

Preserving South River's History

It was the summer of 1972 when Helen Brewes and her eight-year-old daughter Cathy were at their cottage near Forest Lake. Helen's dear friend Doris Gruzuk was selling "pull tickets" on a quilt raffle for the South River Branch of the Women's Institute. Mother and daughter each bought a ticket. Until they are pulled from a book that contains an array of prices, the cost of "pull tickets" aren't known. Helen recalls that when she pulled her ticket, it cost 25 cents. But when her daughter followed suit, the price of the youngster's ticket was only one cent.

When the raffle was finally held, her daughter won the quilt, and for just a penny! However, it wasn't exactly the type of quilt a little girl would want on her bed. So, Helen carefully put the quilt away to ensure it was preserved properly.

For the past 30 years, Helen Brewes of Powassan has been preserving an important part of South River's history. [In late March], Helen merged the past with the present when she unveiled the quilt to some members of the South River Women's Institute who actually had a hand in making it – a fundraising item that was made to celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary. Brewes now hopes to donate the historic quilt to the Village of South River, so that it may be enjoyed for many decades to come.



Shown with the quilt and its owner Helen Brewes (second from right) are some of the South River WI members who worked on the quilt more than three decades ago. From left to right are Annie Leighton, Norma Wager, Uneita Russell and Ethel Maeck.

Story and photo by Nancy Barner for a March 2002 edition of the *Almaguin News*.

A 24 Hour Quilting Bee is Sew Much Fun!



Seyvern Bridge WI members organized an overnight, 24-hour quilting bee with the goal of finishing two quilts. "It's quilt immersion," said member June Hart. Members were planning to stay the night, rolling their bedrolls out on the wood floor of the hall, just like an old-fashioned slumber party. "The ones who are staying over have probably all been Girl Guides," laughed member Heather Smith. A second quilting bee to be held on a weekend is being considered for those members who work and couldn't spend the Thursday night. Several Seyvern Bridge WI members are shown getting down to business.

Photo and story by Julie Langpeter for a January 2002 edition of the *Ontario Packer & Times*.

Ada Handley Honoured

One of Burnt River's best-loved citizens, Ada Handley, was honoured with a surprise party held at the Burnt River-Somerville Centre. Over 125 friends, neighbours and family came to honour Ada for her volunteer activities. Ada has served as a Sunday school teacher, church treasurer, Community Care volunteer and member and officer of the Burnt River Women's Institute. Mayor Art Truax presented her with a certificate from the City of Kawartha Lakes in recognition of her Life Membership in the WI. Chris Hodgson also sent congratulations on behalf of the Government of Ontario.

Submitted by Audrey Thrasher, President, Burnt River WI, Victoria East.