



The Burnstown Women's institute recently honoured long-time members. Standing from left to right are Jean Denniston, 40 years, Eileen Brydges, 20 years, Jessie Fraser, 30 years. Seated is 30-year-member Carmel Stewart. Missing are 20-year-members Goldie Moore and Bridget Mulvihill, and 40-year-member Adele McLeod.

## Burnstown WI honours members

The December meeting of the Burnstown Women's Institute was full of good food and fun, while honouring ladies that have been members of the branch for 20 or more years.

Held at Burnstown United Church on Saturday, December 6, 1997, the meeting started with members, families and friends enjoying a huge variety of dishes at a potluck supper. Afterwards, a short business meeting was conducted, with motions to give donations to Renfrew Hospital's Tree of Lights Campaign and the Renfrew Collegiate Institute Drama Club.

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Women's Institute, the Burnstown branch presented members with year pins. Although ladies receive a life membership after 25 years of consecutive membership, the branch wanted to honour members who reached a milestone of 20, 30 or 40 years, whether or not these

years were consecutive. As Irene Robillard, the branch's public relations officer, provided details, vice-president Kay Reid presented the pins.

Twenty-year pins were presented to Eileen Brydges, Bridget Mulvihill and Goldie Moore. Eileen has been a member for exactly 20 years, while Bridget has been a member for 23 years.

Goldie has been a member of the WI for many years but has been coming to the Burnstown branch for 25 years, having transferred her membership from another branch.

Thirty-year pins were presented to Jessie Fraser and Carmel Stewart.

Although Jessie joined the branch the earliest of all present members, she took some time off to raise her family and has been a member for 36 years. Carmel has been a member for 38 consecutive years.

Forty-year pins were presented to Jean Denniston and Adele McLeod. Both joined in April 1957 and became

life members in 1984. This centennial year marks their 40th year with the branch.

Throughout the program everyone sang Christmas songs with guest Phyllis Dool providing the music. Pat Maika conducted a guessing contest of wrapped gifts with the winners receiving the gift.

The evening ended with entertainment by the Blue Plate Troupe from Renfrew. They performed a number of skits, written by their own members.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the humour and good fun provided. A poor pharmacist tried to explain the new pricing of seniors' prescriptions, two ladies tried to find the perfect renter, a senior enjoyed his day of freedom from the Manor, and a grandfather brought his friend "Bobby" to meet his daughter and family.

Watch for the next meeting. Visitors are always welcome.

## Guests bring Nunavut home to Burnstown

By NOREEN SMITH  
Special to the Mercury

June 27/2000

At its June meeting, the Burnstown Women's Institute hosted the Lochwinnoch branch for an evening of education and fun.

Burnstown president, Eileen Brydges, reviewed the history and geography of Nunavut, Canada's vast new territory. Gordon Wallace, one of the evening's guest speakers, understands all too well the vastness of Nunavut. This resident of White Lake has been a First Air pilot for the past 20 years and as a result has become very familiar with the territory. The airline, operating out of Carp, serves the 2,000-mile-deep by 1,500-mile-wide territory.

Tourism is the second largest industry in Nunavut, but getting there does not come cheap. Expect to pay \$1,800 for a return flight to the territory and you certainly won't travel in a half empty plane; what space is not taken up by passengers is used for cargo. The high cost of transportation is reflected in the price of goods brought in from the 'south'. For example, expect to pay \$9 for 4 litres of milk.

The other airline that serves this vast remote area is Air Inuit and both airlines provide the interesting and informative magazine 'Above and Beyond' for inflight reading.

Renfrew resident Season Osborne, editor of 'Above and Beyond', was the other guest speaker. Osborne distributed recent editions of this magazine to the audience.

Two articles in the most recent edition highlight how the old and the new come together in Nunavut.

One describes the filming of the ancient Inuit oral history/legend of Atanarjuat or 'The Fast Runner'. It is the first television movie produced in an aboriginal language, in this case Inuktitut, which is the mother tongue of our most northerly citizens. Another article looks at a modern day Norwegian-led adventure retracing the northern scientific expedition of a captain from Norway a century ago.

Osborne charmed the gathering with stories of first impressions of Iqaluit (formerly known as Frobisher Bay and now capital of Nunavut), as well as Igloolik, Cape Dorset and Resolute Bay. With enthusiasm and humour she described her first contact with the people of the North and activities such as dog races and throat signing.

Among other topics, she touched upon the cultural history of the land and gave an explanation of the reason for the inukchuk on the Nunavut flag. The inukchuk, which is a series of stones set one upon the other so as to resemble a man, is a traditional signpost on this vast land.

Education is an important mission of The Federated WI mandate. As an organization of personal growth and community action it always welcomes new members. Anyone interested in joining the Burnstown branch can do so by calling public relations officer Noreen Smith at 752-0566.