

## First Limberlost reunion held

The first ever school reunion of former students, spouses, and teachers of S.S. #9 Albemarle, Limberlost School was held on Saturday, June 11, 2005.

Limberlost School was opened September, 1923. Previous to this the township council was of the opinion that any children from Limberlost who wanted a formal education could make their way on foot or by horseback either to Pike Bay or Mar.

The gathering of 56 people started with a potluck meal.

One of the first teachers was Margaret (Shier) Hardman who taught from 1930-1934. She sent her regrets being unable to attend.

The oldest student to attend was Sadie (Thomas) McLeod, who had gone to school in the 1930's.

Two former students, Jean (Hilditch) Gooderham and Grace (Cunningham) Hindman also taught there later.

Three other former teachers, Vernice Baker, Jean (Lamont) Gilchrist, and Sheila (Galloway) Hatt were also in attendance. Sydney Lowndes, who lives in B.C. was unable to attend.

The afternoon was spent in renewing

acquaintances, having pictures taken with former teachers and reminiscing. Teachers had an opportunity to find out what work careers their students had followed.

Their was a display of pictures, old books, and even some report cards.

Memories shared were of hikes on Arbour Day, hot lunches at school, ball games and other games in winter and school pranks.

Attendees came from New Liskeard, Newmarket, Brampton, Kitchener, Chesley, Port Elgin, Meaford and the surrounding area.

A special guest was Helen Steip whose life has touched most of those who were in attendance.

Special recognition was given to two former students who had passed away after the planning of this event: Jim Rodgers in October 2004, and Dona Ashcroft in April 2005. Dona had been a student at the opening of the school. A former teacher, Miss Olive McKeachnie, who had taught from 1934-1940, and having taught a number of those present, passed away in January 2005.

Many expressed appreciation for an opportunity to look back over an important part of their lives.

June 22  
2005



Some of the former students of Limberlost School pose for a picture. Left to right, Bruce Hardman, John Ashcroft, Ruby Forbes, George Ashcroft, Rita McLay and former teacher Jean Lamont Gilchrist. She was teacher from 1947 to 48.