

After considering Dryden's beginnings I designed this bonnet-style hat.

Each element of the bonnet represents the one of the enduring forces of the old Dryden Settlement.

Remembering back over the 20 years in which I was privileged that I have lived in Dryden, I have had the privilege of getting to know and learn from some of these energetic strong women. These women and others before them who established homes and raised families

Some of the women worked outside the home bringing in an income. Others worked at home keeping impressive gardens and live stock while their husbands worked on the railway and in the pulp and paper industry.

For the last 100 years women have passed on their skills of handy-work. This skill enabled the families to have clothing and gave houses the delicate women's touch that made them homes. Groups such as the women's institute, church groups and the Agriculture Society were a gathering place and enable the women to have a way teach younger generations the skills needed to keep Dryden strong and healthy.

Each of these groups built strong bonds between women and the outlying communities. They could encourage and help each other. Additionally, the women hosted teas dances and community socials which gave families and husbands a way to relax and survive the long winters.

The base of the bonnet is form from a sheet of pulp manufactured at Dryden's mill and represent all the hard working people who settled Dryden. The vintage crocheted pieces were all made by women of this area. The individual pieces of work embody all of the founding women of Dryden.

The many snow flake shapes worked are representative of the 100 years of long cold winters survived with hard work and gentle touch of the pioneer women. The hand worked flowers are popping up all over the bonnet and represent the gardens, farms, and food grown at the same time finding time for the pretty and flowery things in life. The silk ties the bonnet in place reminds us that it is because of the hard work and love Dryden's pioneer women put into establishing our city, that we a century later have the privilege of living here in Northwestern Ontario and enjoy the beautiful aspects of our Sunset Country.

I dedicate this bonnet to a few of the women I have met and learned from and now I can thankfully and graciously call friends:

Mable Franklin, Anne Groves, Dolly Cole, Edna Wilson, Edith Froome, Krissy Nickel, Grace Trist, Velma Henderson, and Dorthy Shupe.

Submitted by Ann Puddicombe