

Local centenarian celebrates; is mourned three days later

On Saturday, less than a week after she enjoyed her 100th birthday celebrations among family and friends, Mrs. Ida McCallum died in Ormstown, the day after she fell and broke a hip.

"She went out in a blaze of glory," grandson Donald Elder of Athelstan said on the weekend. "She had a great time at both her birthday parties, visiting with people she hadn't seen in years. But when she fell Friday, the doctors felt they couldn't risk surgery, and she died the next day of complications."

"She was awake and cheerful when we went to visit her on Friday evening," said Donald's wife Lois. "She knew each of us and even shared a little joke."

"Nana", as she was known by family and non-relatives alike, had shown great courage and resourcefulness all through her 100 years.

Born Ida Lock on April 6, 1894 in England, she came to Canada in 1917 with her husband. Three children were born after the family settled on the Brook Rd. in Hinchinbrooke, but within a few years, the husband was no longer in the picture, and Mrs. McCallum used her sewing skills to



Mrs. Ida McCallum thoroughly enjoyed her second 100th birthday party, held at the Ormstown Centre d'Accueil April 6. (Photo: J.T.)

sewing skills to support her family in an era when it was even harder than today to be the head of a single-parent family.

Not a seamstress
"Nana always stressed that she was not a seamstress — she was a dressmaker," Donald Elder recalled. "It seems that, especially in England at the time, there was an important distinction between the two."

After working for several years in Huntingdon, Mrs. McCallum got a job at Eaton's department store in Montreal, where she worked in a huge room with about 30 other women, doing alterations for the store's customers.

"I remember being taken to visit Nana at work, and all the other women there would give us nickels — she was proud, I think, to show us off," said Donald. His mother, Jean Elder, now of Roxboro, and Winona McMullen of Pierrefonds are Mrs. McCallum's two daughters; her son James died in 1984.

She worked at Eaton's until 1956 when she retired and returned to Huntingdon. After living in an apartment on Hunter St., she moved to the Foyer joie de vivre seniors' residence, and then to the Centre d'Accueil in Ormstown about five years ago.

"She always made her own way," her grandson said. Mrs. McCallum, although slightly deaf, remained full of energy and vitality all her long life.

Two parties

Her first centenary celebration was Saturday Apr. 2 when the Elders hosted a gathering at their Ridge Rd. home. Greetings arrived from the Prime Minister, the Governor-general, and Queen Elizabeth ("She was especially impressed with the last," Donald recalled).

Among the guests were a god-daughter Joyce Langston from Samia, Ont., and a former Eaton's co-worker, a Mrs. Robb from Rosemere, neither of whom Mrs. McCallum had seen for many years. Local guests included Mrs. Sarah Beaudin, Sam and Kitty Stone, Lily McConville, and nephew Ted Lock and wife Marguerite ("Bud") of Montreal, and well as Mrs. McCallum's two daughters and other members of the Elder family.

On Wednesday Apr. 6, residents and staff of the Centre d'Accueil gathered along with family members to enjoy another cake and music from Cecil Gibbons and Esther Lang. Animated and smiling, Mrs. McCallum greeted people and accepted small gifts, corsages and flowers from well-wishers.

"But when I think of Nana, I will always remember her sewing," said her grandson on Sunday. (J.T.)

Births and Deaths

Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams, Marriage Notices, Engagements, Announcements.

DIED

McCALLUM, Mrs. Ida - At the Ormstown Centre d'Accueil passed away on April 10, 1994 Mrs. Ida McCallum (née Lock) of Huntingdon in her hundred and first year. Dear mother of Mrs. Jean Elder, Winona McMullen and the late James McCallum. She leaves to mourn several grand children and great grand children. Burial at the Athelstan Protestant Cemetery this spring. Funeral arrangements by Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils, 170, Chateauguay, Huntingdon.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express sincere thanks to Dr. Lemieux, all the doctors and nursing staff of the Montreal General Hospital. Special thanks to Rev. Arlen Bonnar. To all my family, friends, and neighbours thanks for all the cards and gifts; to all the members of the Craft and Recreation Centre; to the Ladies Aid Society of the Athelstan Presbyterian Church and to Rev. Douglas Lennox.

Ethel Anderson

CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Gladys Robb wishes to express their sincere thanks to all for their love and support at the time of the loss of our sister Gladys, also for flowers and donations received in her memory. A special thank you to Dr. Aiken and the staff at the Barrie Memorial Hospital for the excellent care given her while a patient there.

The Taylor Families

Mrs. Jeannette Chabot and her children Marie-Paule, Lise, Huguette, Claude wish to thank all the people who showed them marks of sympathy at the time of the death of their father, M. Siméon Chabot, who died on March 25, 1994. Either by mass offerings, flowers, visits or attendance at the funeral. Please consider these thanks as personal.

I would like to thank Dr. Lemieux, the staff of the Barrie Memorial Hospital, my friends and family for the good care, cards, visits and good wishes I received while a patient there. Also thanks to Mrs. Galipeau and her family for accepting me as a resident.

Sincerely
Vera Hamilton

IN MEMORIAM

CURRAN, Keith - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who passed away April 15, 1991. Time may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay. Sadly missed by Reta, Dorothy, John, Cheryl, Connie & Crystal

DINEEN, Leo - In loving memory of our dear Dad who passed away April 8, 1973.

It's lonely here without you
We miss you more each day
For life is not the same for us
Since you were called away.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.
Sadly missed and always remembered by his children, Susan, William, Carol, Roy, Gary and James

FERNS, Donald - In memory of my dear husband who passed away April 13, 1991. The gift in this life so precious and rare Is the love that a husband and wife can share, We shared that love you and I

From the day we wed 'till the day you died.
You cared for me more than words can say,
Your care, your love, I could never repay.
A prayer, a tear, 'till the end of time,
For a wonderful husband I was proud to call mine.
Lovingly remembered by his wife, Roberta

McKELL, Erma - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother who passed away April 7, 1992.

Time may pass
Memories will always remain.

Math and family

Two dead in road accidents at St-Malachie and St-Anicet Police investigating rear-end collision

Valley highway accidents claimed the lives of a St-Chrysostome woman and a St-Anicet man on the weekend Ste-Martine Sûreté du Québec are investigating the circumstances of a two-car accident on Saturday which left one woman dead and another seriously injured.

A police spokesman was unable to release many details yesterday while the investigation is continuing.

The late afternoon accident on Rang 4 in St-Malachie killed a 33-year-old woman, the driver of the car which was rear-ended by a pickup driven by

a 65-year-old St-Chrysostome man, her father-in-law.

A 69-year-old St-Chrysostome woman related to both the victim and the truck driver, remains in the Montreal General Hospital. She was a passenger in the car.

The accident occurred April 9 at 4:14 p.m. in front of house #2913 on Rang 4. Officer Robert Longpré is in charge of the investigation.

A 20-year-old St-Anicet man, Eric Descoteaux, was killed early Saturday morning, April 9, when his car went off the road and smashed into a Hydro pole on St-Charles Ouest in St-Anicet.

The victim was taken to the Barrie Memorial Hospital. The death is under investigation by the coroner.