

# 60th WI Anniversary

1987

October 2 was the date set for the 60th Anniversary of the Temiskaming Centre District Women's Institutes held at the new Charlton-Savard School.

It was disappointing to see that the weather turned so cold and miserable, preventing some interested members and friends from attending. Once inside the school, the weather was forgotten as everyone greeted each other cheerfully and settled in for a time to reminisce and to enjoy music, songs and social visiting.

Dorothy and Hartley Houston were present, so the hall was soon filled with music and songs. Many old favorites brought back memories of so many happy times, not only in the Savard area but in all the other areas where music and song was always a big part of the Women's Institutes activities, as well as at dances, meetings, reunions and whenever a group met for fun and games or even at work bees. What a lift in spirits song and music can give a group.

During the evening Ena Bott and Florence Dudgeon were presented with Birthday Cards and Anniversary cards were given to Hartley and Dorothy Houston and sent to Richard and Bernice Bowman, signed by all those attending.

Some of the original Women's Institute Branches have disbanded due to members moving away, passing on or not being able to attend the meetings that they so enjoyed in years gone by. Time does take its toll and changes are inevitable. However, members that did attend had a great time. By their facial expressions and their actions you could see that this was a happy reunion among the Women's Institute members and friends.

The Temiskaming District Centre Women's Institute, was organized 60 years ago. At that time there were many Branch Women's Institutes. The Savard Women's Institute was organized over 61 years ago and is still active, although there have been some trying times due to members or their families being ill or hospitalized.

It was noted by a neighbouring Branch that the Savard Women's Institute members had allowed some girls still attending school to become members of their Institute Branch as they helped in sweeping and washing the floors, stairs and windows at the school after school hours. It was pointed out by a neighbouring Women's Institute member that one of these girls was

OCT. 2—The Centre Temiskaming Women's Institutes will be celebrating their 60th anniversary at the new Charlton-Savard School starting at 7:30 p.m. All W.I. members, past and present, along with friends are cordially invited to attend.



From left to right are members from the beginning of the Women's Institute in Temiskaming. They are Alacoque Ryan, Anna Cozac, and Ena Bott. (Supplied photo) 1986

Alacoque (Sullivan) Ryan; who therefore has been an active member for over 61 years. The other girls had moved away in years gone by, but Alacoque married a local young man and they purchased farms close by the Savard School. So she was able to attend meetings, card parties and other events put on by the Savard Women's Institute.

We are always happy when former members can attend our meetings or our special events. We try to keep in touch with cards at Christmas and on other occasions. This is one way our Branch Women's Institutes can let former members know that we think of them and really care. We wish many more happy and productive years for all the Women's Institute Branches.

Agnes Arts read a poem that she had written. Alma Cozac made an Anniversary cake, decorated by her daughter Eleanor, which all enjoyed. Some antique articles were on display. Many interesting decorations on the walls were admired. It was a lovely comfortable place for our 60th Anniversary.

Jean Rodgers attended the registration desk and gave out name tags.

We are wondering how many Branches in South Temiskaming District have ladies who were members for 60 years or over. There could easily be several of them.

