Five area residents presented with E

Five area residents who were nominated earlier this year to receive Ontario Bicentennial medals, were presented with their awards during a special ecumenical service Sunday in Pembroke.

Basil Ross of Beachburg, Flo Cochrane of Bromley township, Harold Dobson of Cobden, Herb Ross of Ross township, and Evelyn Moore-Price of Westmeath township, were among approximately 50 Renfrew County residents who received medals and bicentennial certificates during a presentation service at the Zion Lutheran Church.

The medals were presented by the Ontario Government over the weekend to 1,984 individuals across the province in recognition of their volunteerism and community service. Each municipal council, Indian Band and local service board was asked to put forth nominations for the awards.

The medals were presented in 30 separate ceremonies across Ontario on Saturday and Sunday. Representing the government at the Pembroke presentation service was the Honourable Reuben C. Baetz, Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

Along with the medal recipients, the church was overflowing with about 300 guests and dignitaries. Renfrew North MPP Sean Conway, and Renfrew South MPP Paul Yakabuski both took part in the service and the medal presentations. Reeves and mayors from across Renfrew County were out in full force to witness the presentation of medals to recipients from their communities. The Deep River Symphony Orchestra provided music prior to the service.

The service began with a welcome to the Zion Lutheran Church from the Rev. David Metzger. He paid tribute to the medal recipients; men and women whom he said have worked to make their communities enlightened and better places in which to live. "Your example is an inspiration to us all."

The Reverend Metzger was assisted in the service by the Reverend Ken Ritsema of the Zion Christian Reformed Church, Pembroke; the Reverend Dwight Patterson of the First Baptist Church, Pembroke; and the Reverend Father Howard Shabot, Dean of the Roman Catholic Diocese, Pembroke.

Reuben Baetz delivered the formal address to the assembled group, speaking about Ontario's Bicentennial year. He said it has been a time of "happy occasions," a time to celebrate "our great heritage".
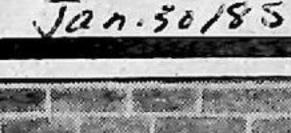
Mr. Baetz said that the Bicentennial year, which is now drawing to a close, has been a big success. He said that approximately 5,000 Bicentennial events have been held over the past 12 months in 800 different communities across the province.

He said that the presentation of the Bicentennial medals was one of the final events of the Bicentennial year, and he added that through the service "we salute and pay tribute to all the volunteers in the province of Ontario".

Mr. Baetz said that the medal recipients are "truly the salt of the earth", pointing out that most had gone about their work over the years without any thought of reward.

He reminded the audience that the people receiving the medals "best represent the ideals of volunteerism and community service". However, he said they are only representatives of hundreds of thousands of other volunteers. "We can see the results of tourism wherever we look," he said. He said that the ceremony honoured the volunteer work of not only the medal recipients, but all those thousands of volunteers working in Renfrew County and across Ontario.

In describing the medals,

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Our Sun Reflections photograph this week was brought to us by Mrs. Viola Gilmour of Cobden and was taken about 1918 at Ross township SS number nine on the Queen's Line. In the front row are: Cora Pettigrew, Iva Orr, Erma Pettigrew, Clarence Orr, Elford Ross, Derwood Bennett, Ronald Freeland, Albert Gibson, Harris Bulmer, Alfred Poulton, Vera Bennett. Second row: Viola Wallace, Mabel McWade, Bobby Neil, Bert Ross, Newton Ireton and Eva Scott. In the third row are: Beatrice Wallace, Millie Ross, Ethel Cowie, Edna Bulmer, Annie Ross, Thressa Scott, Hazel Ireton and Viola Ross. In the back row are teacher Ruth McNab, Maggie Bulmer, Pearl Ross, Ethel Gibson and Ruby Gibson.