

What is Rural?

“When we still lived on the farm ...”

“When we still lived on the farm ...” a friend replied as I started to talk about our Rural Church Network. The obvious implication was that they no longer considered themselves “rural” after they retired to town.

Anything that isn’t “urban” falls under the rural community and rural church heading. People from villages, towns, farms, tourist regions, northern communities, and maritime communities all fall under the same heading so far as the Canadian Rural Church Network is concerned.

Furthermore, this is not just about people in agriculture. The townsfolk are vital members in helping keep our small communities and small churches functioning.

In these communities we tend to be more inclusive of each other across denominational lines. Churches are a vital part of the community, and vice versa. The landscape is an important contributor to our spiritual well-being. And rural folks readily seem willing to volunteer themselves for a needy cause.

Building relationships with each other, with the Creator and with the Creation are basic values rural residents care about.

Urban interests often tend to look on rural resources as being disposable. One astute observed noted: “We are used like canaries in the coal mine!”

Thank goodness we are strongly resilient and unbelievable stubborn. What an asset that our rural pride is so pervasive. We are survivors!

(notes by Joyce Sasse, October 2009)

Published in CRCN-CiRCLe M Newsletter #2 (2009)