



RENFREW SOUTH DISTRICT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

EIGHTH ISSUE - MAY 2005

Hello WI Members

Yes, we have been a little tardy getting our newsletter out – but we were thinking of you and trying to come up with new and exciting news for everyone to read. Sorry for the delay but we hope that you will enjoy what we have come up with.

As we noted in other newsletters, we are looking to profile different WIs in our District. What better way to start than with the oldest WI – Burnstown. We hope that you will enjoy what has been put together for you to read. Who will be next – I look forward to getting an email or letters from you.

We also realize that there are lots of milestones being celebrated by various WIs in our District. Please send your write-ups and photos to us so we can highlight your special day.

In this busy world it seems harder and harder to stop and smell the roses. Taking a few minutes to reflect on what we have been given in our lives and to enjoy them with family and friends is something that we as women can pass on to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Not only should we tell of our past remembrances, it would be more important to leave a lasting story for all to enjoy. 'Don't have time' seems to crop up in the conversation again – but it might not be that hard. I suggest that you have a journal beside your favourite chair and as a special memory comes to mind, pick up your pen and record it. It may not be perfect – but it is a memory that others will love to hear or read years later. Once some of these chapters are completed, find someone who will transfer your memories onto a computer, include some pictures of your parents, siblings and family, and you will have your own history book. What a treasure! This is our challenge for each of you. Share your lives for all to read.

Spring has finally sprung – we think! Hope that everyone will be able to attend the District Annual in Arnprior on May 14th. Help keep WI alive in Renfrew South District. Be active, share our news, invite guests and enjoy your organization.

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

Joanne McDonald and Jo-Anne Camelon

Profile of a Branch Burnstown W.I.



Being the oldest branch in the district, Burnstown was asked to provide some information about our branch and what we have been up to last year. Here are a few facts:

1. Membership – 18, including one new member.
 - Life Members – 6, including 2 honorary life members
 - There is a good mix of background, interests, and ages, although we do not have any members in their twenties.
2. Attendance – 12 meetings last year with an average attendance of 10.5. One member had perfect attendance, while 5 only missed one meeting. There were 35 entries in our guest book.
3. Volunteer Hours – 1383 non-ROSE hours, 268 ROSE hours, totaling 1651 hours.

4. We had lots of eating, with dinner out and potlucks. We invited the District Executive to two of these meetings.
5. We had a membership drive, inviting the ladies of the area to an evening in the gardens of Marlene Schaly. Using the post office, we sent an invitation in the form of a flyer to every house on the RR 1 Burnstown route. Even though no new members were the result, the 10 or so new ladies that attended became aware of who we are and may join in the future.
6. Meeting programs were varied. We had a number of guest speakers, with members providing the rest of the programs.
 - We had 5 ROSE Programs - Topics included visiting the Waba museum, History of McNab Township and our ancestors, Remembrance Day and making Christmas cards, Government Info Centre, Renfrew Home Support
 - Other programs included: making floral decorations, a new massage technique, an International potluck, the War Veteran book and our Chinese Auction
7. Besides the District Annual and Area Convention, we attended two District Workshops, a ROSE workshop, and the Eastern Area Rally at Almonte.
8. Members also attended the lovely tea for Bernice Noblitt.
9. One member attended the two provincial conferences.
10. We sewed and made centerpieces for the Bonnechere Manor.
11. Two members had their stories published in the Women's War Stories book.
12. Four members were honoured in Petawawa with over 40 continuous years of WI membership.
13. We remembered our sick and shut-ins.
14. We participated in the quilt show at the Arnprior Museum and will be participating in the upcoming Quilt Display near Toronto.
15. We started our own quilt – an angel quilt.
16. We participated at all fairs, as well as other competitions.
17. We gave donations. Half went to WI projects with the rest going to Renfrew Hospital, two Home Supports, a school, and the Brownies
18. We didn't have any fundraising activities last year. Normally, though, we have at least one fundraising activity a year, such as card parties and catering.
19. We initiated a request to have Burnstown's scenic lookout brushed. Hopefully, this will be accomplished shortly.

In the very busy world around us, we take time to come to our meetings, relax and talk to friends and neighbours, learn a variety of things, and try to make a difference in the community. This is what the Women's Institute is all about.

Submitted by Irene Robillard