

Thérèse Tailleur, une tisserande accomplie! (texte de Gertrude Thibeault, photos Eugenia G.)

Originally from Kapuskasing, northern Ontario, Thérèse raised her family, worked outside the home and found time to weave, take courses and teach weaving to many northerners. She was, and still is, a very busy and energetic lady.

She started taking courses in 1975 and later, with a grant from the Ontario Arts Council, was able to give tapestry courses to children.

From 1990 to 2001, she continued giving courses in basic weaving and different techniques to school children, brownies and teenagers.

She then moved on to teach adults and seniors.

She became responsible for the weaving room at the Centre de Loisirs of Kapuskasing. This weaving room has 13 looms, 3 of which are 100 inches. 230 members came regularly to take courses from Thérèse, consult with her and she was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it no matter what time of day. AS an example, here are some statistics of what was produced under her direction:

- 125 yards for tea towels, all woven in 2 to 3 weeks
- 235 yards for catalognes, all woven in 9 months

Ten years ago, she moved to Cornwall to be closer to her 2 children and 5 grandchildren. When she moved, she was looking for a place to weave even though she has her own looms at home. Since she was a member of Union Culturelle des Franco-Ontariennes, (Women's Institute) since 1981, she wanted to continue with this group. At her first meeting, what did she see in the room? Three looms: one 100 inches, one 60 inches and the other 45 inches. All three were not in use.

She started to give courses and now this center in Cornwall, under her direction, is a place for people to meet, weave and create wonderful things.

She has also participated in many exhibitions and has taught in almost all the small towns of eastern Ontario.

She is a member of the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners of Ontario, the Guilde Aurore Boréal of Kapuskasing. She is the president of Union Culturelle de Cornwall, president of the Daughters of Isabella and the Golden Age Club.

Both she and her husband are enjoying a great retirement life. Denis, her husband, has also become a weaver and is very helpful fabricating weaving equipment and repairing of looms. He has also invented a motorized warp winder.

What she is most proud of and so is her family and friends. Thérèse always wanted to have her grade 12 diploma but sometimes life is not always as we plan it. I'm very pleased to tell you she did obtain her High School diploma this past June, proving once again, her resilience and determination.

I asked her a few days ago, how many catalognes she has woven. Her reply was: Oh! Five hundred or more!