

## ROUND HILL W.I. HOSTS A SPECIAL GUEST

SENATOR PAULA SIMONS was guest speaker at the Round Hill Branch October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting hosted by Helen Andrews. During this time of election campaigning, Senators, being independent, attend events where politics are NOT discussed. Because Senator Simons family was part of Round Hill in the 1920's and '30s, the Senator was actually coming back to her roots. Helen took a chance that Paula would be available to attend her meeting.

We had a lesson in senate protocol, history, how bills get passed, etc. She described the process of applying to be in the Senate; how many senators are chosen from the various parts of Canada; and the fact that all Senators are non-partisan. Apparently former Prime Minister Stephen Harper wanted to have elected senators, but this would have involved changes to our Constitution.

What interesting history she shared with us, her grandparents having settled here, raising six children, while serving the community with the store her grandfather opened.

She spoke about her grandfather opening a "General Store"; how Round Hill was such a multicultural area that had a store, a coal mine, as well as "Cheese Factory;" "Wow", she said.

Multicultural....she mentioned the diversity of nationalities which included Scottish, English, Ukrainian, Polish, Norwegian, Scandinavian, French/Metis and one Polish Family. Her father that her grandfather was a special officer as he was called the "commissioner of Oaths" or so it sounded. Actually her was the commissioner of "OATS"= the Russian Polish accent was so prevalent!

Music was involved in her grandparents home, as the first piece of furniture moved in was a piano. Eventually Senator Paula's uncle Tommy was founder of the "Tommy Banks Orchestra". He eventually became a Senator.

She shared fondly the "homecomings" in 1980, and 2005—many tents, trailers, pies, and baseball games involved.