the children in our country. You may be

pleasantly surprised. Bernice is pictured above with her daughter Shirley Walker from Arnprior.

We have been approached about including deaths in our newsletter. It has been discussed at the executive level and we felt that the risk of missing someone would create hurt feelings. We hope that each branch would remember their deceased members by holding the WI memorial service at the funeral home and doing something special to make the memory last.

We would like to recognize Ethel Collins as she celebrates her 90th birthday. Ethel, sharing her love of history, was the keeper of the District Tweedsmuir for many years. Congratulations Ethel on your special day!!

Enjoy this edition of your Newsletter and keep us informed of your news events.

Joanne McDonald and Jo-Anne Camelon

WI SCHOLARSHIPS

High school students entering post secondary education should contact their Guidance Dept. for application forms. Deadline is February 18th 2005.

WI members interested in continuing their education should log on to the FWIO website for more information. Remember you are never too young to learn

TSUNAMI RELIEF

At the Provincial Board Meeting Monday, January 10, 2005 it was decided that if Branches, Districts, Areas or individuals would like to offer help in the way of a cash donation to the Tsunami disaster FWIO would use the same procedure used for the disaster in Manitoba.

Cheques may be sent to the Provincial Office made payable to "Red Cross" with a notation in the memo line "Tsunami". The President will write a letter from FWIO and mail to Red Cross. Several mailings will be made rather than holding the cheques for a long period.

Red Cross offers a 10% administration fee which is the lowest fee available.

ROSE (RURAL ONTARIO SHARING EDUCATION) PROGRAM - ANNUAL REPORT

This year was a very busy and successful year for the ROSE Program. We traveled the province to bring Leadership Training to all of the Branches.

Through Area Training Workshops members had the opportunity to learn new information on ROSE and the duties of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Tips, tools and resources were shared and new friends were made. At each new Area, we were welcomed by our membership with excitement and warm hospitality.

In August, we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the ROSE Program at Georgian College with the "ROSES are Blooming" Forum. This two-day event brought two representatives from each District, ROSE Partners, Provincial Board and special guests together to network and share information.

Delegates joined us for a celebratory banquet, visited an information expo and attended several workshops. The evaluations indicate that this was a very successful event for WI - one that you would like to see continue in the future. I am so pleased to hear of the sessions that have been inspired by the Forum, it shows us it was successful in developing collaborations.

With the Trillium funding Women's Institutes were presented with the wonderful opportunity to change and expand the services of the ROSE Program.

Through our ROSE Partners, Board of Directors and membership we were able to take the bold step forward of expanding the program with the aim to not only meet the expectations of our members, but to ensure future success of this program. Over the past two years we have;

expanded from a health focused program to education focused, implemented a province-wide needs assessment, developed and distributed new tools and resources, trained over 1000 members, established eight new partnerships, undertaken several evaluative studies, expanded the website and most importantly educated thousands of people across the province on a wide variety of topics. As our funding draws to an end, we can be assured that the ROSE Program will continue to grow in the future providing new opportunities for Women's Institute to "bloom" in their communities.

As we look with great anticipation to 2005, I realize that we are in a position to continue to impact the educational services and materials available to communities across Ontario. Women's Institutes have committed to education for over 100 years. Through self-supporting education programs (like the ROSE Program) the philosophy that sparked the original Women's Institute movement still continues today. After traveling the province I know that the 9,000 members who make up this organization are as enthusiastic and committed as their predecessors were over 100 years ago. "Grant that we may realize that it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one."

Congratulations WI for all of our successes this past year! Please stay in touch in 2005,
Julie Wheeler, ROSE Program Manager –
January 2004