

Savard Women's Institute report

1989

by Jean Rodgers

May/89

"Take time to laugh, it is the music of the soul" was the motto for the Savard Women's Institute when they met for their regular meeting May 9. This meeting was held at Northview Nursing Home in Englehart in honour of a W.I. Life Member Ella McFarlane who is in residence at the nursing home. Present were four members: Helen Dorrell, Agnes Arts, Bertha Axcell, Jean Rodger and Life Member Ena Bott. Former members also attending were Kay Polmateer, Helen McAuley, Isobel McFarlane, and Jean McDonald, also a former Savard neighbour, Gladys Rodgers, now living in Englehart and a visitor Leona Axcell from Manitoba. Anna Cozac, formerly of the Englehart W.I. and special guest Ella McFarlane made a total of 13 in attendance.

The president Helen Dorrell presided, welcoming everyone and quoting the motto. The Women's Institute Ode was sung and the Mary Stewart Collect recited in unison. All were invited to answer the roll call by telling of "something funny that happened to you." Many humorous events were recalled, some not so funny at the time but laughable later. There were unexpected skunk and bear encounters, dough that rose out of the pans, embarrassing moments and identical twin mix-ups.

The minutes of the April annual meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved. Ticket sales on the afghan donated by Laura Fallofield to raise funds for community work of the Institute are reported doing well. The draw will take place at the Charlton fairgrounds at the summer Fest on Saturday, July 1.

Correspondence included the agenda for the W.I. District Annual to be held at the Rebecca Hall in Englehart, Thursday, May 25 with Englehart W.I. as hostess. The theme is "Shaping Our Tomorrow Today." Each branch is to provide four to six items for the auction sale which is an annual fun event at the annuals. There will be recycled article tables for which the members are asked to bring something, to be or has been, recycled.

New business - the Savard W.I. provides a gift of a book, annually, for the most improved student at Charlton-Savard School which is presented at the graduation exercises in June and the choice of a book will be decided soon. The competition for folk-lore stories is open until June 15 with information in the Home and Country magazine. Booklets on Safety, the Consumer, by the Canadian Standard Association were distributed to all present. The Women's Institute is urged to promote the need for more agricultural knowledge to be taught in our schools.

The staff of the nursing home kindly provided a tray with coffee and tea, cups and saucers for "tea-time." A variety of home-baked cookies brought by the members were enjoyed by all.

The program was a demonstration by Bertha Axcell of tying scarves in an interesting variety of ways; making a scarf a very pleasing accessory to any costume.

A sing-song of old favourites which included singing Happy Birthday to Ella McFarlane who was 89 years old exactly one month ago and to Anna Cozac whose birthday had been the day before, brought the afternoon meeting to a close.

The next meeting is tentatively Bryan's hon roll call as plants.

