

## Old schoolhouse recalled with plaque



**SCHOOL DAYS:** Isobelle Quinton and Edith Smith watch as Rev. Peter Simmons reads the plaque dedicated to the old Bent River school, which closed in 1912. (Photo courtesy Nancy Thompson)

**By Nancy Thompson**

Special to The Times

**BENT RIVER** — The Bent River Women's Institute led a dedication last Sunday of a plaque commemorating the history of the "old" Bent River school, which operated from 1887 to 1912.

More than 50 people gathered at the W.I. hall on Rosseau Lake Road 1 to walk or take the Bent River Taxi service (ATVs and a tractor pulling trailers) up the long hill to the site of the first Bent River school.

Councillor Susan Pryke brought greetings from the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Reverend Peter Simmons of the

St. Stephen's parish officiated at the dedication with prayers, a short history of the old school and mention of the late Eileen Greer, who was instrumental in having the plaque purchased and erected.

The original lot was purchased for the sum of 25 cents and the school erected for \$100, with the workmen supplying their own nails.

The plaque cost \$500, an indication of how times have changed.

The dedication was followed by fruit breads and beverages back at the hall. The Bent River Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History was on display for comments and corrections.