

Centenarian honored at Odelltown



Ken Struthers with his 100th birthday cake, at Odelltown on January 30.

On Monday, Jan. 31, Kenneth Struthers of Noyan celebrated his 100th birthday at Odelltown near Lacolle.

Kenneth was born on January 30, 1895 on the Struthers Farm on the east bank of the Richelieu River in Noyan. He was a son of Graham Struthers and Mabel Amelia Miller.

Ken learned from his father to love the land and also inherited a respect for the military. His mother passed on her love for cooking and a love of history. Kenneth had two brothers, Edward and Francis.

From the ages of two to eight, Ken lived with his parents in Hartford, Conn. They returned to Noyan in 1903, and Ken settled into the community, going to school, farming and attending church at St. Thomas Anglican.

Ken and his youthful friends were a robust and venturesome lot. They joined the cavalry together, (the Clarenceville Squadron of the 6th Duke of Connaught Royal Canadian Hussars) before the First World War, and participated in exercises at Camp Petawawa on the Ottawa River.

Ken also travelled on the "CPR Harvest Trains" of the early 20th century. For \$10 each, Ken and four friends headed to Winnipeg in 1911 to seek summer work and adventure in the wheat fields.

In 1914, Ken and brother Ed

joined the 24th Battalion, the famed Victoria Rifles. Ken's father was annoyed that both sons had enlisted and he would be short-handed on the farm. Ken was deaf in one ear and had not mentioned it when he enlisted, so his father managed to get Ken discharged.

In 1917, when his brother Ed returned seriously wounded, Ken finally managed to get into the army.

As a gunner with 79th Canadian Field Artillery, Ken served in France and Flanders in 1917 and 1918 in one of the most brutal armed conflicts the world has seen.

Ken is one of the few remaining members of the Canadian Corps of World War One.

In 1919, Ken joined Canada Customs, as an inspector at Noyan along with his brother. Later Ken was transferred to Cantic-Lacolle and Edward to Stanstead. Ken was a career Customs Officer for 41 years, highly regarded by his colleagues.

In 1927, he married Lutka Baker of Agawam, Mass. They built a new home on Route 223, Ile-aux-Noix.

Ken and Lutka lived happily in their little white bungalow for 60 years. They shared enquiring minds and a great love of company and visiting. Ken had a consuming interest in local history, genealogy, literature, gardening and bird-watching.

Following his wife's death, Ken lived alone. In recent years he has lived at the Villa Renaissance senior's home in Odelltown, near Lacolle.

Ken Struthers is the only surviving Charter member of Branch 11, Lacolle, Royal Canadian Legion. In 1917 he was presented with a Life Membership and in 1986 was presented with the Royal Canadian Legion's "50 Year Service Medal". Ken has also been a member of the Masonic Lodge for over 70 years.

Branch 11 organized the birthday party to honor their comrade and good friend as he achieved the century mark.

Legion members from Branch 11 and 244, District Commander Raymond Stonehouse and Past District Commander Ed Leamon (from Branch 81) gathered at the Legion Hall and proceeded to the residence, which was decorated with balloons. A cake marking the occasion, was cut by Ken Struthers.

Congratulations came from the Prime Minister and the Governor General; and local M.P. Claude Bachand was present. Ralph Smith represented the R.C.M.P.; and Donald MacCallum presented Ken with a book on behalf of Historical Society. Jean and Colette Petit presented a gift on behalf of Branch 11.

Brian Derick spoke, describing the life of a fine gentleman.

During the afternoon Ken reminisced about past experiences, happy that everyone remembered his 100th birthday. Branch President Jerry Murray acted as M.C. for the afternoon and Ken's niece Millicent Pratt, from Calgary, Alberta came to help celebrate his birthday.

-F. Ellerton

Floyd Stevenson marks 90th years with party

Floyd Stevenson of Franklin reached an impressive milestone in life when he celebrated his 90th birthday on January 7.

He was entertained with a family celebration in his home the following day.

Floyd was pleased, and thoroughly enjoyed himself with the afternoon of visiting and seeing his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Judy Van Blankers gave Floyd a beautiful birthday cake which she baked and decorated herself.

In 1905, Floyd was born on the Stevenson homestead where he has lived all his life and farmed until recent years. He carried on the farming operation of apple orchards, beef cattle and sugaring, taking over from his father Fred. He and his



Floyd Stevenson, who recently marked his 90th birthday at Franklin. (Photo: D.F.)

son Bill and his grandson Fred have made many changes, and have expanded the operations that have contributed to the successful business they have today.

The gleam in Floyd's eye and his bright cheery smile

tells all, as he reminisces about many interesting changes he witnessed during his long lifetime.

He was mayor of Franklin Centre for two terms, and also was instrumental in starting the fire department there.

Floyd had a good time laughing about the ordeals he and Frank Rowe went through in the 1940s, when they worked together plowing local roads and working on the old snow plows. Theirs were the first snow-removal trucks the municipality had.

Another pleasurable memory for Floyd is

recalling the many interesting trips he took.

He travelled with the New York State Horticultural Society to Europe, and learned many things valuable to his farming. He also visited Australia, New Zealand, the Yukon and most parts of Canada and the U.S.

Floyd will be moving to La Residence Ormstown shortly, and he will be looking forward to having friends drop by for a visit.

Congratulations, Floyd, on your special birthday and continued good health in the coming years.

-D. Farquhar

Births and Deaths

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

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Blonde and the nurses of the second floor at the Barrie for the excellent care I received during my stay in hospital. I also want to thank all the wonderful friends for so many acts of kindness to me during my stay in hospital.

Melba Powley

Sincere thanks to relatives, friends, and neighbors for cards visits flowers and gifts while I was in hospital. Special thanks to Dr. Krotechie and Dr. Brissette for their deep concern, also thanks to nurses and staff on the third floor of the Barrie Memorial Hospital. It is all deeply appreciated.

Anna Elder

DEATH

TAIT, David Douglas. At Anna Laberge Hospital, after a battle with cancer on January 30th, 1995, at the age of seventy-two years. Survived by his wife Viola Beatrice Clark, his daughter Irene Carol Haines (Pierre Edmunds), and sons Robert Haines (Darlene) and Danny Haines (Ramona) also survived by his sisters Grace, Peggy and Jessie, brothers George and Alestair. Predeceased York and Andy, many nieces and nephews. Dear grandfather of Peter, Glenn, Rodney, Lance, Carol, Nathan, and Katylan and great-granddaughter Robyn. Service at St. - E d w a r d ' s Presbyterian Church on St-George Street in Beauharnois on Thursday, February 2, at 2 p.m. Visitation at church one hour prior. Burial at St-George Church in Howick. Donations to Canadian Cancer Society will be appreciated.

In memoriam

In memory of a dear father, who passed away on Feb. 10, 1994.

Whomever was lucky enough to know you, was surely touched by you.

They were touched by your kindness, and your willingness to help others,

your friendly disposition, your honesty. As a daughter, I felt so proud to have a father like you.

Words can not describe the pain, I still feel in my heart.

I love you and miss you very much.

DONNELLY-OULMET, Stella - In loving memory of a dear mother who passed away February 7, 1989.

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.

Always in our thoughts and hearts, Your loved ones.

Fiona Crossling wed January 7 in Westmount, Que. ceremony

Fiona, younger daughter of Michael and Margaret Crossling, Hinchinbrooke, and Chris, elder son of Colvin and Penny Barrigar of Port Hope, Ont., were married at St. Stephen's Church, Westmount, on January 7, 1995.

Best man was Chris' brother, Matthew, with their sister Jaye assisting, and Matron of Honor was Debbie Barker, sister of the bride. Jamie Poirier was bridesmaid, with Jeff Barker and Matthew Barrigar as ushers.

The bride wore a semi-fitted dress in antique-white pure silk, with long sleeves. The scoop neck and wrists were outlined in tiny pearls. A chiffon train, attached by chiffon rosettes at the shoulders, was also trimmed with pearls.

The bridesmaids wore burgundy velvet, in a similar style, and carried posies of minuet roses, with baby's breath and winter greenery, while the bride's bouquet was composed of champagne roses, stephanotis, and baby's breath. She wore a



Fiona Crossling and Chris Barrigar cut their wedding cake following their January 7 wedding ceremony in Westmount.