

County's history swept over the rug at Bruce County Museum

By KELSEY UNDERWOOD

The latest exhibit at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre brings people the history of the county through rugs.

"Coming Back to the Bruce" is open now until Oct. 6.

There are rugs on display made and collected by people in Bruce County. Some are new, just finished this year, and others are quite old, made as early as the 1930s.

It was mostly farm women who made these hooked mats to provide warmth on the floors of their houses in the 1800s in eastern Canada.

Woolen underwear, sweaters, and blankets were cut in strips then pulled through a burlap feed bag with a hook. The newest rug would start off in the parlour and make its way to the entrance as the years went by.

One rug was made in 1929 by the bride's mother, to be used as a wedding rug. It is made with heavy yarn from their sheep, dyed with Diamond Dyes and hooked into a pattern of a heron, water lilies, and bullrushes.

Sybil Mercer and Gwen Becker are the curators of this exhibit. They said they chose to use rugs because they make them and wanted to share their passion with other people. "There's a lot of history in Bruce," said Mercer. They chose the

number of towns celebrating milestone anniversaries this year.

The museum is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. For more information, call 519-797-2080.



Curators Gwen Becker, left, and Sybil Mercer stand with a rug of a map of Bruce County. The rug was made by Doreen Atchison of Allentord in 2008.

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DOREEN ATCHISON
A MEMBER OF ZION-AMABEL
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
DISPLAYED HER MANY RUG
HOOKING PROJECTS.

← SHE GAVE A DEMONSTRATION
ON HOW SHE CUTS THE MATERIAL.



RUG HOOKING OF BRUCE COUNTY



PHOTOS TAKEN BY JOAN RUTH