



Rosanne Middleton, 18, of Bayfield, one of nine students who spent 10 weeks compiling a history of the hamlet of Benmiller, shows the result of her labors: an acrylic-on-masonite mural now hanging in Central Huron Secondary School in Clinton. The team also produced two other murals and a written history. (Photo by Trott)

## Huron students complete history of Benmiller

CLINTON — A team of nine Huron County secondary school students and graduates has completed a 10-week study of the history of the Colborne Township hamlet of Benmiller.

The project, initiated by the Huron County board of education at the request of Benmiller artist and historian J. W. McLaren, yielded a written outline of the founding of the tiny

community in the 1830s and its development.

While six of the students worked with Mr. McLaren on researching and writing the outline, three others produced separate murals to illustrate Benmiller's historical highlights.

One mural, hanging in the foyer of Central Huron Secondary School in Clinton, was painted with acrylics on masonite by Rosanne Middleton of RR 2, Bayfield, now a

commercial art student at Fanshawe College, London.

Her three-panel painting depicts scenes of rustic life including farming, dressmaking, butter churning and shoemaking. The centre panel is a tribute to the area's first settler, Michael Fischer, and includes a view of his home, still occupied 137 years later.

Sisters Cheryl and Carla Elliott, both Goderich District High School students, each produced a mural on the same Benmiller theme. Cheryl's was given to the Goderich high school and Carla's to the F. E. Madill Secondary School in Wingham.

The written outline was compiled in manuscript form but printing costs so far have precluded publication. Members of the writ-

ing team were Ken Doherty of Port Albert, Cathy Benjamins of Blyth, Julie Vallance of London, Randy Van Stempvoort of Lucknow, Anne Newington of Clinton and Barbara Fisher of Benmiller.

Costs of the project and student salaries were underwritten by an Opportunities For Youth grant.