

Slate River WI encouraged residents to stitch in time

Slate River, a community just west of the City of Thunder Bay, will have a unique reminder of Ontario's bicentennial year, thanks to the Slate River Women's Institute.

Mary Germain, a branch member and councillor in Paipoonge Township (Slate River is part of Paipoonge) suggested a community quilt as a bicentennial project at a WI meeting. Anyone who resided in Slate River could buy a quilt block for \$1 and decorate it according to their family's background. Later, the blocks were sewn together as a wall-hanging.

Slate River President Mrs. Nellie Fulton, said all 96 blocks were completed and returned. Most people included their family name on the block and embroidered in liquid or gloss, what their family does or their family's heritage. For instance, a strawberry farmer included berries on the block while a logger featured a truck carrying logs.

Mrs. Lois Heald, curator of the Paipoonge Museum gratefully accepted the finished wall-hanging which will be on display in the museum this summer. "I'm sure it will generate a lot of interest for many years to come," said Mrs. Heald.

A special open house tea was held in March for Slate River residents to view their handiwork in the completed wall-hanging.



Mrs. Nellie Fulton (right) presents the Slate River Bicentennial Wall-Hanging to Paipoonge Museum curator Mrs. Lois Heald. The wall-hanging features 96 small blocks, representing different families in the Slate River Valley and one large centre block, bearing the bicentennial logo.

All of the good things that we do
Like little ships put out from shore
Hurry along before the waves
And then in a twinkling are seen no more
But who can tell how bravely they'll sail
Or whether the way will be long or short
And who can tell in what happy heart
An act of kindness will come to port.



~ Jean Kyles Mc Manus
-scripsit Jeanne Davies-

WI member Jeanne Davies not only represents Thunder Bay at the FWIO Board, but also spends time at her hobby, calligraphy. Jeanne prepares many items for local Women's Institutes and submitted this poem, called *Little Ships*, to share with *Home & Country* readers.