

Connections 4

The Residents of Grove Park Home for Senior
Citizens
Barrie, Ontario
A Christian Ministry
2013–2018

Claude E. Cox, compiler

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Compiled by

Claude E. Cox

Parker Grove Enterprises • Barrie ON

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Barrie, Ontario
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Earlier volumes:

Connections, 1968–1998. Copyright, 1999. 346 pages.

Connections 2, 1999–2002. Copyright, 2003. 196 pages.

Connections 3, 2003–2012. Copyright, 2013. 423 pages.

The *Connections* volumes are all online at: groveparkhome.on.ca (.).

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June 21, 2021

This book about the residents of Grove Park Home
is dedicated
to the staff who make it a place of caring and community.

*Connections 4 was finished during the COVID-19
pandemic. Special thanks are due to all those
dedicated people who kept us so safe.*

Ex libris scientia;
ex vite sapientia.

From books—knowledge;
from life—wisdom.

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Late-1980s photos of Grove Park Home



In the late 1980s Ernie Heikkila, husband of Ellen, the Director of Care (DOC), invited me to go up with him in his small airplane. We took off from the Barrie airport and flew to Wasaga Beach, on a fine sunny day, presumably in the summer. Either before or after, we circled Grove Park Home and I took these photos. The wing of the aircraft is visible in the lower right hand corner. The intersection at Grove and Cook is more or less in the middle of the photo—no stoplights; Grace United Church is on the NE corner at the intersection. Lake Simcoe is visible at the top of the section photo; Steel St. School and its large field lies to the south of GPHome. Cook St. from the air is a *very* straight street.

I had never been up in such a small plane before. It seemed to me that we were pitching up and down all over the place. I said to Ernie, “There’s a lot of turbulence today!” He responded, “No, this is a good day!” I always break out into a smile when I recall our exchange.

More recent photos of GPH, taken at the time of the expansion and renovation of 2002–2004, can be found in the third volume of *Connections*.

Preface

The first *Connections* was so named because I was fascinated by the connections that have existed among residents. Such ties continue to emerge, even as people from different places and backgrounds come to live at Grove Park.

Thanks are due to the Executive Director of GPH, Paul Taylor, who has supported this fourth volume of *Connections*.

Two earlier volumes of *Connections*—*Connections* and *Connections 2*—were printed at Action Print, Beamsville, by Cecil Culley. Mr. Culley did a wonderful job producing those books, but he retired long ago. Two hundred copies of *Connections* were published, by subscription, \$20 each; one hundred copies of *Connections 2* were published. The size of *Connections 3* and the use of colour photographs rendered that volunteer effort unaffordable in “hard copy,” but lent itself well to the CD format. Some copies circulated in that format, which itself is now passing out of popularity. The volume was then put online at the Grove Park Home website; it can be downloaded and “hard copies” made. This fourth *Connections* is available only in digital format, online.

Sources

The lifestories contained in *Connections 3* were compiled on the occasion of memorial services at GPH and were read publicly at that time. Families kindly provided this information and edited information that sometimes I had gathered in conversation. Memorial services gave way to “Celebrations of Life,” twice-yearly gatherings where all those who had passed away in the previous six months or so were remembered. Families, loved ones, and friends were invited to attend these evening gatherings, where individuals were remembered in brief reminiscences or stories by one of their family members. Families were invited to contribute to *Connections 4*, and some did. In addition, I was invited occasionally to conduct funerals for GPH residents and their lifestories appear here. Finally, residents told me many stories in conversation and I thought it important to preserve some of these. One of my favourite stories remains Elsie COTTON’S story about Mrs. Pluss, which I entitled, “There’ll Always be an England.” It is to be found in Elsie’s entry, *Connections* (1), p. 55. Among “Quotable quotes,” I have often cited Erma DOBSON’S, “If God won’t have you and the devil doesn’t want you,

you're still here!" For this one and others, see *Connections 3*, pp. 387–89; also the same section in this volume.

Above all, *Connections 4* continues the commitment to the importance of each person and their life. In recent years GPH has increasingly become a LTC home and, in many cases, individuals are unable to remember the details of their life and its stories. The user of this book will often find only the bare minimum of details about someone's life. That is not because anyone else was more important in the divine scheme of things, but it is due to many more residents staying for shorter periods of time, the reality just mentioned, and to this project as a volunteer labour of love. Enjoy what is here, including the often striking photos that families generously provided upon request.

All four *Connections* books are to be considered broadly as contributions to pastoral care. This fourth volume was finished during the COVID-19 pandemic, when residents, families, staff, and friends struggled with losses and good-byes. There were no COVID-19 related deaths at GPH, a tribute to the leadership team, to each and every person who works at GPH, and to all the families represented among both residents and staff. Special mention should be made of Karen Wells, R.N., who was part of the infection control team during the SARS crisis. Karen started amassing PPE "for the next time." When "the next time" came, that is, COVID-19, all of this PPE was ready; there was never a shortage. Bravo!

Each volume of *Connections* has sections devoted to prayers and meditations. For example, see *Connections* (1), "Prayers for Times of Passage," pp. 247–54. Check the Table of Contents for the three following collections for similar resources that may prove helpful.

Finally, I would like to thank Linda Muszynski for proof-reading *Connections 4*. Her keen eye has caught typos and other infelicities; those that remain are my own.

Mr. Parker Grove, a word of thanks

Readers will note that this book is published under the auspices of Mr. Parker GROVE, who has been around GPH for a long time. He is a larger-than-life person and a creation of Diane Ferrier. I am grateful to Diane for permission to use his name. Diane worked at GPH for many years and has often been back as pianist for various activities. She graciously provided the photos below of her brilliant alter ego, Mr. Parker Grove, who bears some resemblance to Oliver Hardy and, more recently, to Sir Topham Hatt. There is a drawing of Diane as herself—sketched by her brother Greg—driving the GPH bus, in *Connections*, p. 285.



Mr. Parker Grove holding forth on some important subject at a meeting of the corporation in the auditorium at GPH (an undated photo). Right, with Marvin Johnson, Chair of the GPH Board of Directors, and Lorraine Maher, in front of the Baby Grand Piano on the stage in the auditorium (1988). Doubtless, they were conferring about some important GPH business of an entertaining nature.

I. The Grove Park Home Story

1. Administrators and Board Members

See the opening chapter of *Connections* and *Connections 2 and 3* for the unfolding story of Grove Park Home from 1968 through 2012. Grove Park is a not-for-profit home, operated through a volunteer Board of Directors. It has had five Administrators over its more than fifty-year history: Clarence Rittenhouse (1968–1972); David Johnson (1972–1997); Darryl Culley (1997–2004); Terry Codling (2004–2013); Paul Taylor (2013–).

See *Connections 2*, pp. 2–3, for members of the Board of Directors 1968–2002. In 2002 they were:

Marvin Johnson, Chair, 04/03/1972–
 Robert Hunter, Secretary, 13/09/1975–
 Steven Gill, 15/11/1980–
 Terry Codling, 23/03/1985–
 Russell Cosby, 26/04/1997–
 Clark Hannah, 15/06/1996–
 Beverly Gignac, 04/03/2000–

The list of Board members can be updated to 2021. Continuing members are noted with an asterisk (June 2021):

Marvin Johnson	04/03/1972–10/06/2017 Chair (12/03/1977–)
Robert Hunter	13/09/1975–31/12/2015
Steven Gill,	15/11/1980–30/04/2005
Terry Codling	23/03/1985–25/06/2020
* Clark Hannah	15/06/1996–
Russell Cosby	26/04/1997–25/06/2016
Beverly Gignac	04/03/2000–31/05/2009
Kerry Johnson	22/06/2005–02/06/2011
* Isaac Persaud	05/12/2005–
Allison Gignac	25/01/2010–31/12/2016
* Ruth Etienne	23/10/2010–
Manisha Chen	20/02/2016–31/05/2018
* Janine Baines	11/02/2017–
* Sandra Ford	16/09/2019–
* Robynn Sadler	16/09/2020–

Several Board members have had very long tenures of public service at GPH and we are all indebted to them. They steered the Home through periods of expansion and, most recently, through the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. Marvin Johnson served for some forty-five years; Bob Hunter for forty; Steve Gill for a long period. We thank them for leading with faith, wisdom, personal interest, and heart.

2. Grove Park Home at Fifty, 1968–2018



On May 3, 2018, Grove Park Home held a celebration on the occasion of its fiftieth birthday: it had opened on May 4, 1968. Local dignitaries, including Mayor Lehman—whose grandfather (Walter KENT) had been a resident, board members, former staff, volunteers, and friends gathered to celebrate the occasion in the auditorium. I presented the following summary of those fifty years, speaking from the lecturn used in 1968. Here are those remarks.

“Grove Park Home at 50”

There is a saying, “From small acorns, great oaks grow,” and that has been true of Grove Park Home. Starting with a vision acted upon by a small group of people, and then an entire community, what we celebrate took shape, and grew, and became a place that continues to care for the elderly and do this in an exemplary way. The culture of caring has always been at the centre of life at Grove Park Home; the focus has always been on those who live here. Free of a profit motive—Grove Park is a “not for profit” home—everyone’s efforts have been directed towards making better the sometimes difficult time towards the end of life.

Grove Park Home opened on May 4, 1968. The population of Barrie was 25,000; the mayor was Bob Bentley (1968–69), who was preceded and followed by Les Cooke. The trains still ran frequently through Allandale Station. The year before was Canada’s Centennial year and construction had begun that year, by Allandale Construction, which would also build the additions made in 1983—GPH grew from 68 to 83 residents—and 1986, when GPH grew to 93 residents. Jim Robinson, husband of resident Phyllis ROBINSON (came to Grove Park in late 2009), worked as a plasterer on the original Aspen wing. The Vietnam War

dominated the news in the spring of 1968; the frontpage story on May 4 was, “Cong Offensive Wanes after Day.”

The name “Grove Park Home (for Senior Citizens)” grew out of its connection to the congregation next door: offspring. As John Henderson told me, he and Wesley Jones were planting a hedge in front of the churchbuilding in the mid-60s. (John and Una opened the Pizza Hut on Bayfield St., and were volunteers at Grove Park some years ago.) In 1964 the idea of a retirement home had already been conceived and the question emerged about what it would be called. The church was called “Barrie Church of Christ,” so, would the home be called “Barrie Retirement Home?” This seemed an uninspired name, so the two tree planters decided to call the church, “Grove Park Church of Christ,” and, when the home was built, it would share that name, “Grove Park Home.” This was fitting on both counts because they share a location on Grove Street. On the east side of GPH and the church is Cook St. In 1968 it was the edge of town: there was nothing much east of it, apart from a farm house or two.

Minister Wesley Jones used to come from Bowling Green, KY, to the Georgian Bay area and hold “gospel meetings” in the summer when I was a boy. Wesley and Beverly liked it here and moved to Barrie—they named their youngest child, born here, after the city—where the church next door began in 1962, moving into its building in 1964. Wesley was a talented speaker with a fine, mellifluous voice. He was active in the community and, as such, hosted a phone-in radio programme on CKBB, called “Who Wants to Know?” A continuing theme from callers was that of the need for a home for seniors. The only facility in the city at the time was the IOOF Home for the Aged, that, as a 40-bed facility, moved from Toronto to Barrie in 1940. As a result of these calls, Wesley and church member Clarence Rittenhouse, who later became the Home’s first Administrator (1968–70), approached the provincial government and asked what they needed to do to build a Senior Care Centre. They were told that they needed a piece of land debt free and willing hands. As Wesley recalled, the church had fifteen members at the time. So, with government funding, this small group of people set out to build Grove Park Home. A Board of Directors was formed and met for the first time in March, 1967. Its members were: Norman Matthews (church member); David J. Carruthers, Chair (local teacher and church member); Wesley Jones; Blenus Wright, Toronto lawyer; Clarence Rittenhouse. See the plaque on the wall, inside the front door. None had ever operated a home for seniors.

The initial stage of Grove Park Home was built with a government loan of \$650,000. Architect Leonard Huget—who designed later additions—offered his services *gratis*. GPH received a government grant after construction was started. Robert Lackie of Allandale Construction shaved down costs. The community contributed—\$30,000 by May 4. And that’s how it was done. From the time it opened, GPH received support from local service clubs—I mention the Maycourt Club, which entertained, took seniors to cottage picnics; churches; and businesses.

For the first twenty-five years of its existence, GPH was a retirement home. In 1968, sixty-five or seventy years of age was considered “old.” Not now, of course. But, for those years a resident who made application to GPH was expected to be ambulatory and be able to take care of him- or herself. In the early 90’s this all changed. Facilities like GPH were brought under the wing of the provincial government and application was made through Community Care Access Centres (CCAC). This changed everything, to meet an emerging need for long-term care residences. Through that decade the last of the “retirees” began to pass away, such people as Elsie COTTON, who had lived at GPH for some twenty years; and Ruth BLEVINS, who had lived here (almost) nineteen. Lengthy stays were not uncommon.

I came in the fall of 1985, as minister of the church next door and, with that, chaplain one day a week at Grove Park Home. During the next few years I enjoyed boat trips out of Midland, many picnics at Centennial or Springwater Park, fall “colour tours” to Jackson Point ... lots of good times. Such outings became less and less common as residents became more elderly and frail. The ministry of caring continued unabated but there was a long time of transition and change. In 2002–2004 the new building was constructed and the remainder of the home renovated—Retirement Living emerges from this period (2004)—under the leadership of administrator Darryl Culley, who took over after David Johnson’s long, productive tenure. When I came Helen WARNICA still lived at GPH. She and husband Burt had moved here together and brought their rose garden from Painswick: their rose garden became “our” rose garden.

When Darryl left to pursue other dreams (“Emergency Management & Training, Inc.”), Board member Terry Codling became Administrator—after a long association—and led us well until retiring, and then Paul (Taylor) came, really our first Administrator to come with training specifically in long-term care. The tone is set at the top, and through many changes GPH has retained its essential character as a facility that serves others. It is such an amazing place: staff stay for long periods; people who move away, return; those who retire, return, or come back as volunteers. To cite a dramatic example of long service, Marvin Johnson was on the Board for how many years? —45, and Chair for 40!

Today people live longer than they used to, and stay in their own home as long as possible; there is a variety of retirement living options; but a great need remains for places like Grove Park Home—safe, secure, caring lodging for our parents, grandparents, relatives and friends, where there is stimulation for bodies, minds, and spirits. Remarkable people continue to come to Grove Park to live and a remarkable group of people—that includes nursing, maintenance, kitchen, life enrichment, volunteers ... a special collection of skilled people—continue to provide outstanding care.

Grove Park is now old enough that we have second generation residents! That's right! In fact, this began already in the mid-1990s. At 50 ... from a small beginning, rooted in a vision, great good has come.

II. Updates to *Connections* (1), 2, and 3

Signs

- = residents who were living at GPH on Dec. 31, 1998
- = resident was living at GPH on Dec. 31st, 2012 and is therefore represented in *Connections* 3.
- ‡ = resident moved into GPH between June 1, 2018 and Dec. 31, 2018
GPH opened on May 4, 1968. Precisely fifty years would bring us to May 4, 2018. However, it was a year or so before the home filled to its capacity at the time, 68 residents (see *Connections*, p. 3). As a result, it seems permissible to take the end of 2018 as fifty years for the sake of statistical reckonings.
- 2nd = resident is a second generation resident
- [RL] = resident in Retirement Living, Mulberry Lane

Connections (1), updates

- LUCK, Harry
30/07/1913–04/07/2007
Mr. Luck told me that his father was one of 11 children. Mr. Luck's parents went out West, to Weyburn, where he was night station master for the railroad, ca. 1900–1910. Harry's sister was born there in 1909. The family came back because Harry's grandfather wanted someone to take over the farm. Harry's dad was not interested in farming, but he did okay. He joined local organizations, which is what he liked to do. (01/02/2006) On another occasion, Harry recalled an event that occurred when he was about twelve. It was winter and they had about a mile to walk home from school. There was a neighbour family, poor, and their little boy had no mitts. His hands were cold, so Harry gave him his mitts. Harry told me that he kind of patted himself on the back for that. (06/09/2006).
See *Connections*, *Connections* 2, *Connections* 3; and the photo of Harry and Mary in *Connections* 2, p. 141.
- MCREYNOLDS, Dolly
14/12/1892–20/08/1990
Dolly's daughter-in-law Flora HARPER lived at GPH: see the entry in this volume.

Connections 3, updates

GPH records were kept on computer only from 2006. Just before that year, a few residents were missed in *Connections 3*, namely, Bessie ANDERSON and Phyllis GETHONS. The entry for Dorothy GARDINER appears here in an expanded form from what appeared in *Connections 3*.

ANDERSON, Elizabeth “Bessie”
24/09/1907–
GPH: 13/03/2003

EMERY, Helen
04/09/1922–22/03/2010



Helen

*From the back cover of her book Reminiscences of my Childhood (2008).
Photo taken at GPH, Dec. 10, 2007.*

Members of the Brereton Field Naturalists Club / Nature Barrie shared memories about Helen. Al McNair corrected the name of Helen’s Hamilton school: “Van Wagner’s Beach Public School, which closed in 1962.” Thanks! He recalled that while Helen was President of the BFNC, she “spearheaded a Great Tree Hunt, which documented large, significant street, park and wildland trees in the City of Barrie. A copy of this study is lodged with the City of Barrie and I may have a copy as well.” Al also recalls, “Helen was an active and avid naturalist when I joined the club nearly 30 years ago and used to lead trips to places like Essa Centennial Park for BFNC to seek out wildflowers and summer birds. I can credit her for my first Indigo Bunting and Scarlet Tanager sightings. She was fun and feisty.” (email May 1, 2020)

Phyllis Tremblay added to Al’s reminiscences, “Well, going back further, Helen promoted Rails to Trails, and at the time I believe it was the North Simcoe Rail Trail in particular. During a BFNC Meeting, (meetings were held in St. Monica’s School then), Helen put on a train engineer’s hat to inspire the club to get on board.” (email May 1, 2020)

GPH: 11/04/2005

GARDNER, Dorothy Mercer *Harvey*
22/04/1920–01/09/2009

Dorothy Harvey was born in England on April 22, 1920 to William Harvey and Augusta Richie.

Emigration to Canada and the tragic death of her father

She came to Canada with her parents at the age of five months. Her family settled in Montreal, where two sisters, Lillian and Irene, and a brother, William, were born. Dorothy's father was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1929, leaving her mother with four children, all under the age of nine. Dorothy's grandmother immigrated from England soon after this accident to care for the young family while her mother went to work at CNR in Montreal.

Marriage and family

Dorothy and George met and dated for several years before being married in Sussex, NB (March 17, 1942), one week before George left to serve in WWII. During this time, Dorothy worked in personnel at Morgan's (now The Bay) Dept. store in Montreal. She was always very fashion conscious and while at Morgan's did some modelling. After the War, their only child, Gayle, was born.

George became a career soldier and was stationed at various bases, such as Camp Borden, Edmonton; in England, and in Germany; Calgary and, again, Base Borden. With George's transfer to Camp Borden in 1955, they bought their first home in Barrie, at 43 Nelson Street. In 1955 Dorothy joined the original Zeller's (60 Dunlop St. E.) and was the personnel / assistant manager from 1955 until her retirement in 1980. In 1968, they bought land on Georgian Drive and had a home built at number 330, where Dorothy lived until 2002.

Community involvements

Dorothy was very involved in the community. She was a Charter Member of the Quota Club of Barrie (1970), and Governor and Board Member of Quota International (1973–76); the Past President of the Business & Professional Women's Club in Barrie (1965); a member of Eastern Star and of the Sharamazda Ladies Shrine; a founding member of the Parkview Senior Centre, where she served on numerous committees including the Advisory Board; and a member of the Board of Directors at RVH. She was recognized for her work with many awards, especially the Commemorative Medal of Canada (1992) for her contribution to the community and to Canada.

Leisure and "grandmotherhood"

Dorothy loved to travel and, accompanied by her sister Lillian, travelled to England (every year) and to Florida, California, Australia, China, Singapore and

Hawaii. She loved knitting, needlepoint and all kinds of crafts and sewing projects.

She was loving and giving in everything she did. Dorothy loved her family. When Lindsay—their only grandchild—was born, she and George rented an apartment in Toronto so they could be “nannies” until Lindsay started school. This permitted Gayle to continue her teaching career with *no* child care worries. Dorothy and George would travel from Barrie to Toronto on Sunday and return to Barrie on Friday evening. They were loving and caring parents and grandparents.

Later years and GPH

In 1989, David, Gayle and Lindsay moved back to Barrie to be closer to George and Dorothy. George was having health issues and they wanted to be here for them both. George passed away in 1994. Dorothy’s final eight years were difficult. She developed glaucoma and became legally blind (2001); fell down stairs in her home and fractured her neck (December 9, 2002). Not being able to return home, she lived in retirement homes at O’Brien House (nine months) and Woods Park (seven months) until another fall fractured her neck once more.

She came to live at GPH in April, 2004—on Aspen and Pine for one year and then in the new building, on Spruce. Because of the falls, she developed dementia and was confined to a wheelchair. The Spruce staff provided a loving home for her during her five years at GPH.

— Thanks to Gayle for this account of her mom’s life.

GPH: 16/04/2004

GETHONS, Phyllis

10/04/1911–

Mrs. Gethons was a member of Central United Church and knew our next-door neighbours on Roslyn Rd., Ray and Katie Burgess. She was Assistant Treasurer for Simcoe Co. for twenty years, from the 50s to the 70s. Mrs. Gethons moved to GPH from a new nursing home in Bradford.

GPH: 10/11/2003

GILCHRIST, Anabel *Sage*

14/10/1919–09/12/2009

Mrs. Gilchrist farmed south of Stayner with husband, Harold.

GPH: 23/03/2009–W3045

HIBBONS, Norma

24/07/1921–26/11/2009

Norma was a sister-in-law of Clarissa MARTIN (see *Connections [1]*). She was from Orillia and a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church. The Hibbons family was heavily involved in church life. Her husband was the administrator of Nisbet Lodge, a retirement residence at Calvary Baptist Church, in Toronto, and later of St. Hilda’s, where Gladys HARVEY lived at one time (see *Connections*

[1]). Her son graduated from McMaster Divinity College and served several Baptist churches, including First Baptist in Orillia.

GPH: 18/01/2008–W3044

III. *The residents 2013–2018*

ADAIR, Kathleen “Kay”

22/05/1922–10/08/2020

In the late 1980s and once more for a season a few years ago I sang with the King Edward Choir. Kay’s daughter Diane (Jones) also sang in that choir, so it has been really pleasant to reconnect with Diane through her mom. Kay raised two sons and two daughters. At a great age her memory is intact and she enjoys coming to Bible study on Wednesdays, usually with her friend and neighbour on Spruce, Ila ELLISON.

GPH: 28/03/2016—S2019

•• ADAMS, Muriel

19/05/1928–04/09/2014

GPH: 19/12/2012

•• AIKIN, Sandra “Sandy”

29/12/1936–09/11/2014

A Public School secretary for 38 yrs.

GPH: 18/08/2011

ALEXANDER, Brian

07/03/1946–

Brian is an amazing guy. He was a musician (guitarist and singer-songwriter; harpist) in Yorkville in the 1960s. He used to play at the Mynah Bird and go down to the Riverboat sometimes. Joni Mitchell was there; Ian and Sylvia; Gordon Lightfoot. Brian recorded an album called “Hyde” at Canada Sounds Recording Studio, in the “burbs.” You can find it on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8Zl4vgj-wU>

For example, the song “Slave” is sort of dylan-esque. He had listened to Dylan and Robbie Robertson practice at the Coq d’Or. Saw Roy Orbison in T.O. David Clayton Thomas—later of Blood, Sweat and Tears—and his girlfriend used to pick him up and take him to gigs. At the time, according to Brian, everyone knew each other in the Village. A great fund of memories of that period.

Brian was born in T.O., in the west end. His dad worked for GE on Davenport Rd. and Brian had summer jobs there.

GPH: 20/11/2015—M1230

•• ALLAN, Valerie *McClymont*

17/05/1949–02/03/2015*

Ross and Audrey's daughter, Newmarket

Valerie McClymont was born on May 17th, 1949, in Newmarket, daughter of Ross and Audrey. She spent her younger years in the Newmarket and Concord area with her parents and her younger brother, Danny. Later they moved to Barrie, where she attended Johnson St. Public School and North Collegiate. Then Valerie went on to study at a local business school.

deVilbiss; John; family

She found a job at deVilbiss, as a filing clerk. This is where she met her husband to be John Allan, who worked in the plant just outside her window and who, from time to time, had to check in with the office by intercom. After a short courtship, they were married on May 21st, 1971. John and Valerie took up residence in the east end of Barrie, not far from her parents, and spent their entire married life in this part of the city.

Along came baby girl Jacquie four years later, and Valerie decided that being a stay-at-home mom was her true calling. Another four years and Jeffrey John was born. She enjoyed children and babies so much that she began doing home daycare, a business that carried on for about twenty years. Then Valerie took on a new adventure, when she decided she wanted to drive a school vehicle. This gave her plenty of time to shop and to have coffee with friends between bus runs.

"Shop 'til you drop!"

Valerie's favourite pastimes included shopping, socializing and more shopping—much to the dismay of John. Talking on the phone was another of her favourite things to do, and, if you ask John, he will tell you that he thought the phone was growing out of the side of her head! Her shopping trips included adventures anywhere from Buffalo to the state of Alabama. Valerie's parents wintered in Montgomery, Alabama, so she felt the need to leave John carless for a week, or more, every year to shop her way to the sunny south.

On becoming a grandmother

When Jacquie got married, to Trevor Newton, she was overjoyed to hear that they wanted to start a family right away—she loved the thought of becoming a grandma! Along came Paige and Carter, whom she adored and lovingly shared with Cathy, Trevor's mom, whom she affectionately called "Mother Newton." Shortly after this Valerie was stricken with an illness that stole away those years as a Grandma she had so looked forward to.

Enter Grove Park Home, February 18, 2011. As it happens, Trevor's grandmother, Kay DESJARLAIS, lived at GPH at the same time as Valerie.

Valerie's loved ones will always remember the great times they shared and will keep her in their hearts.

Valerie Allan's Recipe for Broccoli Salad

Ingredients:

1 ¼ cup fresh broccoli florets (small)
 ¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese
 4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
 ¼ cup finely chopped onion
 3 tbsp mayonnaise
 2 tbsp white vinegar
 1 tbsp sugar

Method:

1. In a bowl, combine the broccoli, cheese, bacon and onion.
2. In another bowl, whisk the mayonnaise, vinegar and sugar. Pour over broccoli mixture and toss to coat.
3. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Valerie's recipe is found in *Grove Park Home Cookery Collection. A collection of recipes from the Residents, Staff and Families of Grove Park Home*. Compiled by Lorraine Maher and Cathy Allen. Barrie: Grove Park Home, 2011 (by photocopy). Page 26.

GPH: 18/02/2011

[RL] Allen, Amie

08/04/1933–21/11/2013

GPH RL: 01/06/2012

ALLSOPP, Corry

31/12/1922–

Corry was born in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She was a vibrant person, with a great deal of energy and determination. A lot of fun, a good conversationalist; always attended my Bible studies at GPH.

GPH: 16/12/2016—A1177

ANSELL, Francis

31/08/1924–

Mrs. Ansell moved to Midland to be closer to her husband.

GPH: 07/07/2010–29/11/2010

ARMSTRONG, Gerald "Gerry"

01/08/1932–

Gerry worked for the Coast Guard on the Great Lakes. He knew the Spume, which docked at Meaford. And his daughter Shawn worked at GPH: what a pleasant surprise to see her again.

GPH: 30/12/2015—P1032

•• ARMSTRONG, Lorne

17/06/1937–04/05/2013

Mr. Armstrong's lifestory, together with a fine colour photo, can be found in *Connections 3*.

GPH: 25/06/2012—M1192; 07/01/2013—S2032

ARNOTT, Norman

24/02/1938–

GPH: 16/05/2017—M1207

ASHCROFT, John

29/01/1935–29/08/2016

Mr. Ashcroft was a quiet man who enjoyed spending time with his wife, Jean, daughter Barbara, and grandson, Troy. He had worked at Base Borden as a custodian. Liked bowling, darts, and euchre.

GPH: 13/09/2013—M1217

‡ ATKINSON, Dorothy

30/06/1934–09/03/2019

A retired teacher.

GPH: 12/10/2018—M1231

ATKINSON, Roy

19/11/1933–09/02/2019

Roy came to GPH in 2018 from Blue Mountain RH. His wife Serina (Wos) had died five years earlier and Roy missed her and their farm, called "Royena," terribly. They had dairy farmed near Palmerston and raised a daughter, Linda, and four sons, Donald†, Ricky, Paul, and Wes. He loved farming. He also loved old tractors and had restored them with his son Wes. At one time they had 14 antique and old tractors. I asked Roy which one was his favourite and he told me "a 1940s John Deere." Also an Allis-Chalmers from the same period. Wes and his wife Jenny were very kind to his dad and we saw them often. I enjoyed all our conversations. Here are some photos of the tractors. Enjoy. Thanks to Wes for these, and for enough stories about his dad to fill a book on their own.





Roy's tractors, from upper left and clockwise: Farmall; with Wes, a John Deere; part of a collection of tractors Roy owned or would like to have owned—Roy and Serina's wedding photo in the middle; finally, on an unusual Allis-Chalmers.

In February 2021, the 6th, I spent the Saturday evening with Wes in his big garage—masked and socially distanced!—listening to him tell story after story about his dad, how he began his life on a farm at Schomberg and eventually owned two farms near Palmerston. LOL. Looking at large, aerial photos of the farms and hearing how Roy had improved them over the years. His dad had a creative and mechanical mind, enjoyed practical jokes, and made the most of life. Roy and his wife Serina liked travelling and they did a lot of that. He loved tractors and when he was younger became a keen competitor at “tractor pulls.” Roy knew how to win, to the chagrin of some of those against whom he competed: once sugar was put in his tank and another time he had a tractor stolen! Serious. It was later in life and after Serina died that his pursuit of antique and old tractors really took off. Roy and Wes bought them, took them apart, had them repainted, with the right decals, spending hours and hours together to get them running and running well. At GPH, Roy's eyes would well up when he spoke of the death of his wife, but they would light up when he began to talk about these tractors, about which he knew so much. Roy had shown me the photos and I wanted one or two for our common memory, which led me to Wes's garage, the photos, and the stories. Roy also liked cars: he had a 1951 Chev, 4-door, visor over the front window, skirts ...; and then there's Wes's '67 Mercury Cyclone ...

GPH: 19/03/2018—W3042

AUSTIN, Delores

20/07/1949–

GPH: 18/11/2013—M1232

AWENDER, John

20/08/1932–17/02/2018

John's was a remarkable life. Though I knew him for twenty-five years before he came to live at GPH, it was only at that stage of his life that he spoke about the early years of his life and his childhood in a German-speaking village in what

became Yugoslavia. His account of those years is an important oral history of the terrible consequences that WWII had for him, his family and his community.



Thanks to Marylou, John's daughter, for this account of her dad's life, which was read by her husband Andrew at our celebration of life. Marylou and my wife Elaine have been friends since childhood; they grew up on the Cresswell Rd., outside Lindsay.

See also the life story of Marylou's mom, Mary, in *Connections 3*.

"My father, Johann or John as most people knew him, was a kind, generous man who liked to help people and believed in giving everyone the benefit of the doubt. He was born Aug 20th 1932 in the small farming town of Ernsthausen, Yugoslavia to parents of German descent. Youngest of four children, he had two older brothers and an older sister. Life was not kind to him as a child. Living on a small farm, he had to pitch in and help at a young age. His mother died when he was seven years old and, at the same time, WWII began. He had only been in school for a year or two, but his education was cut short as the schools were closed and the teachers were required to join the army. Some might think this meant a long holiday, but he and the other children were required to work the farms and did not receive a formal education.

The Russians came when dad was thirteen. John, his father and sister, and all other people of German descent, were rounded up and placed in a Concentration Camp. The living conditions were terrible and food was scarce. The younger men and women were sent to the mines as forced labour, many never returning. The children and some adults would sneak out of the camp at night to scrounge for roots and plants in the neighbouring fields. When caught the children were thrown into water filled cellars for up to three days; the adults were shot.

Dad's sister became ill due to lack of food and warmth. He snuck out to find food and his father gathered planks from a fence for heat. His father was discovered and executed and John was caught and thrown in the cellar. Other women in the camp looked after his sister. She was older than dad and was later

moved to a mining camp; he never saw her again. At fourteen years old John and a cousin decided to escape and head to Austria. Six times they snuck out only to be caught and thrown back in the camp. On the seventh attempt they succeeded. Traveling at night and living off whatever scraps they could find, they finally made it after three months of walking.

Austria was little better. Dad would take work on farms and lumber camps for food and a bed. It was hard and dangerous work and, being a Stateless Person or “Ausländer,” he would get the worst jobs, despite being little more than a child. He had a permanent reminder of this time—a disfigured thumb due to an accident on a logging sled where he almost lost his life. After spending the next six years wandering from Austria to Germany and back, he was given the opportunity to relocate to Canada where his life changed for the better, and he never looked back. He didn’t talk much about his past and, when asked if he felt regret or anger, would shrug and reply, “I couldn’t do anything about it. You either accepted things as they were or left.”

Through all his hardship he never lost his sense of humour, kindness and positive outlook. On arriving in Canada he worked hard, taught himself how to speak and read English, met and married Maria, my mother, and raised a healthy and happy family. Mostly, dad loved dogs and meeting people. He was always positive and taught my brothers and me a valuable life lesson: “Things are not so bad!” (Things are never as bad as you think they are.) He made an impression with everyone he met and will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Farewell dad.”

GPH: 19/08/2009

•• BAILEY, Minerva “Mickey”

19/02/1922–14/02/2015

Lived on Ontario St., Toronto; played ball at the Beaches, by the Lake. Mickey’s mother had ten children. She would get up at 3 a.m., get her work done and go to Woodbine Racetrack. When she won—and she was lucky—she used to share the money with people in the neighbourhood who needed it.

Mickey played baseball when she was young. A sister pitched; she was catcher. Played at Sunnyside.

GPH: 31/08/2009

BALLICK, Joyce

01/01/1931–17/09/2019

A New Year’s day birth.

GPH: 17/06/2013—P1045

BANSKI, Alexander “Alex”

02/06/1925–27/03/2018

GPH: 07/11/2016—W3042 > 3029 (09/13/2018)

BANAVAGE, Ursola Elizabeth “Lena” *Calleja*
04/06/1926–07/05/2017

The following is a somewhat condensed version of what was shared with us on the occasion of the celebration of her life at the funeral home in Stroud. It was written by Megan, her granddaughter, Noel and Darlene’s daughter. Much is direct quotation. “Gramma” Ursola, the “Queen of Malta,” as we affectionately called her, first came to GPH with the Senior Encounter programme, walking the short distance from Noel and Darlene’s house on Curtis Court. As a result, we knew her for a long time, some twenty-five years. Ursola was a remarkable person, a remarkable mother who, with little formal education and, arriving in an entirely foreign environment, made a home for her children. Hers is an inspiring story. A strong religious faith sustained her through it all. Deacon Ron from St. Mary’s led the service for her. It was an honour for me to say a few words. Whenever I met her, “Grandma Ursola” would always ask, “How is your mother? How is your father? How is your family?”

Early life

Born in Malta the same year (1926) as Queen Elizabeth and Marilyn Monroe. She was the oldest of the twelve children born to Mary and Paul Calleja; eight survived, four died in infancy. Three brothers also emigrated to Canada (Frank, Charlie, Tony); her two sisters are in Australia. As the eldest, she had the responsibility of helping raise her younger siblings. As a result, she was pulled out of school at a very young age. From then on she faithfully served others, without complaining.

Ursola was 13 when WWII broke out in 1939. She lived through the bombings of Malta. She is featured in the book *Hell Island*, so she’s a little bit famous for her story. When the air raid sirens sounded, her responsibility was to get newborn Charlie to the shelter, where they would be for days. A few years later, Tony was born in the shelter, before the war ended. Ursola also worked in a company that made pipes for smoking tobacco and served in the hospitality sector in one of the tourist hotels.



Ursola as a young woman; the battle of Malta.

Marriage and emigration to Canada

Ursola met Francis Albert Banavage and they were married in Feb. of 1950. Charlie was born in Dec. of that same year. Francis and his brother Frank came to Canada in June 1951. The ship stopped at Ellis Island, NY, and continued on to Halifax; then they took the train to Toronto. In Dec. of that year, 1951, Noel was born in Malta. As for Ursola, she loved Malta and her large family. She did not want to come to Canada, but reluctantly packed up her belongings and, with her two small sons, got on a boat to North America. She arrived in Halifax at Pier 21 in Jan., 1953, in the middle of a snow storm, and boarded a train for Toronto with other Maltese immigrants.

Life in Toronto

In Toronto Ursola was reunited with Francis and in Jan., 1954, Freddie, “Frankie #3,” as born. In Jan., 1955, came George, “Frankie #4.”

Adjusting to a new life in Canada was not easy, especially while living in a basement apartment on Dovercourt Rd. and St. Clair Ave. with four young sons. They moved to their home on Vine Ave., in “Little Malta,” owned by the Farrugia family.

Regent Park, school for the boys

In 1958, Ursola’s brother Charlie arrived from Malta and lived with them until he married, several years later. Then the family moved to Regent Park. Their place had two levels, giving them a little more room for the new arrival, “Frankie #5”: Tyrone was born in Aug., 1959. Ursola now had six to take care of. Because her husband Francis worked two jobs, the brunt of the raising of the boys fell upon Ursola.

The boys wanted to go to Park Public School, which was closer to home, and be with their friends. But being a devout Catholic, Ursola wanted to make sure her sons turned out to be “good boys.” So they were enrolled in St. Paul’s Boys School, farther down Queen St. She also made sure they all became altar boys. Ursola fed them, clothed them, knitted their socks, sweater, scarves and gloves. Each had his own colour to ensure there was no fighting!

More on the boys

Ursola ran a tight ship: before they went out to play after supper, they washed dishes and had “Rosary time.” On their knees, praying in Maltese, no excuses. *Occasionally* the boys misbehaved at school and it was not uncommon for Brother Dominic, the Principal, to call home and try to communicate with Ursola over the phone. The conversation would go something like, “Yes, I know, Mrs. Banavage, your boys, good boys, but your good boys were throwing snowballs at the street car and will be receiving corporeal punishment.”

It has been said by her sons, “Mom raised a family of five boys on pasta, and Dad raised a family of five boys on bagpipes and opera.” Perhaps her most famous advice remembered by sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren was “cross with the green light” and “be careful your feet.” Indeed, near departure from this life,” advice to Noel as he left to walk home was, “Walk on the sidewalk and cross with the green light.”



Ursola at 90 with “my boys,” Charlie, Noel, Freddie, George, Tyrone

After Francis’s passing in 1989

After her husband’s death in 1989, Ursola moved in with Fred, then into Barrie Manor, then, in 1992, she moved in with Noel and Darlene. She walked to Grove Park Home’s day programme for Seniors and became a hit with staff and residents. In 2006 she suffered three heart attacks in four months, but survived. Ursola moved to GPH. It was difficult to come to grips with living away from her family. Becca remembers that she would knit, watch baseball in her room, pray with her rosary, smother everyone in sloppy kisses, and always ask where she (Becca) was going. Ursola was “a feisty, incredibly loving woman, who has raised a lot of wonderful people.”

Ursola died peacefully on Sunday morning, May 7, 2017 at GPH, after many visits from her family.

GPH: 07/04/2006

BARAKAUSKAS, Prane (“Frances”)

06/06/1923–03/02/2017

Prane was born in Lithuania. After finishing high school she had aspirations of becoming a dentist, but WWII broke out. Prane fled before the advancing front and ended up in a displaced persons camp in Germany, where she remained for four years, working for the Red Cross.



To Canada; marriage and family

After WWII Prane came to Canada on a work contract as a domestic helper, in Toronto. Then she worked as a “nurse’s aid” at Toronto Western Hospital. In 1950 she met and married her husband, Julius.

Prane was an excellent homemaker, cook, seamstress and gardener. She put her whole heart into everything she did and instilled this value in her children.

Lithuanian heritage

Later in life she learned how to weave and began a career as a weaver of fabrics. She created many fabrics that were used for the creation of the Lithuanian National Costume.

Senior Encounter > GPH

Before she lived at GPH, Prane was a participant in the Senior Encounter programme. The memory box outside Prane’s suite at GPH contained a beautiful photo of her, Julius and their family. I always stopped to look at it and thought, “What a beautiful family.”

She is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, and five gt.-grandchildren.

GPH: 15/12/2014—W3017

BASTIAN, Caroline

28/04/1948–

A friend to all. When I see Caroline, I often start into “Sweet Caroline,” Neil Diamond’s son, which, in turn, causes her to break out into laughter. Loves crafts and handwork.

GPH: 07/03/2016—W3038

BEER, Fern

28/04/1930–13/08/2019

Mrs. Beer was an RN on the maternity ward at RVH and had lived on a farm in Oro-Medonte until her husband died in the 1980s.

GPH: 07/08/2015—S2031

BEHUN, Jennie

14/03/1930–

GPH: 13/07/2017—A1143

BENSON, Edna

20/12/1932–

As a child, I had an “aunt Edna,” so that is what I call Edna. In her younger years Edna was a singer, and she and her husband performed duets. A person of faith; always attended my Bible studies. Devoted daughter.

GPH: 24/10/2016—A1171

‡ BILLINGER, Doris

29/06/1930–30/10/2019

GPH: 04/06/2018—S2012

•• BINNIE, June

14/05/1928–15/02/2018

Mrs. Binnie’s husband Garth and Paddy Ormiston’s uncle Bob (Ormiston) operated a White Rose gas station at the NE corner of Bayfield and Cundles. It is now an Esso station. Paddy worked in Retirement Living and her mom Janet ORMISTON lived in RL and then in GPH proper from 12/03/2007–29/04/2010: see *Connections* 3. June was a kindly person and had the dearest of friends in Mary KENDREW at GPH. After June passed away, her family continued to show great kindness toward Mary.

GPH: 07/10/2009—A1172

BIRD, William “Bill”

19/09/1922–15/06/2018

B. in Barrie and lived here all his life. He played Junior B hockey; served in Italy during WWII; and then worked as an insurance adjuster. Mr. Bird and his wife Joan had four children. Furniture refinishing was a hobby.

GPH: 01/02/2018—M1192

‡ BLANCHARD, Jim

31/10/1945–02/05/2020

Jim was from Mactier, a little place “that time forgot.” He first came to GPH with Senior Encounter; we all liked him. We talked about fishing, since he liked to fish: pickerel was his favourite. “Blanchard” is not so common a name, and I enquired whether he was related to Henry Blanchard who went to the Disciples’ Church in Meaford when I was a boy. We got to know Jim’s wife, Judy, from her frequent visits. They have a son and daughter. “Mactier” will always bring him to mind.

GPH: 26/11/2018—M1195

BLUNDEN, Eunice
03/08/1950—
GPH: 17/08/2017—S2047

•• BOBBETTE, Joan *Hurst*
23/02/1931–27/09/2016

Joan's whole family worked for the railroad, a big employer in Barrie, and she lived most of her life in the Allandale area. Her brother Elmer worked at the Vine station, just south of Barrie. John AWENDER'S daughter Marylou and husband Andrew bought and restored this station, which is now located on MacKay Road, the 10th of Innisfil.

In her senior years Joan lived with her beloved grandson Tim and his family. She loved cats, birds and small dogs. Joan had a cat named "Twink," and, after coming to GPH, she had a toy cat that went everywhere with her.

GPH: 27/08/2010—A1160

•• BOLTON, Vi
10/01/1913–12/11/2014*
GPH: 04/01/2010

BORLAND, Betty
13/05/1937–03/07/2014
GPH: 10/03/2014

BOUCHARD, Anita
02/02/1931–

B. in Gogama, northern Ontario; one of six children. She married Gilbert in 1950 in Skead, a municipality of Sudbury, and together they raised three children: Dennis, Jocelyn Mullan, and Darryl. They dairy farmed in Walkerton. She travelled; golfed. Loved Scrabble. At GPH she made a special friend in Vera CHAPPELL. When Jocelyn moved, Vera did as well. This happens occasionally at GPH; sometimes residents move *to* GPH for the same reason.

GPH: 26/06/1015–03/12/2016

BOUIUS, Jessie
10/04/1936–

When I came to GPH in 1985, Jessie's sister-in-law Wendy BOUIUS was a resident: see *Connections*. Everyone knew "grandma Wendy." Jessie told me that her earliest memory is that of walking with her maternal grandfather on a Sunday morning to his garden plot, where he would pick what was ripe to take home. She kind of "snuck after him"—did he know she was behind him? I take it this was a sort of game. Jessie says she must have been about four years old, since she went to kindergarten at five. Jessie lived next door to her grandmother in Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands.

GPH: 25/04/2014—M1191

•• BOWER, Helen

15/05/1913–18/06/2015 102

B. in England; two sisters predeceased her. Helen saw 102 and remained relatively active.

29/12/2010

BOXALL, Maureen

17/06/1963–12/08/2017

B. in the Jane–Finch area of Toronto. Maureen was not related to Mr. Fred BOXALL.

GPH: 26/07/2017

BRADING, Shirley

17/10/1928–

GPH: 18/06/2012—S2029

‡ BRADLEY, Richard

25/09/1938–28/08/2019

Mr. Bradley was a dry-waller until 1989.

GPH: 21/12/2018

BREAUGH, Shirley

26/09/1932–10/02/2015

A car accident in 1990 left her to live with constant pain.

GPH: 10/04/2014

BRINKWORTH, Elinor

14/04/1929–03/05/2018

Elinor was born a few months before the world fell into the Great Depression with the crash of the stock market in Oct. 1929. She moved to GPH from Whispering Pines, also in Barrie. Her two daughters saw to her needs here. Most interestingly, Elinor was a member of the Maycourt Club, which has had an important volunteer role at GPH almost from its beginning. She liked to garden and to decorate her home. As is true of many residents who come to GPH at an advanced age, Elinor could not remember her maiden name, or where she was from. Nevertheless, she had a delightful disposition and a warm smile.

GPH: 20/11/2014—M1197

‡ BROWN, Anne

15/01/1944–

GPH: 01/11/2018

BUKER, Brian

04/02/1947–

Mr. Buker lived at GPH following a move from Barrie Manor. He operated a well-drilling business in Craighurst for forty-seven years. Beyond that, he built and raced stock cars: “a lot of fun; expensive.” His favourite car was a Corvette. Brian was also a fisherman and fished at Thornbury, not far from my hometown of Meaford. He was discharged to RVH. Mr. Buker had a unique life story and I enjoyed talking with him.

GPH: 06/11/2017—M1231 > P1019 (13/12/2017)

•• BURKE, Doris *Bellfry*

09/09/1930–30/09/2015

See also Robert “Bob” BURKE, in *Connections 3*.

GPH: 06/05/2010

BYERS, Robert “Bob”

09/11/1938–07/02/2017

Bob married the love of his life Ruth and together they raised four children: Mark, John (deceased), Adam and Dee. When Ruth died in the fall of 2016, Bob was heartbroken. In a sense, he died to be with her.

Bob worked at several jobs. He went with his father to Montreal to apprentice at GE, but came back and eventually became Fire Chief of Springwater Twp. He also worked as a bylaw officer and chief building inspector, but it was the fire chief’s job that he was most proud of. Teryl Bougie, who worked in the Life Enrichment programme, knew Bob best. She read the following at our memorial service:

I remember when Bob moved in. I did his admission tour and, after I had said my spiel, I asked if he had any questions. He wanted to know about our protocol at GPH for fire drills ... oh my! I had forgot to explain the fire drill and procedures to a retired Fire Chief ... I apologized and he had a good laugh about it ... we became good friends after that.

Throughout his life Bob was a social person and a mentor to many firemen on his team, always willing to give advice or assistance. At GPH, Bob was the opposite. He chose to spend most of his time in his room and resting in bed. He loved having his family visit and also enjoyed the company of staff and therapy dogs’ visits.

Christmas gifts

One of my best memories I have of Bob concerns two years ago at Christmas. He was feeling a little down because this was his first year living in Long Term Care and the first year he was not able to go out himself and buy a Christmas gift for his wife Ruth and his grown children. The nursing staff and I convinced him to get out of bed, bundle up in a warm blanket, and, on a Friday afternoon, I pushed him down to the pharmacy in the plaza down the street. He purchased Christmas cards and scratch tickets for his children and a nice piece of costume jewelry for his wife. Because he wanted to keep this a secret I loaned him the

money so Ruth would not find out. He was so happy that he got to do his own shopping, but when I got to work the next week I went to see him. He said he needed to talk to me about something very important, and had a worried look on his face. ... He wanted to know if the necklace he bought for his wife was real gold, as he didn't think he had the money to repay me. We laughed many times about our big spending spree at the pharmacy.

When Bob died, one of his co-workers wrote the following about Bob and I'd like to leave this with you. "Bob was a gentleman who served his community with pride and distinction. As the Chief Building Officer he ensured every project was constructed to the highest standards. When it came to his devotion to the fire service, Bob was a visionary and leader who put the fire fighter first in terms of leadership, training and safety. I am proud that he was my mentor and I was able to have a long career due to his guidance. Rest in peace."

—With thanks to Teryl Bougie

GPH: 12/03/1015—A1187

BYLES, Ethel

25/08/1928

GPH: 08/04/2016—S2032

CALDWELL, Harold

17/07/1922–26/09/2018

The name Caldwell is a common one in Oro-Medonte. Harold's wife was Delores Murdoch, also an Oro-Medonte family name. Mr. Caldwell's parents were Robert and Belle (Waddy). He was a farmer, but also a grader operator for the Township for some thirty years; did snowplowing in the winter. Retired in 1987. Every Sat. night they danced in a group of eight, until 2005. His church was First Baptist, in Barrie. Mr. Caldwell was the most pleasant of people and enjoyed talking about the life he had led. Resident Bill DUNCAN and his brother Don knew him well.

GPH: 15/12/2017—M1231

•• CAMPBELL, Denise

04/06/1942–

A great sense of humour. Denise moved to Grey Gables Nursing Home.

GPH: 21/12/2012–04/11/2016

CAMPBELL, Mary

20/12/1933–

GPH: 23/01/2018—P1038

CARRIERE, Roseanne "Rosie"

09/10/1932–27/05/2018

B. in Penetang. Mrs. Carriere moved to GPH from Beechwood Private Hospital, in Penetang, where she had lived nine years. It was closing. She had been a factory worker; liked to work. Rosie came from one of the largest families we have had represented at GPH: twenty-five siblings! She is survived by a son (Ron) and daughter (Margaret). She liked the music of Charlie Pride and country music in general.

GPH: 09/04/2018—S2012

CARRUTHERS, Audrey

20/04/1929–30/12/2014

Audrey's sister Elva McLEAN also lived at GPH, 23/03/2002–25/07/2009.

GPH: 10/01/2011

CARTY, Viola

31/10/1929–

Viola loves music; pre-COVID-19 always attended my Bible study. Devoted son Donald whom all of us have got to know and appreciate.

GPH: 13/02/2017

•• CHALMERS, John

19/10/1926–25/06/2014

John had lived for some 50 years in Barrie and worked at Westbend. At the age of eight months he had emigrated from Dumbarton, Scotland. He made four trips back there and discovered family. John was a gentleman, easy-going and likeable. He has two sons.

GPH: 09/03/2012

CHAPMAN, Susan "Sue"

12/04/1933–30/14/2018

Mrs. Chapman was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. She was a sociable person and loved dancing to big band music, Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra. She was married to Wilburt James "Bud" Chapman, and mother of Cathy, Chris, and Jeff.

GPH: 03/12/2015—W3044 > P1018

CHAPPEL, Vera

16/05/1926–31/08/2019



Mrs. Chappel moved to GPH from Whispering Pines. At one time she worked in the Barrie jail.

Vera was born in SE London, where her grandparents (?) had a fruit and vegetable market. She used to go before school with her father sometimes to a large market, with a horse and wagon. Once the horse slipped while going over a bridge. During WWII, Vera and two friends met three soldiers on a blacked-out train. They asked for directions, and one of Vera's friends offered that Vera lived near the destination of one of the soldiers. Vera and her friends went to a dance and later her soldier-friend came by her house on his motorcycle. Her father did not like Canadians, but told this man, her future husband, when he met him, that if he needed a place to sleep, he was welcome at their house. (I hope this repetition of the story is more or less accurate.) So it was that Vera came to Canada as a "war bride."

Vera had four daughters who took good care of their mom (Cheryl, Sandra, Brenda, and Krista). I liked Vera and we often talked.

Photo credit: Obituary, *Barrie Advance*.

GPH: 03/07/2015—A1175

CHAVNER, John

19/07/1929–10/05/2019



Mr. Chavner came to GPH from the Waterford RH. A likable man, his wife Betty was a frequent visitor. John was one of a number of interesting men who lived on Maple during the time he was at GPH.

GPH: 26/01/2018—M1216

CHURCH, Gordon

22/09/1922–30/05/2014

GPH: 21/10/2013

CLOUGHLEY, Delbert

30/04/1931–28/11/2015

GPH: 22/07/2013—M1193

COLCY, Lois

26/08/1939–

GPH: 07/03/2018

•• COLEMAN, Lenora “Lee”

09/10/1919–06/10/2013

B. Margaretsville, N.S., in the Annapolis Valley.

“She was the last surviving direct descendent of the first ‘keeper of the light’ of the landmark Margaretsville Lighthouse. Married at a young age to Spurgeon Coleman, they raised a family of seven; four sons and three daughters. Lee treasured the closeness of a small community, family and friends.

The family moved to Ontario and, after the last of her children left home, Lee took a job in the ladies department at F. W. Woolworth’s in Barrie. She worked there for a few years, enjoying her independence. Lee played the piano, loved music and nature, all animals, and had a particular fondness for cats. She was a vocal advocate for anyone and anything that could not speak for themselves, a true friend, a loving Momma and Nannnie to many grandchildren. Lee never ceased to marvel at the creation of a baby. She could often be heard saying, ‘Aren’t they just a miracle!’

Lee lived at GPH less than two years. At times she found it difficult to accept that she needed help. However, she did make a close friendship with Cathy and Lisa, two staff members on Maple. She died October 6, 2013. She has returned home to Nova Scotia, God’s Country, joining her husband and her son Max, and leaves us with many wonderful memories.”

—Thanks to Debra Johnston, Lee’s daughter.

Lee lived in Halifax for some years, where her father managed the Carlton Hotel. I found her to be a good conversationalist and interesting to talk to. She missed the east coast.

GPH: 30/12/2010

COLLINS, Patrick “Pat”

10/09/1927–

Mr. Collins told me that he grew up on the 7th of Vespra, not far from the little Anglican church that was moved to the Simcoe County Museum. They lived in a house with no electricity, no plumbing. The schoolhouse had no well—there was a bucket of water for drinking water until a Mr. Cameron dug a well. This is not that long ago! My wife Elaine and I were married in that Anglican church on Aug. 5, 1989. Pat is a good conversationalist and, as one might guess, has had an interesting life; lots of experiences.

GPH: 02/03/2018—A1184

•• COOK, Gladys

22/11/1926–11/11/2017

At our Celebration of Life on Apr. 4, 2018, Gladys’s niece’s husband, Arie SCHALY, sang a hymn.

GPH: 19/08/2011—M1236 > W3016

2nd † COOKSLEY, Edith “Edie”

23/09/1948–

Edie's mother Violet "Vicky" BENNER lived at GPH in 2001: see *Connections 2*.

GPH: 08/06/2018—S2038 > 2014

COON, Wilfred "Wilf"

12/02/1922–12/01/2017

Mr. Coon's father (London, ON) served in the military in WWI and at the end of WWII. Wilf had an identical twin brother, Wilbour who, like Wilf, was in the airforce. He also had two younger sisters. He flew in Lancasters and trainers. Failing eyesight led to his becoming an air traffic controller. Wilf was in the airforce 38 years. He was an air traffic controller with our neighbour on Roslyn Rd., John Ashton Smith, in Goose Bay. In fact, Wilf "stood up" with John at his wedding. Mr. Coon had an excellent memory. At our memorial service, his daughter Barbara, who works at Base Borden, spoke warmly about her dad. It was fine.

GPH: 22/10/15—M1224

‡ COPE, Marion

07/11/1922–19/12/2018

Mrs. Cope moved to GPH from Birchmere Retirement Home in Orillia.

GPH: 19/11/2018—A1130

CORRIGAN, Pearl *Pritchard*

18/10/1924–07/03/2020

At the age of 94 and with a fine memory, Mrs. Corrigan related to me in detail the story of her long life one day in the fall of 2018. It is a story of much hardship in its early years, of great resilience, and of overcoming. Really an amazing person at a great age; inspiring, and rightfully proud of her sons, both engineers. I can relate only one small part of her life because it touches on my own.

Pearl worked at Westinghouse in Hamilton for eleven years. Westinghouse was a big employer for a long time. Before her marriage she "went out with" one Claude Cox, who also worked there. The relationship did not continue because he was "too religious." His sister (Pauline) went out with Pearl's cousin. That Claude Cox and his sister Pauline were none other than my father's first cousins!! Their father was a preacher, my great uncle Will Cox, in the Church of Christ. Claude was likely named for his uncle, Claude Watterworth, married to W. F. Cox's sister Edna at Meaford. Claude Watterworth died before I was born but, thanks to both Claudes, that uncommon name—uncommon in English at least—was in the air. Pearl connected my name with the one she had known years ago, not knowing of course our relationship. Small world, as they say. By the way "that" Claude Cox retired from Westinghouse.

GPH: 26/05/2017—A

•• CORTOPASSI, Esterina

09/02/1936–27/07/2016

Mrs. Cortopassi lived at GPH for almost ten years. She liked to sing and most of us who are staff can remember her singing in Italian. Staff on Pine knew Esterina affectionately as “mama.”

GPH: 29/12/2016—P1012

•• COX, Doris Evelyn *Hindle*

01/07/1927–23/04/2016

What follows was prepared on the occasion of my mother’s death, for those who came to her service in Meaford.

Life story

Doris Hindle was born on the 3rd Line of St. Vincent Twp. on July 4, 1927, the fifth and youngest child of Andrew Hindle (b. Apr. 14, 1889, Sheguiandah, Manitoulin Is.) and Alice Ethelene Vickers (b. Sept. 9, 1895, St. Vincent Twp.). Her siblings were Florence (1917), Harold (1919), Ethelene (1922), and Lloyd (1924). A year and a half later, on Jan. 18, 1929, her father Andrew died at the age of 40, of a perforated duodenal ulcer. It was only much later in her life, when she had time to reflect, that Doris expressed her great sorrow over never having known her dad. She kept a photo of him among those displayed in her suite at Grove Park Home.



Andrew Hindle Doris and mom, Alice

In 1933 Alice married Wesley Doherty (b. Nov 8, 1906) and they had three children: Lorne (1933), Marjorie (1935), and John Maurice (1938). This too was a fine marriage and Wes was a good father to all the children.

In the mid-1930s Wes and Alice and the younger children moved to the 7th Line, and a small house, to help care for his parents. It was the Depression. Two older children, Harold and Lloyd, and sometimes Ethelene, were left on the farm on the 3rd Line to look after it; Florence, the eldest had already left home. Our mother remembers this as a difficult time for their family. She walked to Minniehill School and, late in life, recalled that she, along with other small

children, was bullied by older boys at the school. After a few years they moved back to the 3rd Line.

Doris meets Ralph ... marriage ... setting up house ... children

Her family was living “up in Kent” in Meaford when Doris was in her late teens. She was clerking at Muxlow’s pharmacy and, after (before?) that, worked as a nanny for lawyer Colin Bennett and his family.

Ernie, Laura and son Ralph Cox were also living “up in Kent.” Sometimes Ernie would stop and give Doris a ride home; then Ralph gave her a lift home. “The rest is history,” as they say. The Cox family were members of the Disciples Church / Church of Christ in Meaford. Ralph’s uncle Will was a minister in that tradition and living in Hamilton. Doris and Ralph travelled to Hamilton to be married by his uncle Will on June 22, 1946 and honeymooned at Niagara Falls. She was just short of 19; he had turned 26.



Honeymoon Claude and Barbara

Ralph had been working in the orchards but, now married, he worked for a time at Knights of Meaford, cabinetmaking, and at a furniture factory: he learned woodworking. He built a house for the two of them at the west end of Nelson St. They spent the first few months of married life with his parents and then moved into the house, “not quite finished.” This would be a continuing story of their married life.

Claude was born on Sept. 23, 1947 at the “cottage hospital” in Meaford and a year and a half later, Barbara, on Jan. 27, 1949. In about 1952 Doris and Ralph and the children moved to a house he was building on Pearson St., again not quite finished. Across the driveway Ralph built a shop for his cabinetmaking and carpentry and then built on to the front of that shop a building that became Ralph Cox Building Supplies. They sold McClary appliances, Glidden Paints, lumber ... Seven or eight years later this business was sold to a couple from Burlington but the business failed. They retained the Glidden Paint dealership, but by this time Ralph had moved on into building houses.

In the 1950s the Meaford Tank Range was active and Ralph and Doris built several houses, on Parker St. above the Fairgrounds, on Pearson St., and on Trowbridge St., and rented them to military families. Bill and Marg Troup, Fred

and Elva Schultz, the Hardings—the Troups and Schultzes moved to BC, the Troups to the forestry service and the Schultzes by way of Wainwright, AB. Roly Turcotte wired houses for Ralph, and Roly and Mattie remained lifelong friends, even after their move to Kingston; also Harvey and Alice Winters after their move “down East” to Nova Scotia—again, both military families. These were busy times and Ralph was constantly at work, it seemed, while Doris “ran the house” and helped with the house building by doing plastering—including those “swirly-patterned ceilings”—and painting. Meals were continually interrupted by phone calls or people coming by to see our dad.

Trips and vacations

Our parents always managed brief holidays during the summer: a week at Port Elgin, camping, a couple of times; Craigeith. When we were about 12 and 11, our parents thought we should see the country so, with a newly acquired 1958 Chev stationwagon, their first new car, we camped our way across Canada, visiting the Schultzes in Wainwright, the Troups in BC, right to Vancouver Is., where we took in the Butchart Gardens at Victoria: Bill Troup’s father was a groundskeeper there. We came back through the northern U.S.A., and saw the Grand Coulee Dam and the aftermath of a tornado in Bay City, MI. All this in about three weeks. Other trips took us down East—cool and wet, not to be repeated—and to Lakeworth, FL, where dad’s cousin Jim, a pharmacist, and wife Ellen, a real estate broker, lived. It was hot there in the summer. We all enjoyed “drift boat” fishing with Jim, who cleaned the fish. We took in the Cypress Gardens water show, and returned home to Canada with bags of oranges.

There were also trips to take me (Claude) to school in Abilene, TX, and to Richmond, VA. After Barbara and I were away, there were more trips to Florida, including Disneyworld, to Nashville (the Grand Ole Opry) and, much later, to see me when I was teaching in Brandon, MB.

Doris was a good sport on these trips when we were children. We remember the time, someplace in Maine (?), when she was using an outdoor “facility” that had a space open above the door, Barbara and I rained down wild apples through this opening. We laughed above her protestations.



Alice and Wes, their children and grandchildren. Doris and Ralph are in the back row, second and third from the right (Emerson Dinsmore, Ethelene's husband, is at the end); Barbara is holding on to Doris' hand and Claude is in front of Barbara (and Marjorie).

Because our father was an “only child,” and because grandparents Cox and great-aunt Edna (Cox) Watterworth also went to the Disciples' Church, we saw more of our Cox relatives than the Hindle and Doherty family. Nevertheless, Doris remained close to her sisters and brothers and there are good memories of visits to “grandma Doherty's” at Christmas with our cousins, and occasional visits to the farm. Doris and her sister Ethelene (in the middle back of the photo above, 5th from the right) were often taken for one another; there were birthday parties as children with our cousin David (Hindle), whose birthday was a few days away from Barbara's, and frequent visits at least by phone with sister-in-law Margie, David's mom; visits to the Dinsmore farm near Thornbury. Through her larger family, our mother provided us with many cousins just about our age.

Again because Ralph was an “only child,” and because, at the time, wives commonly looked after family connectedness, Doris was in almost daily contact, by phone, with her in-laws, Ernie and Laura, who lived just out of town on the 7th Line, at the time the first house on the east side just north of highway 26. It was an attractive old brick house with a shallow well in the basement.

Things to do and enjoy

Doris looked after all the kids' needs—clothes for school, arranging for swimming lessons ... sewing. She was an excellent cook and made wonderful pies (apple, peach, cherry, elderberry). Throughout her life she enjoyed flowers, though life in town did not permit much of a garden until their last house. Roses were always a favourite; one of our houses on Trowbridge St. had a large snowball bush and iris along the east wall. For some reason, our dad did not like iris and ran over them with the lawnmower. Indoors Doris had a good hand with African violets and, because Ralph liked them, there were always geraniums. For many years she also had a canary in the dining room. And because she had

children, there were cats, a dog, goldfish, and a baby raccoon that Barbara brought home (this did not last: it cried for her at night and messed in her shoes). No more salamanders were brought home from the old brickyard at the frog pond after she found one dead under their bed. Our mother was an excellent seamstress and made clothes for herself and Barbara. When “bulky knit” sweaters were all the go, she knitted one for me (antique cars on it) and another for Barbara. She also knitted beautiful sweaters for herself. One of her hobbies was “paint by number” sets and two of her favourites, girls doing ballet, followed her to Grove Park and were looking down on her when she passed away. Talented.

Our mom was active among the women of our church, helped with Vacation Bible Schools, baked, attended the women’s Bible study—aside from being there for worship with Ralph and the kids three times (!) a week. These activities provided her with important, lifelong friendships, especially with Roy and Gwen White, and after Gwen died, Ardeth; Mary and Elgin Emptage; neighbours Gord and June White; Carol and Merv Risk and, after Carol died, Grace. These relationships meant an extended family for Barbara and me, lots of laughter and good food.

Later in life

Ralph continued to build and do carpentry, but he also moved into electric heating, the installation of aluminum windows and doors, and several winters of snowplowing. From the time of Barbara’s marriage to Garry (Cornfield) on June 1, 1971, they lived at the SE corner of Trowbridge and Pearson Sts.—in a house she insisted would be finished before she moved in, with the basement devoted to Glidden Paints, a pool table, and geraniums in the windows. Barbara and Garry were not far away, in Rocklyn, so Barbara was able to help them when they needed it, as time went on. They liked it when granddaughter Faye, as a high school student, was storm-stayed or otherwise had something going on and spent the night with them. And there were David’s hockey games to attend.

Also, in the 1970s they acquired an old cottage at Sunnyside Beach. This Ralph tore down and built a small, winterized bungalow. For about ten or so years they spent much of the year out there, where they had a lovely rose garden, fed the hummingbirds, and tried to keep the deer from eating the cedars. For several years we had Christmas there. By this time I too was married, to Elaine (Webster), and our children (Michael, Jason, Laura) were small. Good times.

Doris took great delight in her grandchildren. She and Ralph were able to attend David and Nikki’s wedding (2002) and photos of Josh and Ryan were pored over when they came. Faye married Matt (Campbell) (Apr. 26, 2008) and Doris followed the birth and development of Finn and William with great interest and pride. Visits from her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were special times.



The move to Barrie

Ralph's health deteriorated when he was 84—their house at 91 Pearson was still not quite finished—to the point where it was necessary to live in a long-term care facility. So, in 2004 our mom went through the great emotional turmoil of selling the house and leaving Meaford, church, friends and relatives to move to Grove Park Home in Barrie, where I (Claude) am chaplain. She lived in the Retirement Living section and he lived in the nursing home proper. Doris too was not in the best of health but her health improved greatly after the move with consistent medical care.

Doris spent countless hours, as Ralph's dementia increased, pushing his wheelchair, talking to him when he could no longer talk, and, in general, looking after him. In 2010 she herself moved into the nursing home, a floor above Ralph which, in fact, made life easier for them because she was able to bring him up to her suite with only a short elevator ride.

Ralph died on Feb. 9, 2012, peacefully in the middle of the afternoon while Doris, Barbara and Claude were talking. Doris was able to make the trip to Meaford for the funeral. She continued to be involved in activities at GPH, though her favourite times were visits from her family and friends. Well into her 89th year her own health deteriorated, though she still had a reasonable memory and enjoyed her suite, facing south, with its morning sunshine. A series of small strokes saw her lose meaningful use of her right hand, her writing hand. A week or so before she died, Doris aspirated while drinking a cup of coffee, then, a few days later experienced another stroke that made it impossible for her to form sentences or to swallow properly.

Our mom passed away peacefully at 3:30 Saturday morning, April 23. Barbara and I were with her through Friday evening and Barbara was with her when she died. There were freshly cut tulips and daffodils on the table from our garden. On the wall behind her headboard she had a small plaque—a gift from Barbara—that read, "God couldn't be everywhere so he created Mothers." This was certainly true of her. We are grateful for all she helped us to become. We knew we were always loved.



See also *Connections* 3, “Ralph Cox.”

GPH: 13/09/2010—S2011

COX, Kenneth

13/05/1922–04/06/2019 (at 95)

Mr. Cox moved to GPH from Tollendale Village and his wife Ruby joined us later in RL. In his 90s he had a phenomenal memory which he drew on in an almost endless stream of recollections. He could recite from memory many sayings and pieces of songs, often funny; also, for example, Kipling’s “Gungedin” or John Masefield’s “Down by the Sea.” He was a British veteran and when he and Chuck PROSSER—he was 98 (!) and also a veteran—got together at the Café it was a privilege just to sit with them and listen. I liked him immensely. Also, he was another “Cox.”

Kenneth was born on the Isle of Wight. His father was from near Birmingham, was wounded in WWI, where he fought at Vimy, was gassed and sent to the Isle of Wight to recuperate. There he married; played soccer; and fell from a roof, badly injured. They lived at Vectis. Kenneth’s father died at age 74; Kenneth’s mom lived into her late 80s. Kenneth passed through the hardships of the Depression, so there were stories from that time.

He had many funny stories from his time in the military. American soldiers, he said, were better paid than the British, an advantage with the girls. The British soldiers said of the Americans, “Here come the Americans: overpaid, over-sexed, and over here!” One time he told me a delightful characterization of the four peoples of the British Isles: “There’s the Scots, who kneel to God, and lay their hands on everything they can and keep it; the Welsh, who kneel to God and prey on their neighbours; there’s the Irish, who don’t know what they want and will fight anyone to keep it; and the British, who think they are self-made and saved the Lord a lot of trouble.” Of course, this parody, told in jest, was not original with him, but he told it well. (I myself am of British, Scottish and Irish descent, lacking only the Welsh.) Now I wish I’d taken a phone to record some of his funny recollections.

Kenneth emigrated to Canada. He met Ruby in the paint department of Woolworth’s in Barrie. She was originally from Lassmad (sp.?), near Apsley, where her father was a school teacher. Both had children when they met. During their marriage they travelled a lot. This included some five weeks in New Zealand and in 1985, and visits to the locations where “The Sound of Music” was filmed. Both were active late in life: Kenneth golfed until he was 92.

Mr. Cox died after a short illness, taking with him a lifetime of memories and stories.

GPH: 21/10/2016—W3046

CRAIG, Kenneth

19/02/1930–15/03/2018

Mr. Craig was an accountant and a consummate gentleman, well spoken and impeccably dressed. He told me once that he had been born in a private hospital at “Mineral Baths,” at Keele and Bloor, Toronto. “Robina” (Springs?) was nearby, another private spa. “Mineral Baths” had a three-storey diving board! These will be the High Park Mineral Baths: see

<https://tayloronhistory.com/2016/02/08/torontos-lost-mineral-baths-on-bloor-street/>

GPH: 22/12/2016

CRAWFORD, Dr. Elsie Marie *Hoffman*

07/12/1921–25/07/2017



(Dr.) Elsie Crawford

Mrs. (Dr.) Crawford was a tablemate of my mother on Spruce; my mom sat to her right. It is a striking coincidence that their names appear one after the other in *Connections 4*. Son Doug, also a physician, was a regular visitor late in the afternoon when I was often there. Long before that, when our children were born, my wife Elaine, a nurse, wanted Doug as her anaesthetist during delivery: she wanted an epidural. Elaine already knew him as a fine physician. That did not happen, unfortunately—the attending nurse did not think she really needed it!—but eventually his mom came to live at GPH. At a great age Elsie maintained sharpness of mind and wit; we had many funny exchanges in the dining room when I was there with my mother. According to her obituary, Dr. Elsie was born on the family farm in Saskatchewan and “lived to become a dedicated daughter, sister, mother, wife and doctor.” Her husband was Robert (Crawford), who predeceased her; she was also predeceased by second husband, Allan Ironside.

Elsie's children were sons James (Elizabeth) and Douglas (Gail), and daughters Barbara and Alison (Philip). She had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her funeral service was at St. James Anglican Church in Orillia.

GPH: 24/06/2013—S2036

CUMMING, Ruth

09/04/1936–29/05/2018

A quiet, likeable person.

GPH: 04/09/2013—S2038

•• CURLEY, Rita

08/06/1926–06/12/2016

B. in Windsor, the middle one of three sisters. Came to Toronto to school (elementary? high?). Rita's father had a fruit and vegetable stand in a market two days a week. She waitressed in restaurants, in the Pilot Hotel for many years. One of her sisters was a waitress too. Rita had the most amazing smile. I used to ask her where she got that million-dollar smile.

GPH: 20/08/2012—A1177

CURTIS, Mary

17/02/1927–11/07/2019

Mary was tall and stood straight. She had worked for years in the ladies' wear department at Woolworth's in Barrie. At GPH she liked to use the treadmill and she spent a lot of time walking in Spruce unit. Mary had an exceptionally quick sense of humour and we often exchanged quips. Asked how she broke her ankle, she responded, "I fell in love!" She was a great-grandmother several times over.

GPH: 10/02/2015—S2016

•• DAMERINO, Bambie

18/12/1926–07/03/2013

For Bambie's life story, see *Connections 3*.

GPH: 24/03/2010

DAWNEY, Lionel

21/08/1923–16/11/2018



Mr. Dawney was one of five children, four boys and one girl. His family lived east of Cookstown. Lionel said he was born in a thunderstorm. In an early memory, his mother saw two airplanes go over; one crashed. He was a boy and they went to see it. At age 14 Mr. Dawney went to work on a farm for \$40 a month. He left that to become a bricklayer in Barrie; did well. After a few years he became a sign painter. He recalled painting the underside of helicopters with dripless paint. Retired at age 84! Mr. Dawney was a remarkable person, immensely likable with, as these recollections suggest, a great memory and a good sense of humour. Staff loved him and will remember him for his Hawaiian shirts. He had some favourite sayings, which I wrote down. Here is one:

“Happy New Year. May all your troubles be bubbles.” This, he said, had been told to him by a Weston’s bread truck driver.

An obituary for Mr. Dawney appeared in the *Barrie Advance*, Nov. 22, 2018, p. 49. The photo above accompanied the obituary.

GPH: 31/07/2017—S2036

DEGUARA, Beatrice “Bea”

05/12/1930–06/01/2021

Bea was a lovely person; always attended my Bible study. Like Alma SWEET, she was originally from Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; Alma from Rockglen, near the American border. We had some fun with that—my two people from Saskatchewan! Before COVID-19, Deacon Ron from St. Mary’s was a regular visitor. Bea had worked as a secretary and is survived by her children.

GPH: 13/04/2018—M1227

DEJONG, Ivy

24/06/1939–

GPH: 16/03/2017—S3046

•• DESJARLAIS, Catharine “Kay”

15/03/1923–15/09/2016

B. one of 12 or 13 children, in Windsor. Kay moved to GPH from Roberta Place. She had three daughters (Cathy [Allen]; Laura [Harris]; Denise [Lewis]) and one son: son Larry is married to Nancy Usher, long time GPH employee and step-daughter of Grenville DOAN. Kay lived on Pine for almost seven years and we got to know her family well, since they lived close by and visited often.

GPH: 17/04/2009—P1042

DEVRIES, Beverly

31/05/1938–

Bev’s husband Wim lives in RL.

GPH: 13/01/2017

DICKIE, Ronald

20/04/1934–30/05/2018

Mr. Dickie had a background in the military and in construction. Wife Donna and children, Catherine and Daniel.

GPH: 04/04/2018—W3029

•• DICKSON, Marie *Locking*

08/04/1920–16/07/2017



A Christmas photo at GPHome

Marie was born exactly four months after my dad and lived on Spruce, where my mother (Doris) also lived. We saw each other often. She would say, “It’s so good to hear your voice.” I think she was probably as welcoming with everyone. A delightful person, a “sparkler,” who liked jewelry and bling; loved her family; engaging; kind; made close friendships with other residents. Marie grew up in the Gospel Hall in Orillia, was baptized there. When she married, her husband, a police officer, was Anglican so that became her tradition. She liked to come to my Bible study. Marie worked at Eaton’s in Toronto for several years, in sales at the Queen and Yonge St. store. In Barrie she worked in Town & Country, then at Cleo’s in the Georgian Mall, so she had a fine eye for fashion. Marie had two children: her daughter died at age fifty-six of cancer; son Paul lives in Barrie. We often saw Paul, who spoke with great warmth of his mom at our memorial service. Marie took pride in her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and their visits were eagerly anticipated and then recalled with excitement. A special person to be sure.

GPH: 29/08/2012—S2014

•• DIGNARD, Marian “Marny” *Smith*

28/07/1924–19/03/2013

Marny graduated from the U of T in pharmacy in 1949 and, after her marriage, had a pharmacy in Port McNicoll. See *Connections 3* for Marny’s life story and a photo.

GPH: 15/04/2005

•• DONNELLY, Phyllis *Blacklock*
23/12/1920–02/02/2017

B. in Newcastle and kept a fine accent to the end of her life, along with a great sense of humour and an infectious smile.

She met future husband Frank D. while going to a dance: he was driving the truck that came to pick up “the girls.” Phyllis was with the RAF. In 1945 they emigrated to Canada. Phyllis and Frank had two children, son Hugh, and daughter Frances Sutton. Hugh worked with Dermot Maher (husband of Lorraine, who worked at GPH for many years) for the city of Barrie. Phyllis worked for Simpson’s Sears.

Phyllis was a big fan of the Royal Family, a Royal-watcher. Loved to quilt and enjoyed stitching of any kind.

GPH: 14/03/2011—S2033

DONOGHUE, Marjorie “Marni”
13/04/1927–09/12/2017
GPH: 01/03/2017—P1019

•• DOWNER, Tom
25/05/1933–13/06/2013
GPH: 22/07/2011

DRENNAN, Pamela
16/04/1928–

B. in Shrewsbury, near the Welsh border, and lived at 56 New St. She has this saying that she brought from England: “Pink, pink, to make the boys wink.” (19/05/2017) It is a saying I also heard from Gwen RUTTER (b. 1917), who came from the English Midlands: “Pink makes the boys wink.” See *Connections* 3. Pam speaks of “the Dingle,” a vast park in Shrewsbury.

GPH: 26/01/2017—M1224

DUARTE, Adilia “Dilita”
11/02/1953–21/03/2015

Dilita suffered from early onset Alzheimer’s, at 47. Her family—as were we—were happy when she moved into GPH but, unfortunately, she died about three weeks after her arrival.

GPH: 28/02/2015

•• DUBOIS, Gail
02/02/1942–27/11/2016
GPH: 16/11/2012—P1041

DUMKE, Ingaborg “Inga”
02/01/1937–

Inga emigrated from Berlin at age 37. She recalled that, after WWII, there was no hot water; no school. Inga came to Canada with no English, except, “Do you have a job for me?” She had a successful life here.

GPH: 22/01/2018—P1038

DUNCAN, William “Bill”

21/06/1942–

We will remember Bill for the many visits of his brother Don and their dog “Harley,” then Don’s dog “Diesel.” Each was an event, because Bill lives on the third floor of the new building, so there were many staff and residents to encounter on the way to Bill’s suite, with pats and treats and greetings.

GPH: 26/02/2016—W3020

DUNLOP, Robert “Bob”

16/10/1930–03/09/2019

A welder by trade.

03/02/2010—P1048

DUTKA, Christine “Chrissy”

04/04/1952–

GPH: 10/07/2017—M1212

[RL] DWINNELL, Cliff

28/08/1926–28/02/2015

GPH RL: 01/12/2013

DYKEMAN, Robert

11/09/1935–

GPH: 19/07/2017—A1174

ELKE, Erna

28/11/1930–18/01/2019

Erna lived at GPH for a short time but left, as occasionally happens.

17/01/2018—W3012

ELLIOTT, William “Bill”

29/10/1929–01/05/2016

Mr. Elliott came to GPH from Serenity Assisted Living. His wife had died a few months earlier and his health was suffering as a result. Bill taught sciences and math in Port Dover and that is where he met his wife. He took pride in helping students. Bill had a daughter, Carolyn (Foresheew) and son-in-law Charles; grandson, Sean.

Bill told me that his earliest memory was one of going down a lane and shooting groundhogs. He saw red on the fence row stones but, on investigation, found it was just red leaves that he saw. He was an “only” child and his father was away a lot. Bill spent more time with an uncle who, when it was stormy, would take him to school on a stone boat. Their farm lane was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long!

He had no childhood friends because there were only twenty children in the school. And the teacher was a “spinster” who had been there a long time, and was eventually teaching gd.-children of her former students! She was his best teacher! Perhaps that helped him become a great teacher. Bill told me of once advocating so several girls could take math in one of his classes; how they did well and went on to successful lives. He made a significant difference for them.

He used to play chess, checkers and backgammon on an iPad. Quite a man.

GPH: 10/09/2014—M1229

ELLIS, Hilda

03/02/1922–11/02/2013

GPH: 10/08/2007

ELLISON, Ila *Johnston*

15/06/1935–

Harold, Ila’s brother, lives in RL, and sister-in-law Ethel JOHNSTON, Harold’s wife, came to live at GPH, on Willow, a few months before Ila. She is a talented, accomplished artist with, among other things, exquisite pencil drawings in her portfolio. Her good friend, Kay ADAIR, lived next door. Ila has served on Resident’s Council as President. A dog lover, excellent conversationalist; a wise, thoughtful person. Always attended my Bible Study in “the big room” pre-COVID-19 and follows it in its You Tube incarnation. Daughters in ON and BC.

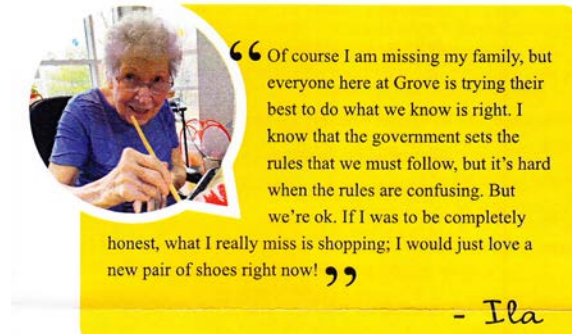


Photo credit: *The [GPH] Care Connection, news from the development office (Linda Muszynski), Nov. 2020.*

GPH: 28/09/2015—S

EMMS, Charlotte “Bonnie” *Chapman*

22/11/1932–10/08/2019

Mrs. Emms was one of the most cheerful people I have known at GPH. She was talkative and fun. Bonnie was born at Allenwood, where her parents farmed. I liked this expression she used one time, “You’re as helpful as a pocket on a shirt.” (21/06/1017) Her mom had been a Doan, so she was a cousin to Grenville DOAN.

GPH: 15/05/2017—A1148

•• EMMS, Dorsey

28/09/1931–30/07/2014

Mr. Emms moved to GPH from Maplewood Nursing Home in TO. He had been an autobody mechanic and liked talking about cars.

GPH: 09/12/2010

ESKESEN, Kaj

06/11/1931–07/02/2015

Mr. Eskesen was a famous athlete in Denmark. He was a bicyclist and a runner, a folk dancer, and a ballroom dancer, aside from being a championship badminton player. He competed in the 2008 Canadian Masters Open Championships. He and his wife also had amazing stories from WWII, helping people escape from the Nazis. He used to steal weapons from German soldiers.

Kaj met Esther when she was 12 and he was 14. A fascinating person. At their farm near Schomberg they used to throw huge St. Jean Baptiste parties.

GPH: 22/08/2014

•• EVANS, Joan

28/08/1914–31/07/2014

Mrs. Evans had a fine Scottish brogue. Fiercely independent. A consequence of living through the War was that she feared the dark.

GPH: 09/09/2010

FAIRHEAD, Helen

14/08/1924–21/05/2016



Wow!

Helen was born in Toronto. She had seven siblings. Her father died at age 42. At the age of fifteen, Helen was working as a doll maker. Later she worked as a waitress and was part-owner of Model Bakery and Restaurant in Bradford. Her mother, Pearl, lived on Alfred St. in Barrie.

She married Roy Fairhead on May 10, 1947. They had four children: June, Dan, Donna, and Shirley.

She loved knitting and doing “word puzzles.” She was a person of faith and in her younger years would have a hymn sing with family. Favourite songs

were, “Just as I Am” and “Jesus Loves Me.” During her seven years at Simcoe Terrace, she decorated a little Christmas tree. It was the highlight of her Christmas celebration. Helen loved cookies, yoghurt, and, especially, butterscotch ice-cream. She loved life and all those who helped her daily. Helen always liked dogs—she has had two at a time; rabbits and birds were also favourites.

Helen moved to GPH from Simcoe Terrace.
—Thanks to June for thoughts about her mom.
GPH: 18/01/2016

FANCY, Jane *Harris*

28/11/1923–03/04/2017*

B. Nov. 23, 1923 in Aberdare, Wales. She was the 4th eldest of the eight surviving children (of eleven) of Sarah Lewis and William Thomas Harris. Three girls; five boys. Her mother was a stay-at-home mom and her father was a coal miner, stone carver, and musician.



Jane grew up in the village and went out to work as a maid in a doctor’s home—think “Downton Abbey.” Her mother died when Jane was 14, so she had to return home to look after her siblings. After her mother died she went to work in an all-girls private school, and was promoted to be “first maid.” Then the War (WWII) came. Jane was 16. She went to Aldershot, England, to work in a bomb-making factory. She became a “bomb girl.”

Jane met her husband Harry at a dance there. Harry was, in fact, from the same village as Jane in Wales but they had never met. For his part, Harry had come to Canada through a Salvation Army program that saw him go to a farm. By the time the War began, he was working in a Dominion Store in Sudbury. He had enlisted in the Army, with the New Westminster Battalion, and gone to England for training. Harry was a musician (trumpet, singer), like her father. From the time they met Jane and Harry were inseparable. They were married in 1943. Harry’s friends saved up their ration cards so that Harry and Jane could have some special food at their wedding reception.

After the war Jane and Harry came to Canada, to Toronto. Jane was a “war bride.” Harry got a job at a Dominion Store, since they rehired employees who had served in the military. Lorraine was born in 1947; Tom was born in 1953. Jane was looking for something to do, so they started a variety store in 1954 (or ’55) at the “Six Points” (Queen St. and Ashburn Rd.), which became Fancy’s

Fish and Chips, with moves to Avenue Rd., West Hill, McMurchy; Brampton; Huntsville and finally, in 1969, Barrie. Jane worked in the restaurant until she was 84.

Jane was an extremely hard worker, with an amazing work ethic. She has left this legacy for all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who grew up admiring, laughing with, and loving their Nana-Jane. They are extremely fortunate—Michelle’s words—to have had this fine, honourable woman to look up to. Jane was devoted to her husband Harry (d. 2000), and to Tom (d. 2005) and Lorraine. She was also attached to the restaurant (“clean”) and its many customers. Jane was a fiesty, outgoing person and easily made friends. And she appreciated everything she got in life. Nothing was taken for granted. She loved dancing, a drink, and her family—the grandchildren and all those great-grandchildren!

At the age of 90 Jane came to live in Retirement Living at GPH. She lived there for about three years; then at the Waterford RH but wanting to be at Grove Park, and then—sometimes things work out—was able to return to GPH, to live on Aspen. She would have said to the staff, “Thank you for getting me up to walk.” And then she raced about in a wheelchair, chatting with staff and residents. Still go-go. Infectious smile. Finally, after a short illness.

—This was the life story read at Jane’s funeral. Thanks to Lorraine for the details of her mom’s life. Lorraine and I came to Grove Park Home to work at about the same time, so we have been friends a long time. I conducted the memorial services for Jane’s husband Harry and for her son, Tom. Tom was married to Ann Webster, whose parents (Arthur and Mary), brother (Donald) and sister (Myrna) all lived at GPH, so there are lots of ties. Thanks to Lorraine for the photo, taken in 2013.

GPH: 03/06/2015

•• FANJOY, Ruth

28/12/1929–20/02/2015

Ruth co-started “Parents without Partners” in Barrie. For her life, see *Connections 2*.

GPH: 13/06/2002

•• FARRELL, John

10/01/1944–11/12/2017*



Born in Toronto; one sister, Barbara (m. Graham), who lives in Haliburton.

John went to school in Toronto. This included time at Rochdale College! John did many things: cab driver, boxer—he trained in the same gym as George Chuvalo; teacher. Travelled. Met Joan, when he worked for Superior Propane in King City—she worked there. They were married in 1983 in her mom’s backyard in Richmond Hill. She too liked to travel and their love for travel saw them take seven trips to Mexico, among other places. In 1984 they bought a cottage near Mactier, on Healy Lake. That they enjoyed for more than twenty years: John was a popular guitar player around the campfire. Many good memories.

From King City they moved to Barrie, Utopia; in 1991. Two years later Lexi was born (1993) and two years after that, Jack (1995). It was in 2006 that John was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and it eventually took his life. In 2012 John came to live at Grove Park. John made friends. People learned that he played guitar. These were conversation starters. There was a big party here for John’s 70th birthday. John’s birthday was Jan. 10th.

A Celebration of Life for John took place on Sat., Jan. 13, 2018. The auditorium was packed. Friends Kathy Nault, John McConkey, Nancy Humphries & Sandy McConkey, and friend-from-youth Tom Kashuk told us amazing, funny things about John. Tom told us some “unbelievable” accounts of times with John when they were young, such as a trip to Mexico in a VW van. The world was a brighter, more mischievous, funnier place with John. There is an annual “Volley for Johnny” charity volleyball game in John’s honour, to raise money for Parkinson’s research.

John and Joan raised two terrific children in Lexi and Jack. John was a rock ’n roll guitarist and liked Neil Young, so the Celebration of Life included a recitation of Young’s song “Long May You Run.” It was a truly memorable afternoon.

Here is a link to “Long May You Run”:
[Neil Young - Long May Y#13D17FA](#)

‡ FAULDS, Alexander “Alex”

19/09/1944–

A bricklayer by trade in Scotland, born south of Glasgow at Motherwell.
A lovely accent and a lively sense of humour.

GPH: 06/06/2018

FAYE, Francis “Frank”

09/06/1917–17/11/2016

B. in Toronto. Eight brothers and sisters—Eddie, Jack, Lawrence, Gord, Al, Vivien, Irene and Helen. Lawrence became a priest and Irene a nun. They lived at 90 Bond St., across from St. Michael’s. He was an altar boy, said the Mass at 7 a.m., delivered papers, finished in time to deliver afternoon papers. Since his older brother entered the priesthood, I once asked him if he had thought about it for himself, as his family may have expected it. He said, “A girl got me first!” Nevertheless, Frank was a soloist at St. Michael’s Cathedral and, years later, used to sing “Ave Maria” at Christmastime for his family. Throat cancer some thirty years ago left him unable to sing.

Mr. Faye’s father William died when Frank was quite young. His mother, Catherine, raised the family during the Depression. Frank was 12 when it began, in 1929. He served in WWII.

Frank married Margaret in Aug., 1940. They raised four children: Frank, Bernadette “Bunny” (m. McAlister), John and Michael. He was employed as a butcher, and later as a waiter in a hotel. He returned to his original occupation (butcher) in Alcona until he retired.

Margaret died in 1996.

Mr. Faye continued to enjoy the music of the 40s, 50s and 60s, especially Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin. He liked to play cards and watch sports on TV—baseball and hockey. Animals, especially dogs, were a great love of his.

He used to sit in a favourite chair near the doors into Spruce, wearing a baseball cap. Always enjoyed talking with him. I looked up the street where he grew up on Google Maps and brought it in for him to see on a laptop computer. Walked past where he grew up when I was in downtown Toronto one time.

GPH: 04/03/2015

FERGUSON, Neva

19/09/1937–17/07/2017



Neva was from Lefroy and had many friends from childhood and teenage years. Her husband Ken was at GPH almost every day, driving in from Thornton, and we had lots of conversations, so that he became a friend to many of the staff, including me. There was a come and go celebration of Neva's life at the Grange Hall in Lefroy, July 30, 2017, where Neva's family and many friends gathered to remember her. I was surprised that such a large group of friends could continue together over so many years.

Ken and Neva raised three children: Bonnie (m. Tom Simons); Debbie (m. Scot Alcombrack); and Scott (m. Kathy). They were married almost 61 years. Ken showed me the photo that appears here, on his phone, and I asked him for a copy. Lovely. Thanks.

GPH: 26/10/2015—P1018 > W3015

FERRIS, Mary Patricia "Pat"

30/12/1937–02/12/2016

B. in Weston, to Bill and Mary. Her dad was a teacher. Pat loved life especially in the summer months, at the family cottage in Oro Twp., swimming in Lake Simcoe. Her log home was on the site of that old cottage.

Pat was married to John for 50+ years. They raised three children: Kathleen, Douglas, and Steven. She had eight grandchildren: Bethany, Connor and Ben; Elisa and Grace; Joanna, Michala and John.

Nursing was Pat's profession. She worked at several different hospitals: Ottawa Civic, Mississauga, Newmarket, and RVH in Barrie. She also worked at Camp Dufferin, a place for young offenders and at the Barrie Jail for the Ministry of Corrections. John told us that she started a church and changed the lives of many young men in need.

Pat attended Calvary Pentecostal Church; spirituality was important to her. She participated in women's groups.

John and Pat travelled to the Azores, Germany, France (Paris), Florida and the western provinces of Canada. She liked going to live theatre, enjoyed dancing, reading, letter writing and stories. Pat loved to have people around, and liked to listen to their stories and conversations. Listening to the music of the 50s and 60s, Elvis, was a favourite pastime. Taryl Bougie (Life Enrichment) recalls Pat coming to a bowling program when Elvis's "Blue Suede Shoes" came on the stereo. Pat started laughing and pointed at her feet—she was wearing blue suede shoes!

Pat maintained a kind and gentle disposition, even in illness.

GPH: 12/18/2015—A1123

FESS, Daisy *Fawcett*

03/06/1933–08/09/2018

Mrs. Fess moved to GPH from her apartment. She was the most funny person! She was married at the age of 18, and was mother of two sons and two daughters. Daisy told me that she had "lost" a baby and feared that she could not have children—then, boy-girl-boy-girl (or the reverse)! She had a happy life and was well satisfied with all that she had done.

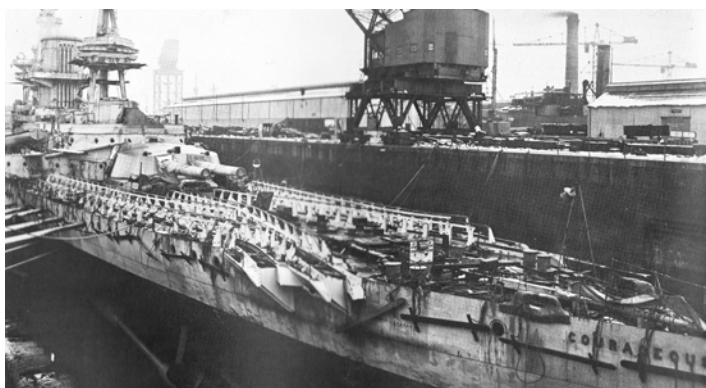
GPH: 21/08/2017—S2038

•• FINDLAY, John

02/03/1913–02/05/2014 101!

Mr. Findlay is the only male resident of GPH to reach 100 yrs. old. He died at 101 yrs., two days. John's photo is on "The 100 Wall" outside Aspen dining room. See the life story of his wife, Mary, in *Connections 3*, and a brief account of his own life in a separate entry.

John went to RAF Training School #1 at age 16, in 1929. He was commissioned. He then spent 2 ½ years on the H.M.S. *Courageous*, a battleship that had been converted to an aircraft carrier (1924–28). John had photos of the British fleet at anchor off Gibraltar during this period; impressive. The *Courageous* was torpedoed and sank in the first month of WWII.



For the story of the *Courageous*, including two photos, see Antony Preston, *Battleships of World War I. An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Battleships of all Nations 1914–1918* (NY: Galahad Books, 1972), 157–58. The photo above is on 158; its caption reads: “*Courageous* in dock during the winter of 1917 undergoing conversion to a minelayer. The four sets of rails discharging over her quarterdeck gave rise to the nickname ‘Clapham Junction’.” Online photos:

www.google.com/search?q=battleship+Courageous&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b (.)

John was involved in a special operation in Denmark, 1938; he was at Montrose, Scotland, when war was declared. He saw service in Egypt, Al-Almein, then to the south; Sicily. John was sent to Biggin Hill to set up night fighter squadrons during the time Coventry was bombed. To Graves End; then back to Scotland. To Egypt on his way to Djibouti, was wounded and did not get there. Sent to Khartoum; Sicily; Tunisia; at the end of the War he was in Algiers. (These details may not be in the correct order, since he told me the details on different occasions: John had an amazing war record and, at 100+, had an excellent memory of all that he had done.)

John left the air force in 1949. He and May and their children came to Ottawa, but then returned to Scotland, to Ayrshire for ten years; then five years

in Victoria, B.C. Whiterock, B.C.; Barrie. Mr. Findlay was a fine poet and composed poems at GPH for several special occasions. He was a gentleman and had a fine mind. May was the love of his life and they enjoyed a long, wonderful marriage.

The following is one of John's poems. It appeared in a GPH Christmas card.

The Christmas Star

A bright shining star,
Lit up the sky that day
While the Christ Child lay sleeping,
on a bed of hay.
Now lights are lit all over the earth,
Commemorating the Christ Child's birth.
And love will be renewed again,
For peace on earth,
good will to men.

GPH: 03/01/2007—A1134 > W3020

FLEMING, Joyce "Alexandra," "Alex"

21/01/1928–02/06/2017

Joyce had been a daycare operator. She had two sons (Robert and John) and a daughter (Kathy). Joyce came to GPH from Simcoe Terrace. She used to enjoy knitting and playing bridge.

GPH: 05/01/2011—A1166

FOJTIK, Stanley "Stan"

30/11/1932–

Mr. Fojtik speaks French, Czech, Ukrainian, and Russian; also English! A stationary engineer by trade, he worked on the Trans-Canada Highway in northern Ontario. Veteran. Hunter. Built his own telescope. I was intrigued by his story of his rescue of a gyr falcon. It had been hit by a car; he brought it back to health over a period of six months. It flew away eventually. Stanley researched falconry to take care of it. Nice story.

GPH: 17/02/2017—P1037

FORBES, Howard

21/11/1936–28/11/2015

Mr. Forbes was a hockey coach in Barrie and, by trade, a millwright at General Tire. He liked to be called "Captain, Coach, or Forbsie." Four children. His wife Connie was a frequent visitor and we got to know her as well, important because Mr. Forbes suffered from dementia and could not tell his own story. This is frequently the situation for GPH residents in recent years, my own dad included.

GPH: 11/07/2014

•• FORD, Jean

05/01/1916–09/03/2014

Mrs. Ford came to GPH from Coleman NH, as did Dorothy MCKEE, about the same time. 94! Jean was a farmer's wife and had six children when her husband died at age 53 of a heart attack; two were still at home. Three girls; three boys. Her husband was a cousin of Alice FORD'S husband; they farmed near each other at Grenfell. Her children were very supportive of her. Jean lived 22 years in Barrie, at 12 Kozlov.

GPH: 26/05/2010—W3029; S2041

•• FORD, William "Bill"

30/12/1923–28/05/2015

Mr. Ford moved into GPH from RL. He was a SE participant. A veteran, he wrote an autobiography that included extensive information about his service in WWII.

GPH: 13/04/2012

FOSTER, Kenneth "Ken"

23/12/1931–17/05/2017

From Penetang.

GPH: 15/02/2017—A1187

FORSYTHE, Shirley ARCHER

23/01/1936–22/01/2018

Born in Toronto, in the Dufferin–St. Clair neighbourhood. Shirley was a lovely person. She always attended my Wed. afternoon Bible study, one of the "two Shirleys," along with Shirley BRADING, both of whom lived on Spruce (unit). They often sat with each other and we had a lot of fun with "the two Shirleys." Shirley F. was married twice and has two children, Paul Archer and Laura (m. Bastien). She worked at CKBB and later at Georgian College, in administrative staff. Her second marriage ended in divorce and she lived at 125 Wellington St., a landmark Barrie apartment building, from which numerous GPH residents moved over the years. Shirley left that address after 33 (!) years and then lived at Simcoe Terrace, where she knew Burt Ridd, a childhood friend of mine from Meaford. Small world. Shirley identified with the Anglican church, her mother's church.

GPH: 15/01/2015—S2037

GALBRAITH, Peggy Ann

22/02/1951–

GPH: 14/05/2018—M1197

GALE, Florence Donalda "Donna"

04/08/1928–01/04/2015

Moved from Sarnia. Donna was Harry WAITE'S sister-in-law, sister of Wilma. Unfortunately her stay proved to be brief.

GPH: 03/03/2015—S2030

•• GARFAT, Marlene “Molly”

20/05/1937–05/02/2016

At her memorial service on Feb. 13, 2016, at Steckley's, family members spoke warmly of all that she had meant to them, and shared stories, often humorous. Several GPH staff and relatives of former residents of GPH who had come to know Molly attended. Colleen, from Dietary at GPH, shared rich, funny stories.



Molly, Apr. 1942.

At the service, Molly's cousin, Jack Brown, told us about her life. That is reproduced here; I have added the subtitles.

“Minnie Marlene Garfat was born at Appin on May 20, 1937, the only child of Bill and Ada Garfat. As the family became established, “Molly”—as she became known in her later years—spent her childhood in Dutton, Lambeth, Aurora and Toronto. Molly attended school in Montreal for a number of years and travelled independently by Air Canada between school and home. The family home was established in Aurora and following retirement Bill, Ada and Molly moved to Hollywood Estates on the outskirts of Barrie, right next door to Ada's brother Hank and his family.

Travel and various activities and interests

The Garfats loved to travel and Molly accompanied her parents on many international trips, where she became a loved member of her parents' large and active social circle. Winters in Florida were a high point for them all and Fairway Village was their winter home for many years. Once in Barrie, Molly was active with ARC Industries, the Barrie and District Association for People

with Special Needs (now Simcoe Community Services), and Jesus Walk at Collier United, where her parents were active members.

The player piano and the treadmill



Molly as we knew her at GPH; the player piano

Though Molly was not the most industrious or physically motivated individual, she loved music and enthusiastically played the family’s player piano, changing the paper rolls and pumping out familiar tunes. That love of music was evident throughout her life and she always loved to be part of the music therapy and sing-along programs at Grove Park. Because of her limited physical activity Molly had her own treadmill, which she was “encouraged” to use daily. One evening, following a family dinner, she was instructed to go on her treadmill while the rest of the family cleaned up. Off she went and we could hear the grumbling sound of the treadmill as it started up. Several minutes later someone remarked that on her way back from the washroom she noticed Molly standing quietly beside the treadmill with her hands clasped in front of her—waiting for the timer to shut the machine off! Yes, she was wily and she had a wicked sense of humour and good timing. She was a renowned dish dryer and was part of the kitchen crew at Fraser Court for many years and, of course, mom Ada had her helping at home whenever there were dishes to be done.

A pure and simple heart

Molly had a pure and simple heart and little attachment to anything physical. Her treasure was in her friends and they are countless. Molly has been a joy and a blessing to all who knew her and there are scores who knew Molly. You could not take Molly anywhere in Barrie without someone stopping to say hello and ask her how she was doing. Though she almost always said, “What’s your name?” it was about 98% sure that she knew the person’s name and remembered something personal about them—sometimes a child’s name, sometimes a special nickname or a remark about orange slippers. And she particularly liked the gentlemen and regularly asked for them. There were church friends, bus drivers, care givers, case workers, store clerks, staff from any of her many associations or friends of friends and they all received a cheery greeting and smile and often some standard questions, “Do you like that polish?” “Is my head bleeding?” “Am I going to the hospital” “Do you know who kissed me?” “You know what

Brad called me?” Whether she was called Marlene, or Molly, or cuz, or Peggy or Marvin she was loved by many and will be missed so much by us all.”

—Jack Brown, with help from Wendy.

*Molly sustained a brain injury as a young child, when she fell down a set of steep stairs at her grandparents’ farmhouse. In spite of this she lived a rich life in a large family that loved her; in turn, she enriched their lives and the lives of all who knew her. Her fall was not mentioned at her memorial service because, I surmised, her life was not defined by that tragic accident. I learned something that day. Molly continues to teach all of us who knew her.

GPH: 19/06/2009

‡ GEER, Charmaine “Char”

09/03/1933–

GPH: 27/12/2018

GEORGE, Pat

19/06/1925–04/03/2021

Macedonian, and spoke several languages. Pat died at the beginning of the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic (but not of the virus). It was an honour to visit her shortly before she died, at the request of daughter Biliana.

GPH: 20/02/2014—S2041A

•• GERVAIS, Marion

08/05/1931–01/05/2018

Marion was born in Barrie. Her husband died in October 2011 and she then came to live at GPH. She was a mother. Marion had enjoyed figure skating, swimming, and going for walks. She had an expressive smile and a dignity of person.

GPH: 30/12/2011—M1236

‡ GILMORE, Elinor

20/11/1927–

GPH: 25/06/2018—M1192

•• GIVENS, Charles “Bob”

19/12/1924–09/09/2016

Bob and his wife Alice were our neighbours on Roslyn Rd., from 1989, across the street and two houses down. We often chatted, when Bob was out raking the leaves in the autumn or clearing snow in the winter. Alice prepared special bags of candy at Hallowe’en for our children, their names on the bags! Special people. Alice is a big-time reader and we continue to talk books and exchange them (2020).

In his youth Bob was a fine athlete and played varsity football while attending McGill University. He and Alice had two sons, Brian and Patrick. He was an engineer and spent many years at Base Borden. At GPH Bob enjoyed crossword puzzles and cribbage, as well as watching sports and having visits

from the therapy dogs. He was a veteran and carried in the flag at the Remembrance Day service, 2014.

GPH: 08/06/2011—M1218

GODINA, Faye

23/11/1938–14/07/2014

B. in Valleyfield, QC, and raised in Beauharnois, a small town SW of Montreal. As a teenager, Faye excelled at sports. Much later, she won a tennis tournament in Barrie, while in her mid-40s. She married in Quebec in 1960 and moved to Toronto about two years later. After some years she came to Barrie, where she worked for a law firm, and volunteered through a service club. In 1980 her marriage dissolved and in 1981 she re-married. They moved to Fesserton. Faye was proud of her two step-sons. Following the death of her husband, she moved to Coldwater, where she was active as a church member, at the local food bank, and in the Legion. She served on the executive of the Legion for many years and—was it in 2009?—was voted “Legionaire of the Year.”

She had a good sense of humour and loved to laugh. Faye’s sister said, “Faye was on the short side and, even when we were teenagers, I towered above her. However, she always delighted in introducing me as her ‘little’ sister. Faye was also generous and caring and, if you were in trouble, you could always go to her.” A fall and a broken hip brought Faye to Barrie. Here she lived at Simcoe Manor on Blake St. After seven months she moved to GPH. At our celebration of life service Faye’s sister said she would always remember her “good and loving heart.”

GPH: 03/07/2013

‡ GOOD, Nancy

15/04/1932–

GPH: 17/09/2018—2038

GOUGH, Beverly “Bev”

23/04/1924–10/02/2015

GPH: 07/08/2013

GRAHAM, Iris *Brown*

30/06/1926–27/10/2020

B. in Cardiff, Wales. During the War (i.e., WWII) she saw planes coming and going. Came to Canada in 1947. Movie lover. A delightful person, an intellectual, and great conversationalist. Iris lived on Spruce. Her suite faced the north, overlooking a garden and taking in Grove St.; numerous photos of family. I really enjoyed visits with her.

GPH: 13/11/2017—S2017

•• GRAHAM, Joan

03/07/1925–26/09/2014

Son Keith, much devoted to his mom, was born in the same year as I was (1947), and grew up in Longbranch.

GPH: 20/04/2012

‡ GRAY, Joan

01/04/1935–

Joan was a S.E. participant. An April's Fool's day baby.

GPH: 03/12/2018—M1221

•• GREELEY, Irene

13/01/1933–03/06/2015

GPH: 22/11/2013

•• GROGAN, Valda "Val"

27/06/1930–

GPH: 15/04/2008—A1144

GROSE, Garnet

10/04/1937–14/09/2015

Mr. Grose had a service station in Meaford, an Esso station, near the Sykes St. bridge, for some 34 years. He had grown up on a farm and wanted to continue farming. He was married for some 58 years and had three children, Sandra, Trevor and Roger. Mr. Grose had a great sense of humour. As it happens, Mr. Grose lived on Maple right beside Alex MCLEAN, also from Meaford.

GPH: 13/03/2015—M1230

GROVES, Agnes Carrie *Langeson*

23/09/1923–

Daughter Kate was a neighbour of Joyce SCORY. Agnes was a member of the Maycourt Club, active at GPH since its beginning. We share the same birthday, Sept. 23, always a topic for conversation.

GPH: 08/07/2015—W3048

GROVES, Charles "Ridley" > "Rid"

27/05/1922–26/01/2020 = 97

"Rid" and Agnes were re-united at GPH. One of my lasting memories is that of passing by Agnes's suite: she and Rid—both well into their 90s—were watching TV, wheelchairs side-by-side, hand-in-hand. A touching scene. He and Agnes had two children, their caring and attentive daughter Kate, and son Robert, who predeceased his father. Rid had a long and distinguished life; a veteran (RCAF pilot); Superintendent of the Midhurst Tree Nursery (closed 1984); Vespra councillor; and President and Director of the Huronia Symphony.

GPH: 24/11/ 2016—S2030 > W3031

•• GUBB, Pauline

31/03/1929–

Pauline went to school with one of the Dionne Quintuplets' older sisters. She moved to GPH from Lakeside RH, where John FLEMING'S wife Pauline also lived.

GPH: 05/03/2012—A1165

GUILLET, Rita Marie

13/03/1932–01/03/2016

Mrs. Guillet was primarily French speaking. She raised six children after her husband died. (Four children survived her.) She worked in the housekeeping dept. of the hospital in Elliott Lake. Rita grew up in Sudbury, so she knew parts of northern Ontario well.

GPH: 30/03/2015—W3038

•• GUIREY, Margaret *Trowbridge*

14/12/1925–26/07/2016*



Margaret and Tom

“Margaret Lynn Trowbridge was born in Croydon, England, on December 14th, 1925. She was soon joined by her sister, Hazel and her brother, John and was part of a large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins. As a young girl, Margaret enjoyed playing her violin and going to the seaside with her family.

WWII

Margaret's world changed dramatically with the outbreak of World War II. At the age of 18, she joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. She was initially stationed in London and subsequently, deployed to Bletchley Park. It was at Bletchley Park that she led a group of men and women responsible for transmitting coded messages to British authorities.

Margaret loved to sing and dance. It was at a dance at the Caterham Army Barracks that she met an Irishman, by the name of Thomas Guirey. Margaret and Tom got married on December 27, 1948 a mere 6 months after their first dance—a dance that was to last for over 50 years. After the war,

Margaret worked in different shops in London and Tom worked as a Constable in the London Constabulary. They had two daughters in England, Susan and Jackie.

Emigration: Canada

On Dec 4, 1955, together with their two young children and leaving all family and friends behind, Tom and Margaret left Southampton, England, for a three-week ocean voyage to New York City on the ship named the *Mauretania*.

From New York City they made their way to Windsor, Ontario. It was while they were in Windsor that their son Terry was born—the first Canadian-born member of the family!

Elliott Lake

Like many newcomers to Canada, they did what they had to do to find work and care for their family. Tom ultimately found work in Elliot Lake, Ontario. This meant that Margaret spent many months in Windsor and then in Espanola, alone with her children with Tom visiting whenever he could. The family was reunited in Elliot Lake, where their second son David was born.

Margaret loved the lakes, trees and northern air. She enjoyed reading, knitting, going for walks, and getting together with friends. Throughout her life, Margaret had a great love of all kinds of music. We are playing some of her favourites here today. She kept abreast of all of the latest hits, often surprising her children and grandchildren with just how “hip” she was! She had a beautiful singing voice and could often be heard belting out her favourite tunes.

Margaret and Tom lived in Elliot Lake for over 40 years. Tom was the love of Margaret’s life and when Tom died in February 2000, Margaret could no longer bear to stay in Elliot Lake.

Barrie

Margaret moved to Barrie to be closer to family. She lived on Collier Street for a number of years and enjoyed being part of the Jesus Walk family at the Collier Street United Church. After suffering a stroke in 2012, Margaret became part of the Grove Park Home family. It was in Grove Park Home among family and friends that she passed away on July 26, 2016.”

—This is the eulogy read by Margaret’s family on the occasion of her memorial service.

Margaret endeared herself to residents and staff with her gentle wisdom and wit. She read a poem at our Remembrance Day service in 2012. With the movie “The Imitation Game,” a 2014 movie starring Benedict Cumberbatch, many of us are aware of the role of Bletchley Park in WWII. Margaret had seen the movie, which brought back memories of the place where she had worked during the War.

Margaret and Tom knew several setbacks in their start in Canada. Tom wanted to be a police officer, but in Windsor at the time there was a height requirement which he did not quite meet. He worked at Chrysler but was laid off. Took a job in Elliott Lake with mine security. After two years Margaret and the children joined him. After some time, Tom started selling insurance and he continued with Manulife for 40 years. They liked Elliott Lake and had a good life there. Her children told us that in Barrie when Margaret used to go out, she always took loonies and toonies with her so she would have something to give homeless people in the street. A remarkably generous spirit.

GPH: 10/10/2012—M1216

‡ GUTHRIE, Olive “Bernice”

14/09/1927–30/03/2021

An inspiring person; a person who looked on the bright side; wise. Bernice was born two months after my mom. At a great age, she always looked terrific and enjoyed life. Daughter Diane was a frequent visitor—for both her parents, a great booster during the isolation of COVID-19.

GPH: 11/06/2018—W3029

GUTHRIE, Raymond “Ray”

20/02/1926–20/02/2021

He went to Prince of Wales school and out to work, as was common at the time. He became a mechanic: “learned by doing.” He met a pretty girl, Bernice, and later they and their children spent some years in California. As he told me, they returned to Canada because he didn’t want his boys drafted into the American army.

His brother started Deluxe Taxi and Ray did their mechanical work. A veteran; a good man.

GPH: 26/02/2018

GUTIERREZ REYES, Marcella

20/12/1970–15/01/2017

Marcella was a young resident, born only in 1970. She lived with MS and got around with a powered wheelchair. She was from a large family, three sisters and five step-brothers. But Marcella was artistic and spent her time making all kinds of crafts for other people. She moved to GPH from her sister’s on Steel St. and found a place for herself because of her outgoing nature.

GPH: 03/03/2016—W3047

•• HAJGATO, Zoltan

20/11/1937–07/12/2015

Mr. Hajgato’s grandchildren attended Vacation Bible School at the Barrie Church of Christ when I was minister there in the 1990s, so I knew his family long before Mr. H. came to GPH as a resident. His daughter-in-law is a dietitian at RVH. Mr. Hajgato moved here from Mississauga, from a retirement home, following the death of his wife in 2010.

GPH: 29/07/2011

•• HALL, Clarence

18/03/1932–30/12/2015

Mr. Hall raised and showed quarter horses. He also had classic cars and grew roses. He and his wife Alma had two sons (Ken, Kevin). Mr. Hall lived in his own home for fifty years, at Midland. He was a tall, strong man.

GPH: 08/09/2011—P1044

HALL, Hugh

03/08/1926–15/08/2017

Mr. Hall had a great loud laugh and liked to joke around. He had a son and daughter (Lori). Friendly and outgoing. Lori attended to her dad's needs and many of us got to know her as well as her dad. Always enjoyed visits with him.

GPH: 12/04/2013

[RL] Hamilton, Victoria Joan

04/08/1921–19/09/2014

B. in Bath, England, the youngest of ten children. Her father owned the local dairy, and while still young, the children worked in the family business, delivering milk early in the morning. She often said that there was no hope of running away from herself or her obligations because everyone in town knew her and her siblings. Joan admitted that she was spoiled a bit in being the youngest but, nevertheless, she developed into an independent and caring adult.

When WWII broke out, Joan joined the Forces and worked as a transport driver: her jobs ranged from operating ambulances, to delivering messages and chauffeuring officers. This last job she thought unnecessary, as “There was no reason the men could not drive themselves. A total waste.” Her fondest memory of that time was meeting the then-Princess Elizabeth as she toured the motor brigade.

In Canada Joan settled in Port Hope and worked for Bell, as an operator. Her job at Bell became a lifelong career and she was in a manager's position at the time of her retirement.

She married William Hamilton, who worked in real estate in Toronto and then at the tannery in Barrie. The two of them loved music and dancing. Even after his death, Joan continued to attend Allandale Seniors dances. They had no children but loved animals. Her three dachshunds were the love of her life.

Joan was a longtime volunteer at GPH, both on the “tea cart” and in the tuck shop. She and her sister Lila King lived together for many years on Oak St., in Barrie. Both were devout Anglicans and members of Trinity, downtown.

Joan moved into RL at GPH, walked a lot, joined the Chap-Talk group, where she brought amusing memories of her life and family in Bath. She is survived by a niece, Heather, and a niece-by-marriage, Nancy, who lives in New Brunswick.

—With thanks to Lorraine Maher

— Joan’s recollections of WWII are of sufficient historical value that they are reproduced in a separate section of *Connections 4*.

GPH RL: 28/12/2011

HARLEY, Lillian “Joyce” *Guthrie*

19/09/1933–21/03/2016

Mrs. Harley’s father emigrated from Ireland and met her mother Mabel in Toronto. He was a Baptist pastor. They raised three daughters in Orillia—Joyce was the eldest, by eight years. Her childhood included visits to the grandparents’ cottage at Avery’s Point in the Kawartha Lakes. Those were special times.

Joyce married Bram Harley in 1954 in Orillia. They, in turn, had three children: Brian (Dallas, TX); Jodie (in Edmonton); and Jill (in Barrie).

Joyce worked for Bell for five years, after high school. Then, following marriage, they moved to Lindsay, Oshawa, and back to Orillia. She was active in First Baptist Church, in Orillia. And after she retired they travelled: 48 of the United States (not Hawaii or Colorado), and to Florida annually; Ireland. Joyce was a dog-lover: always had poodles.

Mr. Harley lives at the Atrium, in Orillia.

—These details of Mrs. Harley’s life are from “All About Me,” life stories compiled at GPH.

GPH: 26/03/2015—W3041

HARLEY, Lillian “Joyce”

19/09/1933–

GPH: 26/03/2015—W3041

2nd •• HARPER, Flora

20/03/1925–24/07/2015

Flora was a S.E. participant from Feb. 10, 2009, following the death of her husband Don, so we all knew her and the transition to GPH was relatively easy. Don’s mother Dolly McREYNOLDS lived at GPH from 1983–1990, and I remember her well: see *Connections*. Tracy (McReynolds)—who works at CKVR > CTV2 is Don and Flora’s daughter. Tracy donated a quilt in Flora’s memory; it hangs on a wall on Aspen. It was an amazing thing to discover this connection at the memorial service for Flora (and other residents) on Sept. 23, 2015.

GPH: 02/05/2011

•• HARRIS, Dorothy June *Brash*

07/01/1932–27/03/2016

Dorothy first came to GPH with Senior Encounter.

B. in Toronto. Her parents were Jeanie Clark B. and William Brash. She was one of seven children (siblings: Bill, Ruth, John, Martin, Morris, Kenneth). When they were elderly, Dorothy cared for her aged parents in Gormley and then moved to Owen Sound and later to Barrie (2000).

Her husband Fred was the love of her life. She liked going for drives with him to visit family; camping; riding in the boat; gardening; mini-golf; Christmas; watching “The Young and the Restless,” “Little House on the Prairie,” and “The Waltons.” Dorothy also loved baking and being involved at the Church, where she served in the Nursery for many years. She enjoyed gospel music and reading the Bible.

Dorothy and Fred had four children: Irene and Lyndon died many years ago; John and his wife live in Owen Sound; daughter Dorothy and husband Ken live in Barrie. In turn there are six grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren.

She liked hosting family get-togethers. Dorothy was known for baking the best peanut butter cookies or preparing a roast beef dinner with all the fixings. When she was younger, she liked to have the grandchildren and great-grandchildren for sleepovers, tea parties, and walks to the park or dollar store.

Dorothy was a talented knitter. When she came to GPH, she reconnected with her love for sewing and even learned to quilt. She helped with the flower and tomato gardens together with one of her new friends, Irene (VASEY). They were creative and used her walker to carry the heavy water jug.

Her family remembers her as a loving, caring person who was the prayer warrior for her family.

GPH: 15/10/2008—A1124

HARTUNG, Helge

01/07/1936–03/06/2019

Mr. Hartung moved to GPH from Renior RH in Newmarket. His occupations included working on aircraft. He was a gentleman.

GPH: 24/15/2018—S2037

HAWKINS, Vernon “Vern”

14/10/1929–01/02/2016*

Vern’s daughter Judy Hawkins wrote this life story for her dad and it was read at a memorial service at GPH on Apr. 6, 2016. I added the headings. Thanks so much, Judy, for sharing this with us.

Hawkins Garage, Guthrie. Inventor.

“My dad, Vern Hawkins, was quite an inventor over the years. He and his father started a business in Guthrie back in the early 40s—Hawkins Garage. They were both self-taught mechanics and learned the trade by correspondence and hands-on experience. They were known for welding ANYTHING together and back together. There was many a piece of farm equipment in the field that my Dad would be out to save from future rust!

My Dad was also the first Oro Twp. Bucket Brigade Fire Dept. Chief. He built a fire truck from an old army jeep: it had ladders, ropes, a pump to get down wells or streams. There was a siren that he ran as he drove off to the fire

for the volunteers to come in and join him. He would joke, but it saddened him that they always saved the foundation.

He built an ice-flooding machine for the Guthrie arena ... that strong boys of Oro would pull around, filled with water and a long pipe to sprinkle the ice after they shoveled and scraped the ice off—truly a labour of love for all involved.

We had full-size play-ground equipment, welded from pipe iron. There was a teeter-totter that went round and round and up and down, built from a universal joint out of a car; a swing and a very big BUM-BURNING metal slide ... of course! He also built very large BBQs—welded of course and took several people to move them, for the ever so popular backyard corn roast and dances ...

There was lots of hard work and fun.

A Hurricane Hazel wedding. 1954.

He married my mother Marlene on the weekend of Hurricane Hazel. She passed away in 2014, the 60th year of their marriage. My Dad could never forget his wedding day as it was often announced about how many years it had been since that storm had hit. I often said to my Mother that if a hurricane hit the weekend I was to get married, “I don’t know if I would have gone thru with it or not ... that could have been an omen!” But cleaning out their home of 60 years has shown me that they had a lot of history and some very good times. A strong fondness, love and friendship allowed them to endure the times when things weren’t so easy.

The road to Grove Park Home

Sadly Dad had a stroke hit back in 2013— We were all surprised and no one more than he! He was doing what he loved, though, and that was camping with his wife. This stroke was “a good one” and it left him without speech and mobility. Of course many other complications followed this. The staff here though [GPH] knew how to communicate with him quite effectively. I was told those eyebrows could yell! He got himself understood. I also came to gather that the food here was not too bad either. My father gained a few pounds after he made the move to Grove Park.

My Dad was not a hard person to please. Your company and a joke or chuckle and a story or two was a good time ... Good food, good times ... no need for heaps of money to be spent on him to feel good about life. He was a family man, a community person and enjoyed many long, good friendships. Chewing the fat and solving the problems and, of course, some laughs were a great time for him.

Belonging

I hope the staff here get lots of pats on the back from their employer for a job well done, as they sure do deserve it. They made my Dad feel welcome and part of this community. We all hope that going to a “home” is not part of our

destiny, but Grove Park sure made this a very pleasant experience for our family. He had his favourites, I could tell. And ... I cannot say enough, that when I took sick and was unable to attend to my Dad that the extra effort to communicate to me while I was in hospital in Toronto was such a sparkle to my day—knowing he was okay. Thank you for his wonderful care ... I knew he was loved here.”

GPH: 24/03/2014—A1171

HAWKINS, Robert “Bob”

23/03/1926–25/01/2019

“Bob” moved to GPH from Lakeland RH in Parry Sound. He was a “gentle giant” of a man, tall, easy going, and with a ready wit. When Bob came, he easily recalled some of the important events of his life. As a young man, he went to work for CIL in Nobel, but he was underage and after a year was found out. Then he went to Toronto and got a job at G. H. Woods—“Sanitation for the Nation.”

Mr. Woods had four secretaries at one time and Bob married one of them. Woods liked him and he became Mr. Woods “go for.” For example, Mr. Woods would give him his car keys and tell him to do this or that, including driving his wife about. Bob did not like the city and every weekend they used to head north. He had grown up four miles north of Mactier and his parents’ house was there. Bob was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. At GPH Bob spent many hours sauntering about, so many of us knew him and liked him. If you asked him how he was, he might respond with a smile and a laugh and say something like, “Well, I’m still here.”

GPH: 13/04/2015—P1036

HEAL, Katherine “Kathy”

06/07/1934–01/04/2016

Mrs. Heal was a kindergarten teacher. She had obtained her M.Ed. and a Gr. 13 in music: she was accomplished. Kathy loved reading, gardening; sang in a choir; loved kids; after retiring, she had a bookstore in Toronto. Her husband, James, was devoted to her. He met Kathy in Bermuda in their youth and they were married going on 60 years. The Heals had two sons, Andrew (Toronto); a second son died tragically at 24; and a daughter, Susan. Four grandchildren.

GPH: 13/06/2014—P1046

HEPBURN, Gladys *Spring* FRALICK

13/02/1920– = 100+

B. in Innisfil. At a great age a remarkable person, with an excellent memory and an ongoing interest in all things. A teacher; a lover of books. Insightful and thoughtful.

GPH: 17/12/2015—A1180

•• HERCEG, Sofija

06/04/1920–07/06/2019

Sofija spoke Croatian and English and moved from Etobicoke to Barrie. She was born one day after my father in 1920.

GPH: 06/12/2012—A1138

HERRINGTON, Florence “Flo”

28/06/1930–

From the home of the Beatles, Liverpool.

GPH: 12//01/2016—P1017

•• HICKS, Robina “Ina” Shannon *Weir*

26/08/1915–08/01/2017 101!

Ina’s ancestors came to Scotland from France. “Weir” is an anglicized form of their name. She herself was born in Lesmahagow, Lanark, Scotland—near Hamilton, 35–40 km. SE of Glasgow. At the age of seven (ten?) she came to Canada with her family. They lived in Quebec for a short time, ended up in Sudbury so her father could work in the mining industry (INCO).

Ina worked in the smelter at INCO during WWII. Her father served in WWI and her (future) husband and brother served in WWII. She met and married Fred Hicks when he returned to Sudbury after WWII to resume his job with the Falconbridge Nickel Mine. They lived in Sudbury for five years and then moved to Falconbridge and Onaping, where they lived until retirement.

Retirement brought a move to Leamington for ten years, until Fred’s death. Then Ina returned to Sudbury, to the Rockview Seniors Co-op, where she was involved in the community. A newspaper article in the *Sudbury Star*, entitled “Doll house offered as raffle prize,” has a photo of Ina and the doll house that, the article says, required five months’ work (Mon., Sept. 25, 1995, p. B6). The doll house was raffled off as a benefit for the Lions Club Christmas telethon. In the article we learn that the frame of the house was donated to the co-op by Ina’s brother-in-law, “who got it after students in Toronto built it as part of a project in home construction. The furniture in the house was all built and stitched by hand by Hicks — an intricate and sometimes tedious task.” Ina in 1995:



Another move brought Ina to Barrie Manor for four or five years, before she moved to GPH in 2009. She and Fred raised three sons and a daughter. She loved baking, sewing, knitting and artwork. Ina certainly enjoyed longevity. She told me that her mother lived to 96 and her father to 79. Ina was back to Scotland

twice; travelled a lot. At a great age her mind was clear, her memory sharp, and she possessed a quiet, gentle wisdom and wit, and a lovely sense of humour.

Ina said that she never let anything get her down.

GPH: 15/07/09—W3015

HILL, Irene

03/03/1920–23/06/2013

GPH: 27/01/2012

2nd •• HILLIER, Robert “Bob”

19/02/1928–20/04/2015

Mr. Hillier worked for Hydro for some 40 years. He was a humble man; a Mason; liked to watch golf and baseball on TV. He and his wife, Muriel, travelled after he retired. Muriel’s mother, Marjorie REID, lived at GPH too, where she lived to be 100+. For her life story, see *Connections 3*.

GPH: 09/04/2015

HILLYER, Joyce

19/09/1951–

GPH: 16/02/2017—A1181

•• HODGE, Lillian *Lockwood*

16/09/1925–13/12/2018

Lillian worked at Bell Telephone as the supervisor of the switchboard operators for 28 years, first at Adelaide and Bay, T.O. She often spoke about this experience. Lillian was only a year and a half old when her mom (auburn hair) died in childbirth at age 29. Her father remarried—to their housekeeper. She was the youngest of five, and was born in Belleville, and her parents are buried outside Belleville. Lillian’s father worked (conductor?) on the Toronto–Montreal train and she often travelled as a child with her parents. In fact, she travelled in all 50 continental states of the U.S., a fact her father told her to remember. With her marriage, Lillian was fortunate to become (step-)mom to a devoted and caring son, Wayne, whom we got to know. Spirituality was important to Lillian and she always attended my Bible study on Wed. afternoons.

GPH: 26/10/2011—S2020 > A1157 (04/10/2014)

HOGGARTH, Frances “Ruth” *Gibson*

31/10/1924–25/12/2017

Mrs. Hoggarth grew up on a farm at Thornton. She had four children, including Ron, a well-known NHL referee. Daughter Marie nursed at RVH. Mrs. Hoggarth was a person of faith; unfortunately her stay at GPH was brief. She was a good conversationalist and I enjoyed my visits with her.

GPH: 01/19/2017—M1221

•• HOLLYWOOD, Betty

20/07/1924–19/07/2013

GPH: 06/02/2012

- HOLLYWOOD, Robert “Bob”
22/04/1925–11/10/2013

Bob worked for CP Rail and then for the Chamber of Commerce in several cities. He had a dry, witty sense of humour. His interests were fishing, model railroading, reading, and the TV news. Bob was an articulate person.

GPH: 02/04/2012

- HOLT, Florence
04/04/1912–20/05/2016 = 104 years, one month, one day



Florence Holt

Florence was one of our most remarkable residents. She came to live at GPH at the age of 99, after an admission to RVH. My first memory of her included a conversation in which she told me she watched Steve Paiken’s public affairs programme on TVO, “The Agenda.” That’s a programme pretty much restricted to inquiring minds! At 99!

Florence’s mother called her, “the Titanic baby” because of the date of her birth. In August 2014, at an annual Care Conference, when she was almost 103, she said that she wasn’t attending as many activities as she had because, “my battery does not hold a charge very long anymore.”

No resident has been more intellectually engaging and physically active at the age of 104 than Florence. She was an independent thinker and person of faith all her life.

Florence has a daughter but lost a son at a young age. Unlike some parents who lose a child, she continued to speak about David over the course of her life. At a great age she often wondered why she was still here, but the responses of her friends always elicited humour. She liked that. It was good to know her, to converse with one so elderly who possessed a clear and engaging mind.

GPH: 13/07/2011

HUGHES, Blanche

03/09/1932–05/06/2017

B. in New Toronto and went to work at age eighteen as a stagehand in the film industry. Mrs. Hughes had six sons, so she had lots of family. For many years she was part of the Legion Auxiliary.

GPH: 27/03/2017—W3012

•• HUGHES, Lily

30/06/1925–04/04/2014

GPH: 10/12/2008

HUGHES, Robert Gordon

06/10/1926–18/12/2016

Born at Churchill, ON. Gordon knew quite a number of GPH residents who came from that area: Robert SINCLAIR, Hazel *Archer* KELL, Agnes *Todd* STURGEON and her sister Lois *Todd* KNEESHAW, Ethel *Kell* MCKENZIE; Allan BEACH. He reminded me of my grandfather Cox; I liked him. He had a good memory and lots of stories. He told me how his dad died at the CNE—Bob Hope was at the grandstand show that night. This was about three years before Gordon married. The story of John Kerr’s dad going through the ice on the Lake. How the summer of 1932 was especially hot, so hot that they closed Eaton’s store. And 1937 was a bad year for polio. ... Gordon’s daughter Noreen (Ritchie) nurses with my wife Elaine in the ICU at RVH.



The following life story was adapted from “Life of Gordon Hughes,” read at the service in memory of him. I have added the headings.

Beginnings

“Robert Gordon Hughes was born October 6, 1926 on the 2nd line of Innisfil, to proud parents Frank and Maude Hughes. He was the younger brother of Ruth [by 14 years], who was delighted to finally have a playmate. As the story goes, Gordon walked uphill both ways to Cherry Hill Public School. After public school, he attended grade 9 and 10 in Lefroy; he rode his bike or caught a ride by horse and cutter for the four mile journey.

Following grade 10, Gordon decided to go home to help his dad on the farm with the endless tasks farming proposed. In the late 1950s, Gordon started farming on his own; he raised pigs and sold cream and grew field crops. Between

the farm chores he trucked livestock to local stockyards and meatpackers. Gordon didn't like to sit idle so, when the chores were done, he would attend Young Farmers; he was a member of the "Chili Willi" club, where a few shenanigans occurred with his buddies.

Family was important to Gordon. He enjoyed a close relationship with his sister and her family of six. Many an evening was spent together, where he enjoyed a good conversation or a game of cards, as well as the teasing of his nieces and nephews. He also spent a good deal of his time with his cousin Doug, who lived on the farm across the road. They enjoyed a working relationship, sharing some of the farm chores as well as a close friendship.

Cars, dances, love and marriage

Gordon also had a love for motor vehicles and so it was no surprise that he had a car before many of his neighbours. He enjoyed driving, whether it was a car, truck or tractor. This became even more evident later in life. He and the boys liked to get out to the local dances and "cut a rug." It was here that Gordon met the love of his life, Margaret McKnight. Gordon was a little shy and the courtship took a while to flourish but in 1961 they were wed at Central United Church in Barrie, which held a special meaning, since Margaret's father had helped to construct it.

Gordon and Margaret enjoyed the farm life. They continued to raise pigs, sell cream and crop their land. They also made maple syrup and grew strawberries and raspberries to sell to the local markets. They spent lots of time kicking their heels up at local dances, and attending church suppers ... where Gordon enjoyed more than one slice of pie in the company of family and friends. He was known to make fresh apple cider and, when there appeared to be nothing else to do, he would get busy cutting wood for the stove. Gordon was also an active member of the Gilford United Church, where he served as an elder and the church treasurer. He was not one to sit idle.

Daughter Noreen is born

In 1963 Gordon and Margaret were blessed with a baby girl, Noreen. By example they taught her the importance of family, friends and community. They often enjoyed a good meal out and visits with family or friends, yearly trips to the CNE and Royal Agricultural Fair, or downtown Toronto for a little Christmas shopping.

A busy retirement and the move to Barrie

When Gordon started to retire from farming, he drove a school vehicle to fill in his spare time. He and Margaret enjoyed travelling in their motor home. They travelled in eastern and western Canada, as well as some of the northern States. They decided to move off the family farm and settled on Mapleview Drive in Barrie. Although life had changed, Gordon couldn't just sit still. He continued to

drive school vehicles and then later drove for the Red Cross. He enjoyed taking those in need to school or to appointments; he also volunteered at the local food bank, and was an active member of Grace United Church.

Noreen and her husband Doug have two children—Kyle and Katie. Gordon was very proud of them and always enjoyed their visits and hearing about their accomplishments and adventures.

Unfortunately a stroke ended Gordon's driving career and this made life turn a new corner. He and Margaret moved to an apartment on Heather Street in Barrie. It was here that Gordon began to realize that Margaret was struggling with her health and that he needed a little help to care for her, so they made the move to Simcoe Terrace. He enjoyed darts and shuffle board and other activities there. They also looked forward to visits and lunch dates with his nieces and nephew.

Margaret's passing and life at Grove Park

In 2009 Gordon lost the love of his life, Margaret, and he became more dependent on those visits to brighten his day. As he aged, his health too began to slip and so the move to Grove Park Home was a logical step. Again he looked forward to visits from family, who would bring lunch and keep him up to date on the family and friends' goings on. Last October [2016] Gordon was fortunate to celebrate his 90th birthday with all his family and close friends, in the Grove Park Home auditorium. He enjoyed once again conversation and celebration with his family and friends.

Some summative remarks

Gordon was a simple man who wasn't afraid to give you his opinion. He didn't need frivolous things. He was a hard worker, whether on the farm or in this community. He enjoyed time spent with family and friends. He was a loyal and proud man. He will always be remembered by those who knew him for his enjoyment of a friendly conversation and a good laugh."

GPH: 02/01/2014—M

HUNT, Alice "Mae" *Henson*
22/05/1916–07/01/2016

Mrs. Hunt grew up in Allandale, at 109 Burton Ave., one of four children, three girls and a boy. She knew the McQuade family at #80, including Mildred MCQUADE, who lived at GPH (1984–1997: see *Connections I*). They all went to Burton Ave. United Church and King Edward School. Mrs. Hunt worked for Woolworth's and her husband, like many men at the time in Allandale, worked for the railway. She was named "Alice" for her mother, who was Alice.

GPH: 25/11/2013—A1161

•• HUNTER, Leila *Mercer*

03/10/1938–

Leila has a strong attachment to Manitoulin Is., where she was born, at Little Current. See *Connections 3*.

GPH: 23/02/2004

•• HURLBURT, Hazel Joan Reeves

30/08/1930–05/05/2017*

B. in Netherhill, SK. Joan spent much of her childhood near Calgary and then, at age five (eight?), moved to Vancouver. She was a cheerleader in high school and met her future husband when he, a football player, almost knocked her down during a game. They married and had four children, first, a son (Jim [m. Tilly]) and daughter (Debbie). Then, ten or eleven years later, they had a daughter (Brenda). Joan thought they should have another child so Brenda would not be alone, so they had Lynda (m. Rotonen), her sister. As a result there were really two families of children, with entirely different experiences.

Joan's husband was an entrepreneur and the children had a sort of crazy childhood: if the weather was suitable, they'd go off skiing for the day. Take a vacation somewhere on the shortest of notice. While Jim was at a camp near Ottawa one summer, it was decided that the family would move to Toronto. Joan and the kids drove east in a big, 1957 Oldsmobile. There were always big cars. In Toronto their dad worked for a company that early on made zip-lock bags. He started a high-end gift business, "Humourcraft." In Toronto they lived near Yonge and Finch. The kids were always being enlisted as part of cottage industry set ups to make things. In all of this flurry of activity Joan was the bedrock of the family. There is a wealth of funny stories.



Joan. She and her family travelled from BC to Ontario in a 1957 Oldsmobile Fiesta like this one that belongs to son Jim.

We had Joan's memorial service in the chapel at GPH. It was mostly family. Jim told stories from the standpoint of the first family (himself and Debbie); Lynda and Brenda told about their family experiences. A young family friend sang "Somewhere over the rainbow," accompanying herself on a ukulele. It was really impressive. We had some of Joan's favourite chocolate, from Vancouver. There were photos: one of Joan singing at a microphone at about age ten. It was memorable. My meditation from that day, "Carry on, with a song," is included in

this book, in the section on “Meditations.” Joan was a sparkler, a vibrant person who passed on her expressive sense of humour to her children.

Joan dined at the same table as my mom, so I saw her often. She never lost the bright eyes and sense of humour.

GPH: 08/12/2010—M1213 > S2047

HURLEY, Jean

20/12/1923–20/09/2019 96

Jean’s husband Arthur came to GPH a few months before Jean, so they were together here for about five years. See his entry in *Connections* 3. Jean was a lovely person with a nice sense of humour. She was with us for some fifteen years, now uncommon.

GPH: 31/03/2004

HUTCHINGS, Frances

08/07/1928–12/06/2019

Mrs. Hutchings was the kindest of people. We were able to fulfil one of her big wishes, to see the marriage of her granddaughter Breanna and Steven Sidsworth in our chapel, on Nov. 4. 2018. It was a good day for Frances and for all of us who were present on that day.

GPH: 06/10/2014—W3033

HUTCHINGS, Warren “Wally”

06/06/1925–09/03/2015

Mr. and Mrs. (Frances) Hutchings were married 65 years and were never separated. Their family considered it a miracle when the two of them moved into GPH on the same day.

GPH: 06/10/2014

HUTCHINSON, Catherine

24/07/1929–

GPH: 25/01/2017—W3047

IKEHEIMONEN, Anna-Liisa

14/11/1923–17/09/2019*

Anna was born in a village in northern Finland. She had many stories from the War, some of dangerous ventures. Among her memories was competing in the 40th Olympiad and having her hand shaken by Adolf Hitler during a ceremony. She emigrated to Canada in 1954 with family. Here she met her husband Vero who eventually worked for CN Rail. After a few years of living with her “god-parents,” they lived in Willowdale, which was just becoming a major community. Anna-Liisa and Vero had two children, twins, Peter and Louise. At a service for her at GPH, her granddaughters Alexis and Stephanie related stories that included her love for jewelry and gardening, and her irrepressible spirit. She also liked rum and Coke occasionally. Her husband died in 2008 and both are interred at Knox Cemetery, on the Old Barrie Road.

GPH: 24/07/2017—W3015

•• IMRIE, Eva

01/03/1920–13/10/2015

Mrs. Imrie was born at Emsworth, England. She married a Scottish soldier in 1942; pregnant, she went to Coalburn, Scotland, 20 miles south of Glasgow. Their daughter Janette was two when he returned. In 1930 they emigrated to Canada—the coal mines closed. They came to Barrie, where Mr. Imrie got a job as an electrician; worked in the molding dept. at General Tire. He retired as General Tire was closing. They travelled and were back to England several times. Mr. Imrie died at age 70, so Eva was a widow some twenty-five years. She was a fiercely independent person.

GPH: 02/04/2012

•• INGRAO, Yoli *Manero*

27/11/1921–07/01/2017

Yoli was unforgettable. For one thing, she was always hungry. Long before mealtime she would sit waiting outside the dining room, saying, “I’m hungry!” I teased her that she had been born hungry. Yoli taught me some Italian. She was immensely lovable for her crustiness, whether it was real or not. I liked her. At our twice-a-year “Celebration of Life” for residents who have died, Yoli’s daughter Jo told us about her mom. Here is what Jo said, with a few minor changes.

“My mom Yoli Ingrao was born in Timmins, Ontario, on November 27, 1921. Her parents were Italian immigrants. She grew up during the Great Depression and in a time of war, which taught her survival skills and also how to enjoy the simple things of life.

In 2005 she suffered a major stroke, which left her with no short-term memory and impaired sequential thinking. My family joined forces to care for her the best we could and, after a two year wait, she came to live at Grove Park Home, where she was well taken care of for nine years. At the age of 95, just weeks after a family birthday party for her, she took the last bend in her road and died peacefully in her room; her room at Grove Park. Well, somewhat peacefully. My mom was a polite person with an edge. Three days before she died several PSWs were fussing over her and she thanked them, as she always did, and then told them to get the hell out of her room and leave her in peace!

My mom was an accomplished seamstress, who worked at home as well as in a curtain shop and at the Levis factory. She could sew anything, from simple items to complicated wedding gowns; she sewed her own wedding gown. She could whip up a dress faster than you could think of it. She also was a knitter, craft person, and a great cook. She was a dedicated and hard-working mom and wife to us six kids and my dad. She was clever, witty, creative, and a down to earth kind of person. In her seventies she took up watercolour painting, which she also excelled in.

My mom could do anything. I remember as a child, a family friend brought a live goose to our house because he didn't know what to do with it. My mom grabbed the goose with one hand, butcher cleaver in the other, and went to the garage. After a lot of noise and squawking, she came out with our dinner.

Before I placed my mom here, I asked my uncle if he thought she would be alright, as I was moving her from the family home in Welland, all her friends and family. He said not to worry, that my mom would always make her wishes known. Which she did! She earned the staff and other residents' nickname the "I'm hungry" lady, which you could hear her calling out of the dining room, followed by, "When are you going to feed me?" And then, "I said I want it hot, not cold!!"

"Big Band" music was mom's favourite. Both her brothers were musicians. The older brother was a bandleader / chaperon which, as a young lady, meant dancing every Saturday night. My favourite time with her here was on Tuesday afternoons, listening to her sing and watching her hand dance. My mom often asked me, "Who put me here?" When I answered hesitantly that I did, she mostly thanked me and said that they took good care of her, she liked her room, and that the food was good. Food was a running theme in my mom's life. Ironically, the "I'm hungry lady" decided one day that she wasn't hungry anymore and stopped eating, until slowly she disappeared into the folds of the universe, where I believe she now resides. I wonder if she has earned a new nickname?!

On behalf of my family, I want to thank everyone in Grove Park Home for truly making this place a loving home for my mom as well as for my family."

—Josephine Ingrao, Yoli's daughter

GPH: 17/10/2007—S

INNESS, Gary

28/05/1949–23/02/2021

Gary was an NHL goalie who played for Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Washington, among other teams. His playing career spanned 1973–81. He was also a much-liked teacher and a guidance counselor at Barrie North Collegiate.

For Gary's life story, with photos, stories, stats, videos ... go to:

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Gary%20Inness%2C%20goalie&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

Or, simply type "Gary Inness, goalie" into a Google search.

See also Frances HOGGARTH, whose son Ron was an NHL referee, 1971–94. Ron almost certainly refereed at some games where Gary tended goal.

GPH: 15/10/2015—P1043

IVANYSHYN, Loretta *Godlepfsky*

20/09/1933–14/11/2017

Mrs. Ivanyshyn married and lived south of Brandon, MB, in Hadashville. Since I taught at Brandon University (1980–84), and am familiar with the

Brandon area, this interested me. When her marriage ended she came to Toronto with her daughters, Catherine and Dorian, and lived with her mother (Anna).



Loretta worked in a private nursing home at Bayview and Finch as a PSW (at that time, RNA); she had worked in another privately owned long-term care home in Manitoba previously. She took an early retirement at age 60. In her memory box outside of her suite, Mrs. Ivanyshyn had a striking photo of herself with a *1956 Pontiac Parisienne*. I always stopped to look at that photo, with its vivid colours, when I passed by her suite. She moved to GPH from Mulcaster Mews in Barrie.

—Thanks to Mrs. Ivanyshyn’s daughters Dorian and Catherine for checking the details of this entry about their mom, and for providing a copy of that remarkable photo. Dorian told me that the photo’s vivid colours are attributable to Kodachrome film, new at the time. It is certainly an attention grabber.

GPH: 07/08/2014—P1041

JACKSON, Cyril

05/02/1929–27/02/2019

GPH: 12/12/2016

JAEKEL, Helga

27/11/1939–10/01/2018

Mrs. Jaekel was born in Austria, two months after the start of WWII, and she often talked about going back there.

GPH: 06/12/2017—W3012

JEFFREY, Jean

15/09/1923–05/03/2018

GPH: 16/02/2018—W3029

JOHNSON, Laura *Stone*

21/06/1927–

Laura was born two weeks before my mother (July 4, 1927), in Toronto, and grew up in Riverdale, at 29 Woodfield St., which one can find easily on

Google Maps. She attended Duke of Connaught School, as had her father and two uncles. Greenwood racetrack was nearby. From an attic window she could watch the races using an opera glass. Nearby were creeks and ravines where kids caught tadpoles and gathered pussy willows in the spring. The Ashbridge family owned a vast property in the area and gave the land for the Duke's school, dedicated at a visit of his. Laura's dad drove a taxi after WWI. It was a happy childhood. After her marriage, they lived in Port Credit. Both she and her husband were cat lovers and we have had numerous conversations about cats. Lovely person, with lots of stories of an interesting life.

GPH: 22/02/2018—A1172 > S2031

•• JOHNSON, Marilyn

19/09/1932–04/04/2016

Marilyn lived in institutions and group homes for most of her life; in one home in Bracebridge for many years. She had a good memory. At GPH the staff became her friends.

Certain things were important to her. She loved to visit the café and get her chocolate bars (usually five at a time!), chips, and Coke (preferably in a bottle). This usually happened on a Tuesday. It was important to Marilyn to know how much money she had in the bank and to have cash in her purse. The cash always had to be in an envelope and she never discarded these. As a result, her purse was full of envelopes.

Her brother was special. His photo sat on her dresser and she often spoke of him. Nephew Ken and his wife Flo were a great support. She liked to share pictures from her childhood and tell stories about where the photos were taken. Marilyn used to “call it as she saw it,” as they say. She liked bingo, cards (“Crazy 8s”), and crafts. As one might guess, Marilyn became a character that no one will forget, with charm and wit.

GPH: 10/08/2012—M1208

JOHNSTON, Ethel *Hassard*

26/06/1930–15/06/2017

B. in N. Ireland and Tully Castle was on their property. She was proud of the fact that she had been born on a farm. Ethel was the fourth of seven girls! She was the only one in Canada. She enjoyed going fishing with her father and siblings. “Tully Castle” is now a National Trust site. She said that, as a kid, she used to give impromptu tours for visitors to the castle. Ethel came to Canada about 1963 and was married to Harold for 50+ years. They had two children: a son Raymond who died in 2000 and Wendy (m. Chopp). She used to sing in the Sandy Cove Acres choir and the OPP Chorus. I always enjoyed talking to Ethel about life in Ireland; she had a lovely accent, even after so many years away.

As it happens, husband Harold lives in Retirement Living, so we got to know them both well. Harold was the accompanist for the Sandy Cove Acres choir and had organized the OPP Chorus. That choir used to come to GPH and perform, so they were both here years ago for that: I can remember those visits.

Harold and Ethel had also lived on Bellevue, a street near us, in a house that we often walk past on our neighbourhood walks. Small world!

GPH: 16/03/2015—W3043

JOHNSTON, Robert “Bob”

25/03/1924–07/11/2017

Born in Belfast. He told me that he came to Canada, leaving a girlfriend behind, and returned two years later to marry her (Isabelle). Mr. Johnston had a good, inquisitive mind. He had three sons, one of whom is Craig. Craig and Linda’s children went to Maple Grove School at the same time as our children. Like us, they live in the neighbourhood. Mr. Johnston recited to me the poem “The Preacher and the Bear,” which he had learned as a boy from his uncle in Belfast. I have reproduced it in the section, “Quotable Quotes and Sayings.” This poem comes originally from the American south, a hundred or so years ago, and I was fascinated by the way Mr. Johnston had learned it in Belfast about 1933 or 1934. It was recorded as a song many times; a version by Jerry Reed (1970) was popular. Here’s a link to it on You Tube; paste it into your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFD34aUpeyM>

Mr. Johnston liked to dance and tinker; build things in his workshop. He was an interesting person to be sure.

GPH: 09/02/2017—S2033

2nd •• JOHNSTON, Wilda “Bill” Carr

06/05/1914–11/04/2021 106 yrs., 11 mos., 5 days



At 100

Mrs. Johnston moved to GPH from Mulcaster Mews; she was the mother of two sons.

Sadie CARR (1892–1989: see *Connections*) was married to Wilda’s paternal uncle. Wilda was born in the Stroud area—one of five girls—and came to high school at Barrie Collegiate Institute by horse and cutter in the winter! Her parents wanted her to get an education. She and her sister sold a calf and with the money she bought a bicycle and bicycled the five miles to school in good weather. Wilda went to Normal School and became a teacher. She had to wait two or three years to get a school—St. Paul’s and later Belle Ewart. Wilda

married and had twin boys (Don and John) and, when they started to school, she went back to teaching and taught for some thirty years.

I knew her aunt Sadie at GPH. Wilda told me that Sadie made dresses for her and her sisters. When Wilda was 100 she was very hard of hearing, but her hearing improved and at 105 a conversation was quite possible. Wilda's son John is married to Diane Ball, granddaughter of Margaret BALL (1908–1998: see *Connections* and *Tales of Yesteryear*, volumes 2 and 3), whom I also knew well. Thanks to Diane's daughter Rebecca for pointing out to me this relationship. Wilda is the second most elderly person to live at GPH, after Margaret CUMMING, who lived to be 106 yrs., 11 mos., and 14 days; following Wilda now is Ada MARTIN, 106 yrs., 10 mos., and 7 days. See *Connections 2*, p. 124.

GPH: 28/04/2009—M1216

JONES, Jean Isabel *Miller*

23/05/1921–05/03/2021

Jean's suite at GPH featured several very large, amazing photos of her family and of Collingwood about a hundred years ago. At a great age, she exhibited equally great character and, fortunately, a good memory for times past. I was especially drawn to an immense photo of a family gathering. Jean is in the front row and her mother behind her and her grandmother behind them. I asked Jean's son Kirk if I could reproduce part of that photo here and he graciously consented. Many thanks. He also wrote a short life story about his mom. Here is the part of the photo that I spoke about:



Jean (#1); (#2) Claire Louise Margaret *Miller* Greaves, Jean's sister (b. 21/10/1923); (#3) Charlotte Isabel *Anderson* Miller (1898–1992), Jean's mother; (#4) Louisa *McLean* Anderson, Jean's grandmother. The photo was taken in Islington, in 1925. The entire photo follows, in miniature.



“Jean was born May 23, 1921, in Islington, Ontario, the first of five and, eventually, six siblings. Jean was always tall and slim. During grade school she was kept in from recess until she finished drinking the full fat milk given to “underweight” children! When Jean was ten, the family moved to Collingwood. She was always an excellent student, very studious, and won many awards. During her high school German class she began writing to a pen pal in Switzerland, a correspondence that continued (pausing for WWII) until she was in her eighties. As a child she often played “school,” acting as teacher to her brothers and sisters. Circumstances prevented teaching becoming her career. On completing grade 13, she took a one-year “commercial” course at the high school and began work at the Shipyard office, helping to support her family.

Faith and church have always been of great importance: during her teens her mother suggested she move her bed to the church, since she spent so much time there. Over many decades she taught Sunday school and was superintendent; sang in the choir; was a participant and leader of church women's groups; was a church camp counselor, CGIT leader; was in the hand bell choir; was part of the “Friendly Visitor” group; was an organizer of a monthly seniors’ luncheon; a participant in weekly Bible studies, and other activities.

Jean married Merle in 1954. She resigned from the Shipyard office when she was expecting the first of their three children. Once the children reached school age, she became very involved in the Home and School Association, eventually as leader. She and Merle loved to travel—everything from day trip visits to the Bruce Peninsula, Penetang, Midland, etc., to cross continent holidays with the children, to trips to visit family and explore down under. Arizona was a favourite destination in later years for scenery and family visits. Always compassionate, at various times she and Merle provided a home for her brother Cam, her nephew Bryan and her elderly mother, all for extended times.

When Merle was diagnosed with Parkinson’s—which his mother had too—she cared for him as long as possible at home and was a very frequent visitor at his nursing home. Jean continues to be interested in the doings of her family, and is a gentle, thoughtful, caring person.”

GPH: 22/02/2018—W3044

JONES, Pearl

30/10/1925–04/05/2018

Mrs. Jones moved to GPH from Good Samaritan Retirement Home. She was a participant in the Senior Encounter programme. Pearl was born in India but came to Canada from Great Britain. In WWII she was a secretary, in the Navy. Sang in a choir. Unfortunately Jean's stay at GPH was brief.

GPH: 30/01/2018—S2037

JUSTIN, Doreen

03/01/1936–21/11/2018

Mrs. Justin was a super-active person and had many talents and interests: snowmobile club, churchwomen's group, bridge club; Civinet Club. Played piano, knitted, crocheted; crafts; walking; loved dancing and music. Raised four children, a daughter (Karen, of Oro) and three sons; grandchildren. Doreen grew up in Parry Sound. Her mom died when she was 14. Later in life, married, she farmed on the Wasaga Beach road, the 10th, where she had a "booth" along the road to sell veggies and fruit. At GPH, she always came to my Bible study and (private) PSW Patrick often came with her. Church—United—was important to her. She left a real legacy of involvement.

GPH: 02/04/2018—S2046

KAVANAUGH, Peter

04/05/1940–

Peter, Rosita and their daughter Alison and her family were across-the-street neighbours of ours on Roslyn Rd. when we bought our house there in 1989. Alison's children were still young, as were ours, when they moved from the street. When I talk with Peter we reminisce about the old street; talk about the kids.

GPH: 21/09/2016—M1218

KELLY, Dorothy "Dolly" *Vicary*

30/09/1920–06/02/2017



B. in Alberta. Her father William was from England and worked on the railway; her mother Lillian was from Ottawa. They owned the General Store in Chip Lake, west of Edmonton. Dolly was the eldest of twelve children; Wilemina was the youngest.

She married Raymond K. in Nov. 1947, and they had six children, all but one of whom live in the Barrie area: Barbara, Sharon, Brian, Lewis, Patrick, and Daniel. Dolly had fourteen grandchildren.

Dolly knew many people in Barrie. She owned “Kelly’s Groceries” for a while and worked as a cashier at A & P and at Loblaw’s. One of her hobbies was bowling; she was President of her bowling league. She also liked cards and bingo; enjoyed watching the Blue Jays and Maple Leafs. Dolly travelled, to Florida and to the West Coast of Canada.

She was almost 95 when she came to live at GPH. Dolly was still good-looking, sociable and had a hearty, infectious laugh. She easily made friends.

GPH: 26/06/2015—W3014

KELLY, Mary

24/01/1939–12/01/2020

Mary lived with us for four years. Four sons. She had striking blue eyes and this was always a subject of conversation. Mary was at my Bible studies on Wed. afternoons, so I saw her frequently.

GPH: 31/03/2016—W3041

•• KENDREW, Mary

14/13/1946–

Mary was a special, caring friend of June BINNIE, whose family has been very kind in return. Mary loves movies and is often to be found watching (VHS) movies on the TV outside the Solarium. She makes the world a gentler, more caring place.

GPH: 20/09/2010—A1171

KENNEDY, Doreen

15/05/1924–13/12/2014

Moved from Northland Pointe Nursing Home in Port Colborne. Mrs. Kennedy’s stay was brief, a mere 18 days.

28/11/2014

KENNEDY, Dorothy

02/10/1927–29/05/2016

Mrs. Kennedy did not live at GPH very long, but she has loving and dedicated children who advocated for her care.

GPH: 17/02/2016—A1183

KENNETT, Rosemary

11/13/1928–20/01/2018

Mrs. Kennett moved from Bayview Retirement Lodge. Unfortunately her stay at GPH was all too brief—one week.

GPH: 13/01/2018—M1221

KENT, Gord

14/06/1935–19/03/2019

Mr. Kent was a reader. Married to Grace. Enjoyed Bible study and was a really fine person. He was from or spent time in B.C., Kelowna, and said one time that he would like to be back there.

GPH: 26/02/2018—A1178

•• KENT, Sylvia *Mecredy*

07/12/1926–10/12/2015

Mrs. Kent's father emigrated from Ireland; her mother was born "here." Her father tried farming, but was not successful at it. Sylvia was born at



Richmond Hill and christened at St. Mary's Anglican Church. She was one of four daughters and, when she was born, her dad apparently remarked, "Not another girl!" He died in 1936—so Sylvia was ten—and this left the family poorly off. The Depression. She would say they didn't have enough to eat and the Depression was a topic she often returned to in conversation. She and her husband raised five children. Her church in Barrie was Trinity Anglican. Sylvia liked cats.

Sylvia held an ARCT Diploma from the University of Toronto and taught music in the Barrie area for more than 40 years. She served as president and treasurer with the Registered Music Teachers Association of Barrie. Like many GPH residents, Mrs. Kent suffered from dementia, but she played the piano and when she sat down at the piano she could play tunes from memory. One time I put a songbook on the piano and she played from it, "Autumn Leaves." My conclusion from this experience was that we never know what individuals retain in their memory, with the right prompting. It is humbling.

Mrs. Kent one time offered this maxim, "Live well, laugh often, love always." (14/01/2015) Sylvia's obituary appeared in the *Barrie Advance* on Thurs., Jan. 14, 2016 and details on her family may be found there. The photo here has been reproduced from the newspaper.

05/01/2012—M1237

•• KILGOUR, Louise

10/02/1920–30/08/2014

GPH: 14/10/2011

- KUIKMAN, Boukje “Beatrix” or “Bea”
05/08/1920–01/08/2019 (98)

Boukje died a few days short of ninety-nine. She was born the same year as my dad, but in Farwerd (Friesen “Ferwert”), the Netherlands, on the Friesland border. She came to Canada with her husband and a little girl after WWII. Boukje said that her mother cried, “We’ll never see you again!” So it was very sad at the boat. There were doubtless many such sad departures in those days.

She told me many details of her early life in the Netherlands. Bea was the second eldest and the eldest girl in her family and had looked after her brother. Among family and friends she was called “stille Boukje,” that is, “quiet Boukje.” She had just turned nineteen when the War began. They used to hide in their basement. Boukje had a pet cat (“pussy”) and a rabbit (named “rabbit”) that used to sleep with her. She would put the cat in their attic for safety—one never let a cat out because cats used to disappear. Boukje would turn her gaze from German soldiers. Southerners took refuge in the north and that is how she met her husband.

Boukje always came to Bible study at GPH and was a good student of the Bible. She had a strong faith—lived out in the Christian Reformed Church, a warm personality, and an inquisitive mind, even in the late years of her life. I usually begin Bible study with a few jokes and a report from our backyard. She would inevitably ask, “When is *Bible study*?” Among other things, she had been a bird watcher, so she was always interested in seeing up close the photos that I showed of the birds in our backyard in any given week. We all liked her very much. After Bible study she was most keen on having “a cup of tea and a cookie,” doubtless a custom of long-standing. On a personal level, I always enjoyed my conversations with her son Robert, who often visited on a Wednesday afternoon.

In Barrie, Boukje had been a neighbour of Maria SCHALY, a tablemate of hers at GPH.

GPH: 12/02/2010—A1156

- LAING, Dorothy
26/11/1927–06/02/2016

Dorothy has two sons. She was an active person at GPH and almost everyone knew her because she walked a lot, and briskly. Dorothy was a student of the Bible and seldom missed Wed. afternoon Bible study in which she actively participated. She was also a member of the Pastoral Care Committee, on behalf of residents.

GPH: 05/08/2011

- LAROCHE, Elena
13/12/1925–28/12/2018

Elena was a pleasant person whose first language was Italian. She always attended Bible study, so I saw her frequently. As is often true of residents, she appeared to be much younger than her years would indicate. At the time of her departure, the attending RN wrote, “She was a lady who loved sparkly things,

and fine fabrics. A lady whose smile could light up a room. She had two sons, who spoiled her and enjoyed all the moments they shared.”

GPH: 24/09/2015—W3041

LATENDRESSE, Shirley *Borrow*

28/01/1928–11/10/2017

Mrs. Latendresse came to GPH from RVH, where she had been a patient for almost a year. She did well here. In her working life she had been at Huronia Regional Hospital, in Orillia, and tried to help the developmentally challenged. She loved to walk and would walk five to ten miles a day. Mrs. Latendresse was involved with ANAF. She liked TCM (that is, Turner Classic Movies). *Notably*, she was a neighbour of Gordon Lightfoot in Orillia. Her brother played with him when they were kids. She remembered that his parents were great card players!

GPH: 04/03/2013—P1042 > 1038

•• LATTIMER, Grace

24/03/1932–

Grace was married to an Anglican priest and his ministry took them to various places in Ontario, including Belleville and, locally, Elmvale. She has four children. Grace has been a talented musician and plays the violin. On one occasion she and a daughter favoured us with music at a GPH event (Fireside?). Grace always attended Bible study and we had many conversations. In answer to the question, “What should we pray about today?” Grace always responded, “Peace!” I always called her “Grace, Mercy and Peace.” Inevitably she would reply, “Love and Joy came too.”

GPH: 31/01/2006—A1186 > W3018

LAYCOCK, Bernice

13/07/1926–

Bernice’s second husband was Max Laycock of Meaford, a policeman who had sons; they were a blended family. So we have a connection with my home town.

GPH: 19/09/2016—A1152

LEBRETON, Luc

15/08/1934–12/11/2018

GPH: 13/04/2016—M1208

•• LECLAIR, Rita Emily *Richer*

29/06/1930–12/02/2018*

Rita’s daughter worked with Rita MARCHAND’S daughter, *and*, Rita was a neighbour and good friend of Jackie ROSTE. Rita and Jackie were participants in the Senior Encounter Programme at GPH, and at the same time. There was a celebration of her life at GPH, with her children and grandchildren. Her son Denis read a life story that he had written; thanks to Denis and Cheryl for a copy.

“Born June 29, 1930 in Haileybury, Ontario to Archie and Emily Richer. She was the eldest of seven children. Her brother Archie has made the trip down from Sudbury to celebrate Mom’s life with us today.

From a young age, Rita was a hard worker and an exceptional athlete. In her teens, she pitched women’s regional championships and continued her athletic prowess in bowling, curling, golf and darts; horseshoes. In Larder Lake, Rita met the man who would become her lifelong love, Joseph Leclair. In 1951 they were married in Larder Lake. In 1952 they began their family, giving birth to Jo Ann; Denis. In 1957 Joe got a job at the Kerr-Addison mine in Virginiatown, and they added to their family with the birth of their daughter, Judy. Around 1965, the family moved to Kirkland Lake and, eventually, moved to their last family house, on Wilson Ave. In 1967, Rita gave birth to Roger, their Centennial project.

Joe worked for Adam’s Mine until retirement and Rita worked at the Kirkland Lake Hospital. When the mine closed in 1987, Rita and Joe retired and moved to Englehart. After living in an apartment for a short time, they acquired a property in Ocala, Florida, enjoying a warm retirement in the winter and summers at the cottage. This gave her the opportunity to play golf year round.

One of Mom’s great loves was playing cards. If you’ve ever played her ... she’s competitive!! Didn’t matter who you were, if you came to the house you were offered a game of Flip.

With the onset of Joe’s diabetes, they sold the Florida property and settled on Jocko Point, outside North Bay, where, in 2004, Joe passed away. Rita stayed on at the house for an additional year. It was quite lonely for her in the house, so, in 2005 she decided to move in with her son Denis and his wife Cheryl, in Barrie. You may have seen Rita walking to Tim Hortons and her favourite little restaurant, Fil’s, as she was still very active. In 2020 she began attending Senior Encounter at Grove Park and IOOF and, in May 2012, moved into Grove Park permanently. While at the Home, she enjoyed the music program, walks around the community, and various events at the Home.

In late 2017 and early in 2018, Rita began fighting respiratory issues and on February 12th quietly succumbed to natural causes. The family greatly respects and appreciates the care of all staff at Grove Park Home and we all have great memories of your love for our mother. Thank you.”



Rita and son Denis, on his Yamaha Star. July 17, 2015.

I entitled my meditation for the occasion, “Success is in the big print.” I began with these two paragraphs:

The world is a better place because Rita lived in it. Daughter; oldest sister to her six siblings; wife; mom; grandmother. Hard worker from a young age. Helping her dad in the bush; strong as an ox, as they say. Athlete. Competitor. Survivor of a kind of hardscrabble existence in her early years in the North. Funny. Tell it like it is person. Sociable. Born in the north; lived in the north.

There’s a lot of fine print in life. I get the impression Rita was not so worried about the fine print. She lived without pretense. Rita got the big print right and lived a good life. A person of faith: Roman Catholic but not exclusive in her Christian identity: worshiped where there was a church. A long life. Cause of death? She simply wore out; the body and mind that was hers simply wore out.

Rita had a remarkable zest for life. At the age of 85 she celebrated her birthday with a ride on a motorcycle. She was well loved and left behind a great legacy for her children and grandchildren.

GPH: 18/05/2012—W3029

LECLAIR, Sylvianne

03/01/1940–20/11/2018



Sylvianne came to GPH first with the S.E. programme, so she knew some staff already. We had also got to know Eugene, her husband, and their adorable little dog, Tara. Eugene and Sylvianne had a highly successful business in Parry Sound, Leclair Furniture, and subsequently opened a store in the Cedar Pointe business park. After Sylvianne moved into GPH, Eugene and Tara became daily visitors, so we missed them all when Sylvianne died. She was a lovely person.

GPH: 05/02/2018—M1221

- LEE, Miss Aldythe “Ollie”
07/05/1921–06/12/2014
GPH: 20/03/2008

[RL] Leis, Audrey *McIvor* Charlebois
21/01/1925–27/11/2017

Audrey lived in Retirement Living from 2011 until 2017. She was interested in many things and liked to talk about world events, Canadian history, Manitoba. Since I had lived in Brandon for four years, I was always keen to hear her recall the events of her childhood on a farm, Christmases past, and Manitoba history. On Dec. 5, 2017, we gathered in the auditorium at GPH to celebrate her life. Audrey did a good job at life and raised a fine family, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Son Tim, who farms at Massey, thanked many people for contributing to his mom’s wellbeing in recent years, including his sister Lynda. John Porter sang and played guitar for the occasion, including “Take My Hand, Precious Lord.” What follows is Audrey’s life story. My meditation, “‘There are a lot of good people around.’ Audrey was one of them.” appears in the section of “Meditations,” in this volume.

“B. in Selkirk, MB, the eldest of six girls. She was raised on a farm, so she knew hard work and strong ethics, which she displayed throughout her life. Audrey moved to Kapuskasing, ON, as a young woman and there she met and married John Charlebois. Together they raised four children: Lynda (Guy) Villeneuve; Sandra (Ron) Desrosiers; Normalyn Gagnon, and Tim (Kariann) Charlebois. After John died, in 1974, Audrey returned to Winnipeg to be near her mother and sisters.

In Winnipeg Audrey met and married Henry Leis and became a stepmom to Sharyl (Dennis) Lacroix and Doug (Lisa) Leis. Audrey and Henry had similar interests, which were mostly about the outdoors. Hunting, fishing, gardening, cross-country skiing, and enjoying their cottage—these were their passions. When Henry died in 2010, Audrey decided to move to Barrie, where she would be in close proximity to three of her children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In the spring of 2011, Audrey moved into Grove Park, into the Mulberry Lane Retirement apartments, where she found new friends and “Family.” She was very happy and comfortable at Grove Park, which was due to the wonderful people that work there. Unfortunately she took ill in September and after three weeks in hospital she transferred to Hospice Simcoe, where she remained until

her death. During her time at Hospice Simcoe, she had many visits from family and friends, watched curling matches on TV and the birds outside, and continued to brighten people's lives."

—Lynda Villeneuve, Audrey's daughter

•• LETTENEY, George "Marven"

21/09/1937–

Originally from Nova Scotia.

GPH: 19/09/2012—P1047

LIDBETTER, Elsie

28/11/1928–31/03/2020

Elsie was a neighbour of June BINNIE some thirty years ago. She came from Lancashire and once hitchhiked to the northern tip of Scotland. Elsie was an avid reader, so we always had something to talk about.

GPH: 18/12/2014—18/12/2014—W3038

LITTLE, Robert "Bob"

26/07/1934–01/07/2017

Robert was married to Betty and they had four children.

GPH: 03/11/2016—M1212

LORANGER, Katherine "Kathy"

19/08/1947–06/07/2019

Kathy was born in Deep River, ON, and worked as a counselor at the Women's Shelter in Haileybury. For many years she devoted her time as a volunteer for A.A. She was Cree by descent. Kathy liked country music, dancing, Elvis, bingo and visiting friends. Loved to go to Tim Hortons for hot chocolate and enjoyed watching "The Young and the Restless." I felt a certain connection with Kathy because she moved into the suite that was vacated with my mother's passing in the spring of 2016. By GPH standards, she was young, having been born only the month before me in 1947. Daughter Vicki tended to Kathy's wellbeing.

GPH: 29/04/2016—S2020

LOWE, Thomas

26/08/1932–20/06/2014

GPH: 29/07/2013—A1134

LOWES, Dorothy Lindley

27/02/1937–23/01/2018



Daughter Tracy; grand-daughter Natasha. She lived with them in Barrie on Shakespeare for some twenty-three years; her husband died more than thirty years ago. Dorothy was a gracious, soft-spoken person. When she came to live at GPH she was suffering from the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. It was an anxious time for her, because she was completely aware that her abilities were slipping away. We all tried to be a comfort. Like me, Dorothy was a movie fan: "The Bridge over the River Kwai," "Seven Year Itch," "It Happened One Night," the Thin Man movies, Laurel and Hardy—we talked about all these. Interment is at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Toronto.

At our Celebration of Life service at GPH, on Apr. 4, 2018, Dorothy's daughter Tracy read these fine words about her mom.

Good evening. My name is Tracy. My mother Dorothy was a remarkable woman. Her smile and laughter were incredible. She was a wonderful role model for me and my daughter Natasha. She was born and raised in India, and left when her family emigrated to England. In 1959, at the age of 22, she came to Canada.

Mum was one of five sisters. They remained close, although they lived so far away: two sisters in England; two in Australia.

She made the best friend and kept in touch with everyone; always made you feel special. She was a self-taught cook; she made the best scones and jam, loved gardening; (liked) to knit. Really loved the movies. She travelled the world; incredible places, incredible pictures.

Mum battled Non-Hodgkins lymphoma three times from the age of 50–75. In 2016 she was diagnosed with Parkinson's and then came dementia. Mum became a resident of Maple (unit) in August 2013. On Jan. 23, 2018, there was a crazy thunder and lightning storm. Natasha and I were by her side when she took her last breath with a bolt of lightning. Although heartbreaking, it was a beautiful exit.

I can never thank Grove Park staff enough for loving and caring for my Mum. For always being so kind to Natasha and me. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Mum. I am sorry for everyone's loss. God bless you.

GPH: 03/08/2016—M1216

•• LOZA, Pauline

24/08/1924–11/02/2020 95

Pauline lived at GPH for ten years, moving from Burlington.

GPH: 28/01/2010—S2030

MABLEY, Dorothy

16/11/1922–26/01/2021

Dorothy grew up in Richmond Hill, an “only” child. She had always wanted to be a nurse and graduated from Wellesley Hospital—in fact, she spent her entire career there in “medical” nursing, teaching. In her fifties, she married a widower whom she had known from childhood, who had three children, twins Jim and Jane, and Bruce. Mr. Mabley lived to a great age (100). She herself, at a great age, is well satisfied with her life.

GPH: 13/06/2013—M N/A

•• MACCLELLAN, Lima

01/10/1924–04/02/2015

From Truro, N.S. Her children told me that she raised seven kids, with no money. For some reason, Lima liked couches and was always getting a new one.

GPH: 16/01/2008

MACDONALD, Florence “Flo”

25/04/1921–21/02/2020 98

Florence became a widow in her late 20s and raised four children by herself, working as a nurse’s aid. She had been the fifth of eleven children, on a farm, and was cared for by a neighbour. She recalled to me the memory of picking weeds in a farm field, along with her siblings and dad. Florence had great resilience. When she was feeling well, Florence enjoyed current events and news; she was also an avid sports fan (hockey). She retained her long term memory to a very advanced age. As often happens with such a long life, she lived to see the loss of one of her children, Doug, who lived in Barrie.

GPH: 17/03/2014—S

2nd •• MACDONALD, Margaret *Trask*

05/12/1926–21/08/2019

Margaret lived at GPH for almost ten years, a lengthy residence now. When she moved in, Margaret was only 83, still quite active and with her long-term memory good. This was shortly after her husband passed away. She was mom to three children, two daughters—one of whom worked in the laundry at RVH; and Richard.

Margaret told me that her father was a train engineer and that through him she came to know a Ridd family at Meaford, my hometown. Her parents used to play cards with the Ridds. In fact, Margaret’s older sister was born at Meaford, because her family lived there for a while.

Her father used to take the train up to Meaford, stay over night, and bring the train back in the morning. She further related that she knew a nurse at RVH

whose name was Ridd and asked me if she was from Meaford—her husband was. The nurse’s name is Karen Ridd, who lives a short distance from GPH. Karen is from Owen Sound, but her husband is Burt Ridd, with whom I went to school. We also played on the same bantam hockey team. As it happens, Burt is a resident of Coleman long-term care home in Barrie.

Margaret was a second generation resident, in that her mother-in-law, Mary McDONALD (sic) lived at GPH from 1986–1990: see *Connections*. Into her 90s, Margaret became infirm, but she retained lively eyes. It was good to know her as well as her family.

GPH: 16/12/2009

•• MACDONALD, Maureen “Patricia” > “Pat” *McLewen*

24/08/1924–15/09/2018

Born in Montreal. Pat moved to GPH from an apartment in Collingwood. She lived at GPH ten years, her mind was good, and we got to know her well. We often talked and she told me about her early life. The decisive event in her early life was the death of her mother in 1930 at the age of 28: TB. Pat was the only child; her father did not remarry and died when she was twenty-one. She was raised in a convent, with the help of her grandparents, in Ottawa, or perhaps the reverse. She said that her experience with the nuns and her grandmother affected her ability to be a good parent. She was the owner of a paint business in Montreal, with a man named Fred Hill. Pat was the bookkeeper. Her children were small. She spent five to ten years in English-speaking Montreal. Pat had seven children; Lisa is the youngest. When Lisa was ten, husband Bob left. ... So Pat knew many difficulties. Later she sold real estate; was a driver for the Red Cross.

At GPH Pat made many friends. She was especially close to Pat SHAW. They spent a lot of time together; always attended Bible study. Laughed. Lisa was good to her mom.

GPH: 05/04/2010

•• MACGILLIVRAY, Marjorie Jean *Robinson*

19/06/1925–17/10/2018

Jean was a most delightful person, full of caring and concern for others. She lived to a great age (93) and was so appreciative of anything that was done for her. Never missed my Wed. Bible study; I saw her often. She was born near Port Elgin, N.B., at Little Chemogue. Jean was allergic to the farm and after gr. 8 moved to Moncton and stayed with friends of her father. She went out to work at 14, in 1939, just before WWII. Jean met her husband Scott while working in services for the troops. They married just before she was 19 and had two children, Patricia and Don. Much later she married a second time, in Scarborough. Her husband was an inspector of roads and they travelled all over Canada. On their honeymoon they travelled from T.O. to Vancouver and back to Alberta by train, a memorable trip. Jean liked dogs and had a collie when her children were small. Daughter Pat visited often and we got to know each other.

The details of Jean's family are recorded in her fine obituary, which appeared in the *Barrie Advance* on Thurs., Nov. 1, 2018.

Jean contributed to a GPH cookbook compiled by Lorraine Maher and Cathy Allen. Here's her recipe for a portable casserole, found on p. 58. For info on the cookbook, see the entry for Valerie Allan, where you will find another recipe! Jean submitted another recipe, for Scottish Shortbread (p. 82).

Jean's Casserole to Travel

Brown 1 lb. ground meat with 1 onion and 2 celery stalks.
Add two cans tomato soup.
Let simmer.

Cook 1 ½ cups macaroni in separate pot.

Before leaving home put all in a dish—macaroni last.
Grate cheese on top.
Can be mixed together.

GPH: 13/01/2010—A1129

MACKENZIE, Gladys *Bowman*

25/03/1928–16/01/2020

Gladys came to GPH from Park Lane Terrace, in Paris, ON. She was born at Burford, near Brantford. Gladys married at seventeen and throughout her life displayed a fine head for business. She and her husband had a farm and horses at Hawkestone. They raced horses and Gladys drove a sulky, travelling all over the country (for example, Calgary). Earlier she and her husband



bought a tobacco farm at New Lowell. She and daughter Lorna worked for Castor LONGMIRE on his tobacco farm! The MacKenzies also operated Mac's Propane at New Lowell. The undated newspaper photo—which she provided—shows Gladys racing at Orillia. Gladys's daughters (Nina, Sheryl, Lorna) were frequent visitors at GPH. Gladys had an excellent memory for all kinds of things.

GPH: 11/04/2016—A1171 > S2042

•• MACKENZIE, Marion *Christopher* MACDONALD
11/07/1932–11/10/2015*



Marion and David

Marion was born in Toronto, where her father had a garage near Western Hospital; it continues as a garage (across from the Emergency entrance) under Marion's nephew. Marion had two siblings, a sister who died years ago, and a brother, John.

CN Tower

Marion attended secretarial school and took a job with CN. She was secretary to the general manager during the construction of the CN Tower. Their office was in the basement! (She did get a lifelong pass.) From there she was promoted to CN's head office at Union Station and that's where she met David Mackenzie. Her sons, Thomas and Robbie, from her first marriage, were grown up, as were David's children, Garry and Robert.

David, and painting

David's job took them to Moncton for a couple of years and then to Montreal. It was while in Montreal that Marion took up painting; she became dedicated to this and would paint "until all hours," as they say. Rather than make another major move, David took retirement, and they moved to Barrie, because they had CN friends here, in the late 1980s.

Marion loved to golf and did so five days a week. As the signs of Alzheimer's disease began to manifest themselves, she nevertheless was able to continue to golf for some time.

Kids TV

Visits from the grandchildren were special times. David tells stories of her cooking classes with the children, where she assumed the role of a TV cooking host, with them as the helpers. Asked where the camera was, she would say something like, "It's hidden in the stove." Then there was the big cardboard box, set up like a little house in the basement, with its Letter Box. Letters were mailed

and answered, by granddad. And Hallowe'en. Many wonderful family times; many good memories.

A remarkable love story

Marion's life was a successful one. She was a good mom, grandmother, and companion for David. Some six years ago, in 2009, in Nov., Marion came to live at GPH. David was here virtually every day to see her. When I asked him why he came every day, even when he was in pain and on stormy days, he said that Marion had taken good care of him and now he was doing the same. That's a testament to love.

David continued to visit at GPH after Marion's passing, namely, to join a lunchtime group at the Café. It was always good to see him. He went to Marion on June 15, 2019, at the age of 89. We gathered again at Adams Funeral Home, to bid farewell to this gentle man.

GPH: 16/11/2009

MACMILLAN, Mary

03/06/1929–02/03/2016

Mary moved to GPH from IOOF. Her husband, Jim, was devoted to her. They have one son. Mary was a member of St. Mary's parish.

GPH: 22/12/2014

MACNAUGHTON, Barbara

08/12/1930–13/03/2018

A Torontonion. Married 58 years. Three children: daughter Sarah and family are in Barrie. Mrs. MacNaughton was an accomplished person: interior designer; loved to play tennis; enjoyed classical music—went to the opera when she could; liked dogs and cats—she had a cat named “Max.” And she was a “Royals watcher.” A full life. Barbara lived at the Waterford in Barrie prior to coming to live at Grove Park.

GPH: 19/10/2015—S2045

MACNICOL, Gladys

15/03/1920–04/02/2017

B. near Collingwood, about a month before my father was born at Cape Rich (Apr. 4).

Gladys told me that she had grown up in McMurchy's Settlement. Though I grew up in the area, I had no idea where this was and had to use Google—which knows everything—to learn about it. In short, it was where Georgian Peaks is now. In *The Northern Advance*, Nov. 28, 1895, p. 1, under “County Cream—District Deeds.—captured by Simcoe and District Exchanges as Local News,” we learn, “The Patrons of Industry in the McMurchy's Settlement, are said to be thriving well.” Another example of such news is this: “The Creemore beef ring is being reorganized.” This is certainly local news.

Gladys responded to questions that are part of a programme called “All About Me.” Here is some of the information she provided about herself.

Gladys—she liked to be called “Gladie”—was raised on a country farm in a small community named Kirkwall. She lived near the one-room schoolhouse and was the one who would go early to start the fire that would warm the room before other children arrived. She had two brothers. Married Bud at 18 and moved in with her husband’s mother to join the family business, working in an apple orchard. She lived with her mother-in-law for 59 years! Among traditional species, they grew McIntosh. The family bought another orchard that grew Early McIntosh. They had a fruit stand and would sell apples from their farm.

She loved ice cream and said that, growing up on the farm, she liked to eat meat and potatoes. Gladys was Presbyterian but didn’t attend church on Sunday because that was a busy selling time for the farm. Later in life she became interested again and found comfort in reciting prayer.

Mrs. MacNicol had two “loving” sons, Charles and Gary. Among her “special memories” were going to baseball games that her sons played in. Even when they were adults, she made it to their games. Gladys also recalled playing in a band, the “Skelton Band,” with her brothers. Her instrument was the guitar. They travelled about and played at local dances. She said she loved to play guitar and piano. She also skied, snowmobiled, played euchre and watched baseball on TV. Gladys watched “Wheel of Fortune” every day.

Gladys came to live at GPH from Blue Mountain Manor. She often expressed affection for her family and spoke of how they had always been a close family.

GPH: 22/01/2016—P1037

•• MANDAR, Donna

04/08/1934–01/03/2017

B. in Aldershot, daughter of Fred Charles and Violet White. She was the youngest of nine: Garnet, Harold, Kenneth, Frederick, Ruth, Freda, Violet, Roberta, and Donna. Her father worked for many years at CIL in Hamilton and there was just her and her brother at home when they moved to a farm. They had horses, cows, chickens and turkeys in later years. Donna admitted that she was spoiled as the youngest of the children.

Donna married George Alfred Mandar on Nov. 6, 1951. On Nov. 2, 2011, she recalled that it was her anniversary; that they had been married in Hamilton on a beautiful day and gone to Sarnia and Port Huron on their honeymoon. George and Donna had three children: William “Bill” (Orillia); Howard (Guelph); and Margaret (in Barrie). She had eight grandchildren (Steven, Andray, Connie, Patrick, Scott, Doug, Anissa, and Brandon) and nine gt.-grandchildren.

In conversations with Donna, Chapleau often came up. George was posted with the OPP to Chapleau and Donna would recall the isolation she felt as a young mother in that small, remote place.

Donna worked as a waitress and volunteered at an Anglican church. She loved horses and had a horse named “Queeny.” She and George travelled to England, the USA, and within Canada. Donna was a good seamstress and liked reading, and watching TV (especially movies). She first came to GPH with the

Senior Encounter programme. Her appearance was always immaculate and she liked having her nails just perfect. Donna was rich in family and often spoke of them fondly.

GPH: 16/03/2011—W3029 > W3011

MANFREDI, Ida

07/11/1937–

Mrs. Manfredi cared for her parents and others. Her first language is Italian. She is a mother of six. Daughter Pina, a teacher, has been entirely devoted to her mother, an example to us all.

GPH: 14/01/2016—P1044

•• MARCHAND, Rita

12/10/1922–06/04/2013

See the life story of Rita's husband Tony in *Connections 3*.

GPH: 08/03/2008

MARKOV, Elena "Ellen"

08/07/1934–20/02/2016

Ellen was born in Montreal to Polish parents: they emigrated separately but met again in Montreal. Ellen was one of four daughters. She went to the Université de Montreal, graduated, took a summer job with Bell and stayed thirty years! Ellen's husband was from Yugoslavia and together they raised John, their son, who also works for Bell as an electrical engineer.

Ellen moved to GPH from Tudhope Retirement Home in Orillia, a week after her husband died. They had recently moved from Niagara Falls, where Ellen's sister owns a hotel (in Niagara-on-the-Lake). Ellen was an accomplished person and spoke French, Polish, a little Russian, and understood Ukrainian.

At GPH she struck us as a serious person who enjoyed engaging in conversation. She always attended Bible study and often wore a "trademark" cap. Conversation often included "Johnny," her son, of whom she was immensely proud. We all liked her.

GPH: 09/05/2014—W3020

MARTISKOVIČ, Nada

03/09/1937–23/03/2015

GPH: 01/04/2013

•• MASHINTER, Betty *Byne*

03/05/1923–05/10/2015

At the time Mrs. Mashinter died, she was the resident of longest residency at GPH, almost fifteen years. For Betty's lifestory see *Connections 2*, similarly for the life story of Harvey MASHINTER, her husband. Mr. Mashinter died in 2003. Betty suffered from dementia but remained pleasant in disposition throughout her long illness.

GPH: 23/11/2000 > P

•• MASSIE, Paul

13/07/1947–05/07/2015*

Paul grew up in Hamilton and had a career as a model. He appeared in the Sears catalogue, on a Du Maurier billboard, travelled to Italy for fashion shows. He married and they had a farm near Uxbridge, where he had horses, taught riding ... Eventually the marriage failed and Paul's dog "Scooter" travelled with him as his closest companion. Another marriage took him to the United States, but that did not last, and eventually he returned to Barrie, where his sister Mary Louise and their mother were. A time came when he was more or less living on the street for periods of time. A growing mental illness was hastened when he was hit by a car while riding a bike to work at the Fish Bowl, an eatery on Bayfield St. And so it was that Paul, a tall, strong, good-looking man came to live at GPH, where staff did their best to befriend him and look after him.

At his memorial service at Adams Funeral Home, I told a story that his sister M'lou had told me. It has as its theme the village that supports each one of us. One time Paul told M'lou that he had to go downtown and repay someone some money. She thought someone had taken advantage of him, so she went with him. Paul went to a convenience store, where the clerk called him by name. As it turned out, this clerk had given Paul cigarettes on credit and he was repaying that person who had put trust in him.

GPH: 04/06/2012

•• MCBRIDE, Ella

15/04/1917–17/11/2013

B. in Vankoughnet, ON.

M. George McBride on Sept. 9, 1936 at Muskoka Falls, near Bracebridge.

Ella and George had six children, three girls and three boys; 26 grandchildren and many gt.-grandchildren. She lived all her married life in their original home at Muskoka Falls, a quiet, simple but somewhat hard life—working on the farm, raising children, often on her own during winter months after watching George head off up the road with the horses on his way to the lumber camp. Only to come home on weekends, when the family would all load into the car and go into town to purchase the weekly supply of groceries from the monies he had earned that week. It did not take much to please Ella and she never complained. One of her favourite sayings was, "I'm fine." "I'm OK."

She loved to have family around her and visitors were always welcome, even those unwanted vacuum cleaner salesmen. True visitors would be offered a meal or at least a cup of tea, no matter what the time of day. Hydro crews working in the area would come for a hearty noon meal, and often local voters were welcomed to the polling station in her home at election time.

Ella lived on her own after Mr. McBride's death in 1988, until the age of 92 when, in June, 2010, she fell and was taken to the hospital in Bracebridge. Later she moved to the IOOF long-term care home in Barrie and then to GPH.

GPH: 27/07/2012—M1225

MCBRIDE, William Robert

12/09/1930–19/12/2018

Mr. McBride was a Korean War veteran.

GPH: 16/11/2017—W3016

MCDONALD, Allan

21/03/1924–13/01/2019

Allan was born near Glace Bay, N.S. In his day 2,000 people worked in the mines there. He was wounded in the Korean War and spent time in a hospital in Japan. Allan worked in the mines and then went back into the army.

We remember Allan especially for his paintings. Eventually he was a graphic artist at Base Borden, but many years before that he began painting: he was talented. He and his family hung numerous of his paintings in the Maple dining room and in the Maple lounge: he got to have his meals surrounded by his paintings. Some of these his family kindly left at GPH so, in one sense, Allan will always be with us. He explained some of his work to me. An early painting (1932) depicted his backyard, with someone shoveling coal into a bin beside the “outhouse,” and an aunt talking over the fence; a black cat on a roof; a mine in the background. Another pictured a number of men around a fire. Veterans. One is playing a mouth organ. They have bought a chicken, plucked it, and are about to put it in a pot. Capreol, ON. In the Depression men rode the rails, but at Capreol police put men off the trains. My favourite painting featured a group of boys playing hockey on a backyard rink, wearing Montreal and Toronto sweaters, with the water in the distance. Remarkable “Canadiana.”

Allan was a spiritual person and was involved at St. Mary’s Church. When he was able to come to Bible study, I used to have us sing “Farewell to Nova Scotia” in his honour. Occasionally I took the music (and guitar) to him in his suite. He liked that.

GPH: 11/01/2016—M1237

MCFADDEN, Joan

29/05/1932–27/05/2020

19/09/2018—P1014

•• MCGRATH, Helen *Mapes*

09/09/1929–31/07/2015

Helen was married to Nelson (see next). They were founding members of Grace United Church. She was one of four daughters and grew up on a farm at Cookstown. Helen said those girls worked like boys on the farm. It was hard work, but they had fun. She did, however, decide that she was not going to marry a farmer and be stuck on a farm! Nelson worked on the railway. They had a son and a daughter. Helen had a terrific smile, and sparkling eyes.

12/12/2008

•• MCGRATH, John “Nelson”

17/02/1929–30/09/2014

See the entry for his wife, Helen.
GPH: 17/12/2008

MCGUGAN, Donald

17/04/1923–29/06/2017

Mr. McGugan moved to GPH from Georgian Bay General Hospital. His daughter Barbara Crawford is former GPH staff (2002–2008). Before he was hospitalized Mr. McGugan lived at Bayfield House Retirement Lodge, with his wife, Esther. They had four children, Alan, Barbara, Sandra, and Christina. He liked animals, especially his dogs. Barbara says, “I remember after one of their dogs had died that Mom went on holidays with one of the grand-daughters and, on her return, the first thing my Dad told her was, ‘I really miss not having a dog’.” Needless to say, other dogs followed and, in the end, a cat.

Mr. McGugan had quite a life. He was born in London, ON, a middle son to parents Dougald and Christine. He spent a lot of time with his mother’s parents and, in a true Scottish tradition, they celebrated “Hogmanay” more than Christmas. His mother always catered to his sweet tooth and a meal was never complete without dessert. As a young boy, they moved to Northern Ontario and cleared land to farm and log, pioneers in the real sense of the word. Donald met the love of his life at a dance in Bourkes. He said that it was quite intimidating to meet Esther’s brothers as they were very protective of their little sister. He was unknown to the family and not a Scandinavian but, once he proved his love, he was accepted into the clan, especially by Esther’s Mom, known as Mor-Mor.

Donald worked as a lumber jack in Charlton; as a miner in Cobalt; and as an educator–teacher at North Cobalt, Cobalt, and New Liskeard. One of his hobbies was storytelling; he wrote several books of family history. He loved woodworking and with Esther’s help made many great pieces. All the family have creations made by him gracing their walls. They travelled extensively, to Norway, Austria, New Zealand, most of Canada and many American states. As a child, Barbara says, I remember summer holidays spent in a small trailer while Dad continued his university education. He always encouraged us to try new things and widened the world for us. One time we were crabbing and Dad encouraged me to put the crab into the boiling water. Neither the crab nor I enjoyed this and I think the tongs the crab clutched were still in the pot when supper was ready. Donald encouraged his children and grandchildren to try hard; they did not have to be “the best,” whatever that is, but to try their best. Good advice. Photos of Don and Esther follow. Thanks to Barb for sharing these.

GPH: 01/02/2017—A1143

MCGUGAN, Esther

01/12/1927–26/01/2018



The McGugins. “Young love” ... and 70 years together.

A beginning in northern Ontario; marries Don

“Esther McGugan was the youngest of seven children born to a Swedish mother and Norwegian father. Her father died when Mom was seven, but she had older brothers and a small Scandinavian village in northern Ontario that were very protective of her and ensured she had a carefree childhood.

She met my dad [Donald] at a dance in Bourkes and, as Dad said, the rest is history. They were married for 70 years. They raised a family of one boy and three girls, in many small towns in the north. The family spread south and grew to eight grandchildren and seven gt.-grandchildren.

A pioneer of the north

Mom was a person who did what had to be done and was a woman ahead of her time. Or, as I say to my children, she was a pioneer of the north. As a young bride, she joined Dad and his family in a lumber camp in the middle of nowhere and, along with a sister-in-law fresh from London, England, they cooked and cleaned for numerous men. As this was done *without* hydro or running water, it also meant that there was a lot of water to carry and wood to cut to keep the stove stoked to heat water for clothes washing and baking of bread, as well as the hearty meals the men enjoyed.

Supporting the journey from the saw mill to a classroom

My Dad was injured in the saw mill just before I was born, and Mom had to nurse a newborn, chase after a young toddler, as well as juggling work and maintaining a home. There again, hauling water and splitting wood to keep the home fire burning until my Dad was able to come home. When Dad decided that he would go to school to become a teacher, Mom again stepped up to being a single Mom while Dad was away in the south. I never remember my Mom complaining about what she had to do and it wasn't until later in life that I learned how much she actually did.

Talented

Mom was a multi-talented lady, although she would say she only dabbled in all kinds of artistic activities. She was an artist, a potter, and a weaver. All our homes have items crafted by Mom. She was also a great cook, and my brother, sister, and me were glad that she didn't go away often, as Dad's ketchup sandwiches and mushroom soup, made with water, were not something we looked forward to. Her ginger snaps were known far and wide. Her granddaughters got batches of these when struck with morning sickness, and I'm not sure if it was the cookies or the love that made them but it seemed to help.

Leading by example

To Mom we didn't have to be the best but only do our best. Also, we were expected to do what needed to be done, and she led by example. Just because you were a girl, it didn't get you out of shingling roofs, chopping wood, or shoveling snow. Also, just because you were a boy, it didn't mean that you couldn't cook or wash and iron your own clothes.

You are gone Mom but not forgotten. The great-grandchildren remind us every day that, even if we cannot see you, you are in our hearts. Every time they see a squirrel they think of you.

We would like to thank Grove Park Home for the care that both Mom and Dad enjoyed in their time here."

—Thanks to Barb Crawford and her family for the personal telling of Esther McGugan's life. I have added the headings.

GPH: 18/04/2017—A1186

MCGURRAN, Mary Kathleen "Kay"

02/10/1925–28/01/2019 = 103!



Kay was a hockey fan, and moved to Maple from RL. She had been married to David M. and was mom to Kelly. Through Kay I met niece Anne and Tom Dorsey, friends of Terry and Linda Codling. Terry was GPH Administrator before Paul Taylor. Kay was a spiritual person and received weekly visits from St. Mary's.

GPH: 21/03/2014—M1226

MCILREAVY, Elizabeth

20/08/1926–10/08/2019

Elizabeth was born in Ireland and came to Canada as a small child. She worked at Jack Fraser Men’s Wear for 22 years. (Jack Fraser was launched in 1926 in Toronto, and at its peak in the 1980s had about 150 outlets.) When she lived in Kincardine, Elizabeth used to walk 5–6 miles in the morning. There she lived at Malcolm House and she remembered the staff. Elizabeth was a square dancer and a lawn bowler. She loved dogs, and had a “Morkie.” Elizabeth had a strong religious faith and identified with First Baptist Church.

GPH: 10/02/2017—W3017

•• MCKAY, James

24/03/1933–23/09/2015



Mr. James McKay was one of our most colourful residents: he qualifies as an unforgettable character. He knew more about the movies than any other resident I have known, past or present.

When he moved into GPH from a cottage in Innisfil, James hardly spoke for the first year or so. But he watched TV movies from morning ’til night. The staff on Aspen saw that he got a flat-screen TV and then a larger one, with a VCR. Gradually he came out of himself and became a conversationalist, a friendly guy who took an interest in people’s families and their kids. It was quite a transformation. Eventually he even attended Bible study and other activities. The staff took an interest in him and brought him souvenirs from different places (coins from England; an airplane; movies). We often talked and over the years of his stay his life story came out in fascinating pieces. Here is some of it. Mr. McKay had a terrific memory for movies, actors and actresses, airplanes (bombers), airplane crashes, quotations of famous generals (Gen. Douglas MacArthur), and so on.

Early story: the movies

Mr. McKay’s father was born in Kamloops, B.C. He rode the rails to Toronto. He got married and their daughter was born in Winnipeg. His father had lost a hand in a mining accident in B.C.—but where this belongs in the story I do not know.

As a child, Mr. McKay went to all the big movie theatres in Toronto: the Imperial on Yonge St.; Odeon on Bloor, W of Yonge. He saw “King Kong.” He

first went to movies with his older sister—maybe saw “Tarzan” first. When Mr. McKay was nineteen his family went to Buffalo to see a movie about Mario Lanza. In Toronto he saw Van Johnson and Tony Bennett, live. His sister belonged to the Nelson Eddy Fan Club—this he told me while watching a Nelson Eddy–Jeanette MacDonald musical.

Mr. McKay could identify the great actors of black and white movies: Lloyd Bridges, Ronald Coleman, Jean Arthur, Cary Grant in a b/w movie set in ca. 1938–39; Errol Flynn’s death; Clark Gable. This actor was in “High Noon,” that one in “Shane” (Glen Ford). A favourite movie was “633 Squadron.” James would have liked to pilot a Mosquito in WWII: “4 cannons; 39,000 ft.!” He watched “The Battle of Britain” many times.

He could remember the early days of TV: he corrected me to *Brian* Donlevy as the lead actor in the early TV show, “Dangerous Assignment”—late-1950s. His favourite comedian? Maybe Bob Hope; Jerry Lewis was mentioned—Hope’s tours to entertain the troops and Lewis’s work with crippled children.

Work life

James drove a dump truck for Redford Construction and he worked for Allied Van Lines. He lived in Toronto; liked it. They had a contract with DND to move people in and out of Base Borden; Meaford, my hometown.

Airshows and accidents

Mr. McKay went to airshows at the CNE. He saw the crash of an RAF Nimrod on Aug. 23, 1995; the crash of a Blue Angels F-11 Tiger on Sept. 2, 1966. He was driving a dump truck by the Downsview airport after a DC-8 crashed and he saw the site, with people’s effects and so on. James told me that the pilot of the big Sikorsky that put the top on the CN Tower was later killed in Texas when a rotor failed. A man who parachuted from the CN Tower was later killed ... and he knew all the names!

James’s sister

James’s sister Rose Marie (b. 1924), his only sister, married a pilot, Llewelyn Graham, a British Jew whose family was in Kingston, Jamaica. She lived there. Mr. Graham died at age 47; they had a daughter, Tara. A hurricane blew the roof off her house and she went to Florida. Mr. Graham took James up in a Piper cub from the Toronto Island airport. That was a big experience for him.

Mr. McKay was from a rough and tumble background. He had three brothers, George, Robert, and Edward. Their father didn’t make a will for the cottage in Innisfil. According to James, he had said, “Let them fight it out!”

The outgoing Mr. McKay

When he came to GPH, Mr. McKay had friends who managed his affairs and looked out for him—Laurence and Dorothea Faulkner. James was an amazing guy in many ways. Life at GPH was probably as comfortable a life as he had known. He used to ask about our son, Michael, who was in Sweden teaching. A few years ago a GPH resident named Albert URQUHART, who had served with the USAF in bomber command in WWII, left behind a small library of aircraft books. Many of these migrated to James's suite and he read them. In fun I called him "Captain McKay." He liked that.

Indirectly these remarks about Mr. McKay's life are a tribute to the staff who not only looked after James but befriended him in numerous ways. That story in itself is an amazing one, namely, how this gentleman came to well-being in a long-term care setting.

GPH: 26/05/2006—A1130

•• MCKEE, Dorothy *Anderson*

12/03/1927–08/10/2016

Mrs. McKee was from Richmond Hill. Her parents were from Bellynahinch, Ireland, which is located about 15 miles south of Belfast on the Belfast-Newcastle road, in County Down. According to the 2001 census, Bellynahinch had a population of 5,364 and is a market town. Dorothy had been there to visit. She had two daughters, Tracey and Ruth; and a son, Rick. They were devoted to their mom and we often met them, coming to see her, bringing lunch to have with her ... She had a strong connection to the Presbyterian church in Richmond Hill. Dorothy had attended the same congregation all her life. She taught all ages in the Sunday School and was an elder.

At GPH Dorothy liked all the activities. She always came to my Bible studies, as long as she was able; cards; bingo. The name "Dorothy" was popular in the decade of her birth. At one time there were six or so Dorothys and as many Margarets at GPH.

GPH: 03/06/2010

•• MCKELVEY, Marjory *Woodhouse* 103!

25/07/1910–21/08/2013

Mrs. McKelvey lived to 103; there is a photo of her on "The 100 Wall" outside the Aspen dining room. She was born at Dean Lake, in the Algoma District, West of Blind River, off #17. Marjory lived in Parry Sound for much of her life, where she worked at Clark's dry goods store. She moved to GPH from a RH in Richmond Hill.

GPH: 23/05/2008—P1037

MCLEAN, Hugh "Alex"

25/02/1923–

Alex is my cousin! Distantly: to make this simpler, Alex's daughter Debbie McLean Carter and I are both 5th generation descendants of Abraham Smith (and his wife Mary Cordelia McKay). Alex's great-grandparents were George Smith (and Catherine Lundy); my great-great-grandmother was Eliza

Levina Smith, who was married to Richard Cox. Eliza was George's sister. Abraham Smith, his wife, and at least three children came to Upper Canada, to near Erin, from Pennsylvania between 1817 and 1822, since children George, Eliza Levina, and William (b. 1817) were born in the U.S. and son Joseph (b. 1822) was born in Ontario. Richard and Eliza came to St. Vincent Twp. in 1837 or 1838 with a couple of children. Some of Eliza's family came at some point. Richard Cox and Eliza and numerous Smiths are buried in the Duxbury Cemetery, between the 7th and 9th Lines, north of Meaford. The expropriation of land for the Meaford Tank Range in 1942 displaced some 170 families, including my grandparents who were on what was Richard and Eliza's farm and doubtless Smiths as well.

There is more! Alex was born in the house that my grandparents Ernie and Laura Cox lived in when I was a boy. It was the first house on the east side of the 7th Line on the north side of highway #26. Little did I know that Alex lived a short distance further down the 7th, on the west side of the 7th. That small brick house was torn down in the 1980s (?) after my father sold the property. Its walls had cracked, perhaps because no one had lived in it after my grandparents died in the mid-1970s. Debbie told me that she and her brother both have a brick from that house!

Alex's father was a sea captain on the Great Lakes and Alex's first job was on a Great Lakes freighter. Alex married Dorothy Godfrey and had two children, Debbie and her brother John. They lived in T.O. for some 35 years, where Alex worked for a car parts company and, when that failed, for Kresge's. They then retired to Meaford and Alex worked at the farm.

Photo below of the house where Alex was born, on the 7th Line, just north of highway #26, Meaford. 1950s. W. F. Cox, a minister and brother of Ernie Cox, is the figure in the photo. Ernie and Laura Cox bought the little 10-acre farm from Alex's father, William McLean.

The second photo, about 1980 (?) shows the barn and, to the left, the tool shed / chicken coop; behind the barn, a pond that my dad, Ralph Cox, dug, fed by an artesian well. The house itself, before that time, had a shallow well and a cistern in the basement. My dad put running water and a proper bathroom in the house.



GPH: 02/03/2015—M1231 > P1029

•• MCLEOD, Rita Rowcliffe

06/09/1922–16/09/2015

B. in Orangeville hospital. Rita's father died of appendicitis, so her mother and sister moved into the village of Bellfountain. She knew her future husband Archie from that time; she was ten, he was fourteen. After her marriage, Archie farmed and worked at A.V. Roe in Malton. During WWII she went to work in a factory in Guelph, as did her sister. Then in Malton. Rita's son lives in Erin, not far from Bellfountain; daughter Heather (Baird) is a nurse at RVH.

Rita and Ruth FANJOY were great friends.

GPH: 23/11/2004

‡ MCMAHAN, Joan

29/04/1947–

GPH: 05/11/2018—P1011

•• MCPHATTER, Kenneth

25/09/1931–02/03/2014

Mr. McPhatter moved to GPH from the Waterford RH. He grew up in Bognor, where his father had a general store. Ken knew the Hallmans there, also my aunt and uncle, Allan and Florence Anderson. Florence was my mom's sister and Allan trucked logs for the Hallmans. He loved sports, drove stock cars (!); played hockey and lacrosse. Ken worked for Bell for 35 years, was proud of his military service and was in the Reserves for the same length of time. He was in the Lions Club, Masons, and RCMI. United Church. Mr. McPhatter was an articulate person with a wide range of knowledge.

GPH: 12/07/2012—W3036

•• MCPHATTER, Mae

10/05/1929–28/06/2015

Mae worked as an occupational health RN at RVH for some 32 years. She knew Margaret MACDONALD who also worked at RVH at the time. Mae and Ken had two daughters, and at a memorial service for Mae (and other residents) we learned of their mother's commitment to serving others. The McPhatters were members at Collier St. United Church.

GPH: 04/07/2012

MEDEIROS, Silvana

28/09/1944–28/10/2016

B. in Portugal. She moved to Canada with her husband and son in 1957. They had another son here. I asked if Silvana was from Lisbon, a city I visited. She was not, but from outside Lisbon, a place called Azoura (?). Silvana came to GPH from Collingwood a few weeks after her husband died and only lived with us for about a month before she herself passed away. She left behind a large family to carry on her place in this world.

GPH: 09/09/2016—M1212

METCALF, Doris

17/11/1921–26/05/2019 = 97

My relationship with Mrs. Metcalf began with the fact that my mother's name was also "Doris," evidently a favourite name in the 1920s. She moved to GPH from Barrie Manor. Doris had been one of four children; her husband had worked for the railway. She is survived by a son.

GPH: 21/11/2017—M1217

MICALLEF, Saviour "Sam"

24/05/1933–04/04/2019

Mr. Micallef came to GPH from Whispering Pines. Six children. He had been a heavy equipment operator—packer, bulldozer (up to D-9), backhoe, and worked for Pitt Construction; union labour. Sam liked to socialize and enjoyed meeting people at the front entrance.

GPH: 07/05/2018—M1236

MIDDEL, Dorothy

16/04/1939–12/08/2014

Dorothy was a bookkeeper for rental properties; two sons.

GPH: 07/07/2014

•• MILLS, Agnes

12/05/1914–15/11/2015* 101½

Mrs. Mills had a long, rich life and her memory and sense of humour remained largely intact into her 102nd year. Here is her life story, as written by her family. I often commented with her about my amazement at her first teaching post, in a one-room school, nineteen years of age, a large class, and the eldest student just three years her junior! Son David is married to Gayle, whose mom, Dorothy GARDINER, also lived at GPH. In fact, their stays overlapped. Agnes was a person of faith. She had a well-worn Bible and, in her late nineties, I would stop by her suite and read to her from that Bible. She enjoyed that.



Mrs. Mills. 100th birthday party.

Early family life

“Agnes was born in the village of Wyoming, east of Sarnia, just before WWI. She was one of nine children. When she was 2 ½ her mother contracted Scarlet Fever and she was sent to live with an aunt in Everett, and then Rosemont, to a farm. Her aunt and uncle had no children of their own, so she was raised as “an only child.” Her father was severely injured, hit by a car, while working as a flagman for a road department and, though he lived to the age of eighty, he was disabled. At the time of her passing, Agnes still had two much younger sisters, in their eighties, living in Lindsay and Whitby.

Agnes went to high school at Banting H.S. in Alliston and then on to “Normal” school—teacher’s college—in Toronto.

Teaching, marriage and family

In 1933, at the age of nineteen, she accepted a teaching job in Lisle. There were 38 students, spanning grades 1–10, in a one-room schoolhouse. The oldest was sixteen, just three years younger than she was. It was the time of the great Depression, when there was no money. The following year, in 1934, she met Richard “Dick” Mills, who worked for CN, and they were married four years later, on Sept. 17, 1938, at the United Church in Airlie, near Lisle. Dick got a job at Camp Borden as a steamfitter. WWII was a year away. Agnes and Dick had two sons, Barry, b. June 8th, 1942, midway through WWII, and David, Jan. 23, 1946, just after the War. Both Dick and Agnes were “go-to” people in the village of Lisle, population 125. They were involved in all aspects of village life; no one was ever in need, thanks to them.

Farming; return to teaching

In 1951 the village teacher quit. Agnes was asked to take over for that year, but stayed 5 ½. The School Board at that time sent grade 5 boys to Clougher, near Lisle, and she went with them. “A handful of mischief, including son Barry,” she said. Agnes taught another five years there. It was in 1958 that the Mills family moved to Barrie, to a house at #10 Grove St.; Barry was sixteen, Dave twelve. Agnes taught at Hillcrest Public School, less than a block away. Ten years after their move, Dick died, in Feb., 1968, at age 64. Agnes continued at Hillcrest, until 1973, so she spent fifteen years there.

*Mr. Mills early death. The Quota Club. Waterford.
Surprise birthday parties: 75, 80, 90, 100*

Agnes was only 54 when Dick died. She continued to live on Grove St. until 1992. Then there were four years at Waterford Retirement Home; finally her years at Grove Park Home, among her friends, both staff and other residents. We all enjoyed her. Agnes was a Charter member of the Quota Club of Barrie and was active in looking after friends. Agnes was always helping others in need. When she turned 75 her family gave her a surprise birthday party. This was a huge event out in Lisle with 150 or so people, and an aircraft flyover with a

banner wishing her happy birthday! There was another party at 80. Another at 90. Another at 100. Most of all Agnes loved her family. Her sons cannot recall their mother ever, ever speaking harshly to either of them. They say, “She was a great lady, never smoking nor drinking alcohol, very community minded and always willing to help those in need. She will be missed.”

GPH: 07/05/2010—S1017

MILLS, Julia

01/09/1926–17/05/2017

Mrs. Mills’ husband was minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church in the 1960s. She was born in New Haven, CT, and went to Providence College. Mrs. Mills was a pianist and Paul, her husband, was a singer. Her son-in-law teaches at Duke. Julia was a neighbour of Lois WARDLAW. She was an accomplished person, with a wealth of experiences to talk about. Loved old movies. Julia moved to GPH from Independent Living at IOOF.

GPH: 02/08/2016—A1147

MINNINGS, Eugene “Gene”

11/06/1929–22/06/2015

Mr. Minnings lived near Elmvale. He and his wife had five children, a daughter, Lisa, and four sons, Gary, Paul, Pete, and Rick; there was also one child who predeceased him. Gene came from a farming background but had an electrical business. He was much involved in community life and he belonged to both the Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus.

06/03/2015

•• MITCHELL, Ruth *Brooks*

19/09/1922–09/03/2013*

Mrs. Mitchell’s life story can be found in *Connections 3*.

GPH: 20/06/2011

•• MOOSANG, Lola Fidelia *Murray*

24/02/1917–15/02/2020 = 102, almost 103



Lola Moosang; son Brian presenting cheque to Paul Taylor

Mrs. Moosang was originally from Jamaica; one of five girls. Son Brian and wife Joyce were frequent visitors, so we often got to visit. At a great age, Lola still

attended Bible study from time to time and, at times, at such a great age was amazingly alert. The photo that appears here was, as I recall, in the memory box at the door into her suite. Lola was strikingly beautiful and the photo always caused me to stop and linger over it for a few moments. Her stay at GPH was a long one—thirteen years, so she was known to everyone.

Photo: Obituary, *Barrie Advance*, Thurs., Feb. 20, 2020; photo of Brian and Paul: *The [GPH] Care Connection, news from the development office, Linda Muszynski, June 2014.*

GPH: 02/05/2007—P1020

MORRIS, Frank

22/06/1939–

GPH: 08/02/2016—A1171

MURISON, Margorie

15/11/1923–

Mrs. Murison is a seamstress, with a specialty in wedding dresses. Among those she made was that of Nancy Drury, one of GPH's most active and long-term volunteers and whose parents (see Lorne and Marion ORSER in *Connections 3*) lived at GPH. Nancy related this on the occasion of Nancy and Charles's 51st wedding anniversary (30/08/2017).

GPH: 03/10/2016—A1160

NEALE, Edna "Mae" *Prosser*

30/03/1935–19/11/2019

Mrs. Neale lived just around the corner from GPH. She was from a large, local family. Mae volunteered at the Army-Navy and at RVH for many years, so she was a community-minded person.

GPH: 23/02/2012—P1030

NEILL, Beverly

31/05/1934–19/11/2020

Bev was an artist. Her husband Al was a frequent visitor, as was daughter Gwen, from Toronto. I used to see Al often, because he meets with a group of men at the neighbourhood Tim Hortons to sort out the world's problems, with much humour. He also lived nearby. Bev always attended my Bible study and, as I would comment, always brought her smile. They had lived at Nobleton, not far away.

GPH: 01/06/2016—A1161

NICKLIN, Ernest

24/08/1922–20/07/2020

Mr. Nicklin was a real gentleman and, as one can see, lived to a very great age. He came to Canada in 1936, but still had a slight, attractive accent. Soft-spoken, he retained his memory, and the staff on Maple enjoyed him.

GPH: 11/05/2016—M1229

•• NIXON, Elizabeth “Betty”

02/12/1924–14/10/2015

Mrs. Nixon suffered from COPD: she had smoked for seventy years (!) and was married for sixty-eight. She and husband Jack raised two daughters (Pat, Karen) and a son (John). Mrs. Nixon came to GPH from Barrie Manor, RVH, and hospice. In spite of illness she maintained a sense of humour.

GPH: 13/07/2015

2nd NORTHOVER, Elizabeth “Bette” 100+

16/10/1921–



Mrs. Northover’s mother, Louise Emma PUGH, lived at GPH from 10/10/1975–31/07/1983. She too enjoyed a long and active life; when she died she was about five weeks short of 97. See *Connections (1)*. Bette is a great conversationalist and all-around interesting person. Supporter of the Owl Foundation, Vineland; crochets blankets for cats at the Furry Friends Animal Shelter, Barrie A reader among readers. Sense of humour. Her daughter has been a friend of Bobby Orr for many years: he called Bette on her birthday.

The photo above appeared in the *Barrie Advance*, with the following remarks: “Bette Northover, who resides at Grove Park Home, will be 100 years young on January 16, 2021. The family, because of COVID-19, will be sending best wishes by computer and phone calls. It is hoped that her many friends will reach out by phone and send her happy birthday wishes. We hope later in the year to have a very special belated birthday party.”

GPH: 18/02/2016—M1220

NORTON, Lois

31/01/1929–19/11/2018

When she was about ten years old, Lois found this poem written in white paint *on the sidewalk* outside Sick Children’s Hospital. She had gone there to visit her mother; it was raining. Lois recited this to me at age 86, on Dec. 30, 2015.

O how I love Him

O how I adore Him
 My breath, my sunshine
 My all in all.
 The great creator became my saviour
 And all of God's fulness
 Dwelleth in Him.

Mrs. Norton was born in Toronto and lived on Eglinton Ave., east, then at 836 Mt. Pleasant, a block north of Eglinton. She attended Northern Vocational Institute (= Northern Secondary School) at 852 Mt. Pleasant. You can see the school with Google Maps, street view. At that time the streetcar turned around at Eglinton and headed back south! Lois was married in 1947, to a mechanic. They had two daughters, Ethel and Lillian. Later she taught swimming to adults for the North York Board of Education. Lois was part of an outreach program (visitation coordinator) at the Salvation Army in Midland and worked in the community. She had a strong Christian faith and bore the increasing loss of her sight with dignity.

GPH: 06/06/2014—M1195

- NUTTAL, Amy
 04/05/1921–12/03/2014
 GPH: 28/06/2012—M1217

NYITRAY, Emily
 07/11/1935–
 GPH: 02/12/2016—P1041

- OAKLEY, Eva Alice Lorraine *Hinchcliffe*
 30/03/1920–26/01/2016*

Eva was the daughter of Alice and Ernie Hinchcliffe; she had one younger brother, Doug (m. Anna). Born in Toronto. In Willowdale she found employment at Bethesda Hospital, in the kitchen. Eva became the mother of two children, Russ (m. Sandra) and Gail (m. Albert). In turn, she eventually became grandmother to Chris (m. Dan), Andrew (Susie), Steven, Mike (m. Susan), and David. And, eventually, a great-grandmother to seven.

While she lived in Newmarket, Eva worked for York County Hospital (South Lake) in Housekeeping, until she retired at age 65. Later she lived in Barrie, at Heritage Place (IOOF). At age 90 she moved to GPH, where she made many new friends who provided excellent care and attention.

Eva was an outgoing person, full of fun. She enjoyed shopping trips to Walmart; eating out at Swiss Chalet; doing puzzles; and, in her earlier years, painting landscapes. She also liked big band music. Eva was a person who spoke her mind: she was a “straight shooter,” as they say. Even when she was ill, she maintained a sense of humour. At a great age she had pure white hair, so striking in appearance. Eva used to tell me about the little place (Gold Bridge, BC; pop. 42) where Russ lives in British Columbia and of her five trips out there.

Above all, I think she was a mom. She loved her family. Eva was born five days before my father, so I felt an unusual connection with her. She suffered with chronic COPD.

GPH: 27/10/10; Aspen 1153 > Spruce 2046 (25/08/14)

•• OGRODNICK, Marie “Josie”

23/01/1931–

GPH: 23/11/2011—A1019

O’HALLORAN, Maureen

14/12/1950–28/11/2019

Maureen moved to GPH from Barrie Manor.

GPH: 07/12/2015—M1193

OLIFF, Dorothy “Dot” *Nethercutt*

19/07/1931–

Dorothy and Charlie (step-dad, a veteran) are the parents of Luanne (m. Tony Campeau). Luanne worked at GPH and was heavily involved in the rebuild and renovation of GPH that was completed in 2004. Retirement Living benefitted in the beauty of its dining room. Luanne moved on from GPH to be Administrator of another long-term care facility.

GPH: 24/08/2017—S2030

OLIFF, John “Charlie”

22/07/1925–19/10/2020

GPH: 25/09/2017—S2017 > S2033

ORR, Robert “Jim”

17/01/1929–28/07/2013

GPH: 25/09/2009

•• OSACHUK, Stephen

09/06/1920–01/06/2014

B. at Coppercliff (Sudbury). His dad was killed in an accident at a smelter in Sudbury when he was still an infant, leaving a large family.

He spent a lot of time in the bush as a young man. Mr. Osachuk enlisted in the airforce in WWII—five years. He worked in the bush at Temagami ... One of his jobs was working for Jeudoin Ice Co., harvesting ice from Lake Ramsay in the winter, and delivering it in the summer: \$15 / wk., maybe \$18 wk., good wages!

Mr. Osachuk lived in Angus and fished in the Nottawasaga River. He once caught a very large pickerel (14? lbs.). He had a good memory. Raised four sons.

GPH: 11/10/2011—P1017

PARIS, Dorothy *Burnet*

29/03/1933–16/01/2019

Dorothy moved to GPH from Victoria Village; Marc, her husband, came to live in Retirement Living, so they were able to spend a lot of time together and with us.

I had a particular relationship with Dorothy: she was born in Thornbury and attended “Teen Town,” which met in the basement of the Meaford Town Hall. She knew Mrs. Pluss*—a teacher and friend of her mom—as well as Gord Pyatt, who had a hardware store in Thornbury. My dad occasionally dealt with Gord. She was also a friend of Bob Morris who had a monument business in Meaford, and played a euphonium in the Meaford Citizens Band, in which I also played as a teenager. Bob’s sister used to go to Thornbury to see Dorothy. Bob used to play the beautiful euphonium solos that were a part of the concertos that the band played at music competitions (for example, “The Dawn of Spring,” “A Day with the Huntsmen,” and “Prince and Pauper”). Dorothy’s “celebration of life” was at GPH and all her family came and told stories. Marc is the keeper of lots of stories, many humorous, including how he and Dorothy came to be married. It was a good day for Dorothy.

*For a humorous story about Mrs. Pluss, told by Elsie Cotton, see *Connections (1)*, p. 55.

GPH: 16/05/2014—W3037

•• PARK, Norinne

01/08/1940–16/10/2018

Mrs. Park was a school teacher and got a degree in psychology and history as an adult. She was an organized person who loved to garden, have big dinner parties, loved crafts; had a great sense of humour. Norinne had three daughters, one of whom, Deidre, I knew for some time before her mom came to GPH. She was young when she came to live with us. Alzheimer’s disease stole her away from her family. Husband Tom was caregiver. Norinne lived on Pine for a long time, so we got to know her and her family, and shared their sense of loss. Such a capable person.

GPH: 08/04/2009—P1011

•• PARRISH, Bibianne “Bibby”

05/11/1922–

A strong religious faith and a now rare long-term resident—some sixteen years and counting. Bibby had a long-standing relationship of teasing with volunteer Charles Drury.

GPH: 05/06/2003—A

‡ PATRICK, Evangeline “Eva”

100+

06/04/1921–

Eva is a delightful person with a jolly sense of humour. And was happy to be 98! Then 99! She has a strong religious faith and always attends the Bible study. Knows many hymns. As it happens, Eva’s husband Frank lived at GPH, from Feb. 8, 2005 to his passing on Mar. 23, 2007. What is remarkable about this

is that Eva lives in the same suite that he inhabited! For his life story, and part of hers, see the entry for Frank in *Connections 3*. Once, at Bible study on a Wed. in the Big Room, Joan Reynolds asked if we knew the song, “Jesus Wants Me for A Sunbeam,” which I knew from childhood, but which we had never sung. So we sang it, at least the first verse. I knew that Eva would also know it, and she was able to add at least another verse, as I recall. So we added that to our songs, and had fun with it.

GPH: 05/09/2018—M1219

•• PATTENDEN, Hallie *McKay*

10/10/1925–04/03/2015*

Hallie was born in Meaford on Oct. 10th, 1925, seven years after the end of WWI and four years before the beginning of the Great Depression. Her parents were Samuel McKay and Delyla (“Lila”) Briggs. Her siblings were Hazel (m. Hoover), Roy, Gordon, and Ted, Shirley (m. Lindsay).

She grew up on a farm on the 7th Line, outside Meaford; she walked to school with other kids. On Sundays “mother and father” got the horse and buggy ready to go to church at Cape Rich. “Us kids would get a ride.” One of her special memories was one involving her grandfather. He had taught her to wash the dishes properly and had told her to do well in all that you do. Hallie lived by that standard.

Hallie married Norman Pattenden. At first they lived above a garage across the street from Jennett Funeral Chapel. Later they moved to 92 John St., where they raised their six children: Gord (d. 1985), Allan (d. 1997), Betty (m. Scanlan), Evelyn (m. Rapley), Sharon (d. 2008), and John (m. Joanne). She loved her children very much. Hallie’s passion was childcare: she looked after more than 50 children over the years.

Her religious faith was strong. She was baptized at the Church of Christ at Cape Rich and later on in life had friends in the Meaford, Owen Sound, and Barrie congregations. She always said that these friends were wonderful and precious. Everyone was precious to Hallie. She was grandmother to Kelly, Anne, Bill, Theresa, Jonathan, Michelle, Steven, Tonya, and Nathan; she was a great-grandmother numerous times over, and a great-great-grandmother. Hallie was dearly loved by all of them.

Her husband Norm died in 1990 and Hallie moved to Owen Sound; then back to Barrie, to an apt. at 262 Rose St.; then she lived with John and Joanne for three years. When she needed more care, Hallie lived at the IOOF Home before coming to live at Grove Park Home, June 26, 2012. The great plus in this move was that both John and Steve worked in maintenance at GPH, so she saw family every day. And of course I was chaplain there and I saw her every week. Finally, my own mother lives at GPH: they knew each other and got to see each other. Hallie was well cared for by staff. At John and Joanne’s Hallie became inseparable from their dog, Oscar, and, after the loss of Sharon, this little dog nursed Hallie back to health.

—With thanks to Joanne and Betty.

GPH: 29/06/2012

PEDWELL, June

03/06/1952–16/07/2013

GPH: 17/12/2012

PEREPELUK, Audrey

08/11/1927—17/06/2019

Audrey was just about the most interesting person you could imagine. At least, I thought so, in part because I'd spent four years in Manitoba, though not in Flin Flon where she had been born. She told me her father was an American who came to Flin Flon to work in the mine and that her husband was also a miner; his parents farmed. As most of us know, the town was and is the last stop on the train. She recalled -60° F temperatures, when the schools and everything else were closed. As it turned out, I had a connection with two of her daughters, who grew up in Flin Flon. During my years in Brandon (1980–84) I got to know a distant cousin named Mary Bogue, and her husband Jack, who lived in Oakville, a village outside Winnipeg. Once when she was visiting, I also got to meet their daughter Jackie (Hitchens), who, with her little girl was at the Bogues. Jackie and her husband had the KFC franchise in Flin Flon and Judy, Audrey's daughter, was still a friend of theirs. In fact, while we were talking about this at the Café at GPH one day, Judy took a photo on her phone and sent it to Jackie! Then, Audrey's daughter Gina, who lives in Trenton, knows people that I grew up with in Meaford, namely, Linda Craig (m. Don Ormsby) and the Murphys, specifically Ann. Linda and her brother Bob grew up down the street from me and my sister Barbara. The world shrinks! Audrey first came to GPH with Senior Encounter, so I knew her for some time. She liked animals, cats, music and people: she was social. And she liked to laugh.

GPH: 08/03/2017—W3011

PETERS, Eva

10/05/1923–17/09/2017

Mrs. Peters was the mother-in-law of Barbara Finney, the business manager at GPH. Barbara is married to John, a frequent visitor. My own mother lived on Spruce with Eva, so I saw her often. She had a quick wit and a great smile; a good conversationalist.

GPH: 05/02/2016—S2017

PETROWSKY, Pauline

28/10/1921–16/12/2015

Mrs. Petrowsky moved from Leisure World to GPH. She had two daughters and a son.

GPH: 01/05/2015

PETRYSHYN, Steve

10/03/1917–21/08/2016 99+

Steve died at 99 yrs., 5 mos., 5 days.

He moved to GPH from home and he had as tablemates three men almost as elderly as he was. He had a remarkable life and enjoyed talking. He told me his grandfather came from the Ukraine to Manitoba with a wife and two daughters. His father married a Polish woman (Sinkowski): there were lots of Petryshyns and Sinkowskis in Manitoba. Steve has a son who farms 40 miles W of Portage la Prairie.

He had little formal education. Steve worked in factories, had lots of different jobs. Unfortunately Steve lived only a few months at GPH. When he died he took with him many, many stories, and a gift for telling them. Mr. Petryshyn's obituary appeared in the *Barrie Advance*, Thurs., Aug. 26, 2016.

GPH: 31/05/2016—M1212

•• PINKERTON, Mary

30/03/1935–27/04/2015

Mary's husband died in Oct., 2011, a few months before she moved here from Muskoka. She was a beautiful person, pretty, with a sharp sense of humour, and she made friends easily.

GPH: 21/02/2012

PETTYPIECE, Helen

18/01/1952–17/04/2014

Helen was a Downs syndrome person and had resided in a group home. She loved Barbie dolls; art; karaoke; bowling; swimming; church; "America's Funniest Home Videos" and "Dancing with the Stars."

GPH: 20/12/2012—M1191

POWELL, Judith

20/05/1938–06/02/2020

Mrs. Powell was a considerable athlete when she was young. She grew up in Forest Hill, attended a private school, then went to the U of T. Judith came to Barrie in 1968 when she got married. Her husband was Art Powell of the Powell-Jones accounting firm, GPH's accounting firm for many years. It is of interest that they lived at 97 Rose St. John and Una Henderson lived at 95. Wesley and Beverly Jones and their children lived across the road, and Judith befriended their foster daughter. It was Wesley Jones who started the Barrie Church of Christ which, as a small congregation, initiated the construction and operation of Grove Park Home. The Hendersons were eventually volunteers at GPH; in fact, it was John and Wesley who put forward the name Grove Park for the church, and then the Home. Judith was a golfer from her youth; the Barrie Country Club was her favourite course, she said. She also enjoyed gardening and grew geraniums and roses. The Powells raised three children. Our daughter Laura worked for a summer at Bradford Gardens, in customer service, with Judith's daughter Elizabeth. Small world.

GPH: 30/05/2016—M1219 > P1042

•• PRICE, Charles

17/07/1934–08/03/2013*

Mr. Price's life story can be found in *Connections 3*, together with a colour photo of him at the controls of an historic Peter Witt streetcar in Toronto.

GPH: 21/09/2012

PRITCHARD, Carolyn

01/07/1943–06/09/2017

Carolyn was from Guelph, where she had lived with her mother. Guelph is a beautiful city. We had occasion to be there frequently when our daughter Laura was a student at the U of Guelph. So we had lots to talk about. Carolyn had a keen sense of humour and we exchanged much friendly teasing. Carolyn came to Barrie because her sister, Lorna Wright, lives here. Carolyn moved to GPH from Simcoe Terrace. She always attended my Bible study group. On occasion I would ask her to remind me of something the following week, and she would. She too lived on Spruce during my mother's stay, so I saw her frequently.

GPH: 06/10/2015—S2015

PROSSER, Charles "Chuck" 97

20/06/1921–01/10/2019

A quiet, well-spoken person, with a great memory. He was often at the Café in the later afternoon. Sometimes Kenneth Cox, equally elderly, both veterans, was there at the same time. It was "something" to listen to these two super-seniors reminisce!

Mr. Prosser's father was from Wales, his mother Scottish. Farmed near Milton—or was this Chuck's grandfather? Mr. Prosser visited Wales while in the service and later with his wife. To back up a bit, as a young man he went to Windsor and worked as a tool and die maker. He was exempt from military service, but two brothers enlisted so he signed up too. Mr. Prosser became a navigator in bombers—Halifaxes, Wellingtons, and Lancasters. Bombed Berlin. He and his brothers all returned okay from the War.

GPH: 05/01/2017—W3036

PROVAN, Barbara Rae *Wood*

22/08/1918–14/03/2016

B. into a large family (five sisters, three brothers). Married Jack Whiteford Provan. Mrs. Provan was widowed in 1958 and raised two daughters. She went to university and became a nurse, then Nursing Public Health Administrator at Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. She retired in 1981 (= age 62 or 63). Barbara enjoyed travelling, gardening, knitting, painting and bridge. She lived with daughter Cathie and son-in-law Gerry in an in-law suite before moving to Woods Park Retirement Home. Her other daughter (Bonnie) lives in Honduras.

Mrs. Provan was quite ill when she came to GPH, but recovered her health, thanks to good care and Cathie's frequent visits. She passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at the age of ninety-seven. Obituary: *Barrie Examiner*, Thurs., Mar. 17, 2016, C7.

GPH: 06/05/2015—S2019

PSZENNY, Janina “Jane”

30/03/1944–

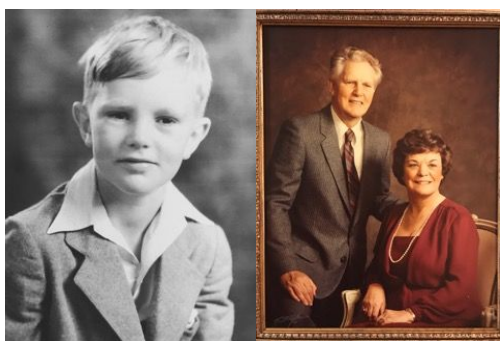
Jane loves music and dancing and many times, after Bible study, thanked me for the music that I led on guitar.

GPH: 01/03/2018—A1133

PURVIS, Robert “Bob”

18/09/1924–03/10/2017*

It was my honour to lead the service that celebrated Mr. Purvis’s life. On the occasion I read the following life-story, based on conversations with his wife, Dorothy, and son David.



Bob as a boy; Bob and Dorothy

Bob was born on Sept. 18, 1924, in Leaside, “on the dining room table,” as he said, the youngest of five children that included two boys and three girls. His father worked for Canada Wire and Cable and, following the birth of this fifth child, his father decided to take a bag lunch rather than come home at lunchtime! Bob’s father had a work transfer to Montreal during the years when Bob was between seven and twelve. The Purvis family then returned to East York, where Bob finished grade thirteen. He joined the 46th Highlanders Reserve. In early 1945, at the age of twenty, Bob entered the Navy and went to Cornwallis, N.S. World War II ended soon thereafter and Bob returned home in June and went to work at Canada Wire and Cable.

Bob meets Dorothy; Don Mills; children

Bob met Dorothy Melvin at a Young People’s group at Bethany Baptist Church in the summer of 1944, some months before he joined the Navy. Fortunately the War ended, he came home, and they were engaged in Oct., 1945, and married on July 27, 1946. There was a honeymoon trip to Muskoka, where they met fellow honeymooners George and Irene Tilley. They became lifelong friends. For a while they lived with his sister and then bought a small house in Scarborough. Later they moved into a house in Don Mills at 6 Duncairn Rd. It was a new development and Murray Koffler had his first drugstore on the nearby corner.

Son Douglas was nine. David and Debra completed their family. They would live there thirty-six years.

Canada Wire and Cable

They were members of Donway United Church, where Bob was much involved: for example, head of the Stewardship Committee, leader of the “Tyro” boys’ group. In his professional life, Bob made continual advancements at Canada Wire and Cable, from working in the lab, to production, to Plant Manager, then to Quality Assurance, a newly created position. (Noranda eventually bought Canada Wire and Cable in Leaside; it is owned now by Alcatel, a French company.) Bob loved work. He had no particular ambitions for power, so he was sought out as an honest broker when issues required sorting out or when decisions needed to be made. He retired in Sept. 1985 but stayed on until Feb., 1986 to train his successor. Bob had worked for Canada Wire forty-two years.

He had a long happy life with his family. Bob married Dorothy, who was an excellent partner for him. He enjoyed spending time with his children. They remember him, among other things, for his story-making abilities. He was a fine teacher, they said, and encouraged them to figure things out; he then appreciated their ideas in solutions, as a mentor. Hobbies included propagating African violets. At one time, after they had retired, Bob had more than *two hundred African violet plants*—a whole room was devoted to them! They attended conventions.

Humour

Bob was a photographer and, like other devotees at the time, had his own darkroom. He had fun with this, often staging quirky photos, including one of Douglas standing with a broom in the entrance of a school: above him is the ID number of the school and its place name, “Dummer.” In another case, he had David pose with a gravestone that bore his name, “David Purvis.” Funny. Bob took up the challenge of training Debra to do house work, to assist her mother. As part of the training feedback, he conducted inspections checking for dust with a handkerchief. He liked building and carrying out design suggestions that Dorothy came up with. He spent ten weekends with David doing renovations at an Etobicoke starter home. Bob was by character fair and selfless in his dealings with his children and everyone else.

Bobcaygeon to Grove Park

Bob and Dorothy spent twelve years at Bobcaygeon, living in a new development called “Port 32.” They had several other couples as good friends. Indeed, they enjoyed friendships dating back many decades that were regularly renewed. At Bobcaygeon they did such things as square dancing. This period was followed by several moves, to Rockwood—David and Wendy were at

Campbellville; Guelph; Orangeville; Barrie—the Waterford Retirement Home; and, finally, Bob to Grove Park Home.

For several years Bob was conscious of his decline in mental abilities, but he still carefully researched their moves and his needs. He remained a tall, handsome man, and his gentlemanly ways were intact when he came to live at Grove Park Home, where he endeared himself to staff and made friends. Dorothy was able to visit regularly, as did his children. There was a little party on the occasion of Bob and Dorothy's seventy-first anniversary. Missing was Douglas, a professional musician—one of the country's best tuba players—who died nine years ago of kidney failure. Bob left the world a better place than he found it and was a good mentor for all who knew him. It was a pleasure to know him and, through him, you who are his family.

GPH: 10/07/2015

•• PUTT, Beryl

26/09/1921–07/06/2013

GPH: 04/08/2006

PYETTE, Edna

09/06/1919–11/11/2013

GPH: 11/10/2013

RATAJCZAK, Wieslaw “Wesley” > “Wes”

03/02/1958–

As his date of birth and the year he came to GPH indicate, Wes was a young man, only 56, when he arrived, as the result of an automobile accident in the spring of 2011 and by way of Trillium Manor in Orillia. Such a tragedy could happen to any of us. He is the nicest person. His family came to Canada when he was sixteen, from Danzig, Poland, to St. Catharines. Wes's profession was that of machinist. He is married and has a son. A home with the elderly is not really ideal—a place with younger people would be better, but his youth places him more closely with staff who are sensitive to that fact. We talk about old rock and roll, music. And I get to practice my few words of Polish.

GPH: 27/11/2014—M1223

REA, Dorothy

27/12/1926–10/12/2018

Dorothy used to recite a little rhyme that her uncle Norman Weiss teased her with: “Dorothy Rea fell off a load of hay.” (22/03/2017) In another conversation she attributed this to uncle Frank Kelsey, “Dorothy Elizabeth Rea, that's an awful pile of hay.” Dorothy moved to GPH from the Atrium Retirement Home in Orillia. Her father, a factory worker, had come from T.O. and had family here. He married a Kelsey from Vine, south of Barrie, where friends of ours (the Galtons) have owned and live in the railway station. Her parents went to Detroit and Dorothy was born there, returning when she was still little. She

had “Doc Morrison” as a teacher. Dorothy worked for Barrie Hydro in the Accounts Receivable for many years. She was also employed in the office of Reeves Jeweller in Barrie. She did not marry.

GPH: 12/05/2015—S2044

REYNOLDS, Joan *Anderson*

04/05/1927–

Joan came from Roberta Place to GPH and had earlier lived in the same building as Betty and John FENTON. She and her husband had grown up in Bracebridge and were married there in the United Church. Joan is a true bibliophile which, I think, grows out of a great curiosity about many things. On one occasion she showed me a book by Robert J. Boyer on Bracebridge about 1930. Joan’s paternal grandparents’ house is in it. Her maternal grandparents had a house in Bracebridge that was octagonal, with a central stairs up and a fireplace. It was full of books. A glance at Joan’s bookshelves reveals a person who is really well read. She is also a person of faith. Once she came to Bible study—the Big Room is a long way from her suite—and asked if we knew the song “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam,” a song I knew from childhood. Many others knew it too, so we sang it then and many times afterwards. Joan was born two months before my mother.

GPH: 22/06/2015—M1225

•• RICHARD, Imelda *Boucher*

09/04/1922–16/05/2016

See Emile RICHARD in *Connections* 3. Imelda was a long-time resident of GPH and contributed to life here in many ways. This included sewing, quilting and gardening. Imelda also served as President of Resident’s Council. She was always busy doing something, was a good conversationalist and had the kindest of dispositions.

Imelda’s daughter Jeannine (Jessen) told us about her life, in the following words.

“Mom was born in 1922 and was raised on a farm in St. Norbert, New Brunswick, the youngest daughter in a family of nine children. She and my dad, Emile RICHARD, were married in Sept. of 1947, and had two children, me and my brother, Norman, before moving to Toronto in the spring of 1953. Vincent was born in Toronto in 1957.

Once mom and dad were settled in Toronto, they opened their home to many other family members who needed a place to live while trying to establish themselves in Toronto. Mom became a surrogate mom for two of my dad’s brothers and a sister, for years until they were married. Numerous cousins came and went over the years, and all were made to feel welcome and loved.

While my husband Mike and I were visiting family in New Brunswick, several years ago, one of my cousins informed me that she and her husband visited my parents while on vacation. Mom made them a lovely dinner, but didn’t sit down to eat with them and dad. It was only then that mom informed

them that she was fasting and going through the prep for a colonoscopy the next day: no one who came to visit was going to leave without a good meal! Mom was a good cook, and if you had a favorite dish, she was going to make it for you when you visited.

After mom and dad were retired they became very active. They moved to Brampton, and went fishing at Hart Lake every day during the summer, and didn't leave until they each had their two-fish limit.

Mike and I introduced them to cross-country skiing and we would get together many weekends at Albion Hills or Cold Creek Park. One ski day on the trails at Albion Hills, we were faced with a long, quite steep hill [to descend]. Dad went first and fell about half way down; then went Mike, who passed dad but fell shortly after. Mom and I went next and she laughed and waved as we passed the men fumbling to get back on their feet!

In 1989, Mike and I bought a trailer in Willowlane Park, on Georgian Bay. Mom and dad bought one in the same park that summer. For eighteen years, we would get together for campfires, walks, fishing and, of course, the occasional meal. Their annual potluck fish fry became a favorite event in the park. Mike and dad commandeered tables and umbrellas, and mom and I cooked the fish. A good time was had by all. Every spring, I would spend a week at the trailer on my own. Mom and I would get her flowers planted in the garden and go for long walks during the week. Mom would cook dinner and I brought the wine, and then we would sit and talk. (I think the wine helped.)

Upon becoming a resident at Grove Park Home in October 2007, mom became involved in the Family Council, and served as President for many years. She also helped teach residents and some staff to knit; sewed and repaired items for crafts or activities; helped make quilts; made several amazing items for the annual bazaar or raffles; and won first place at both the Barrie and Elmvale fall fairs for her knitted nativity scene. Mom never stopped nurturing or helping others and we all miss her very much.”

GPH: 11/10/2017—M1212

•• ROACH, Robert Charles

20/01/1925–27/10/2017*

Born in Niagara Falls, ON. Robert joined the RCAF in 1943 and became a Wireless Mechanic. He travelled extensively in Canada and developed a life-long interest in radios.

Engineering at U of T

After leaving the Air Force in 1946, he attended the Veteran's Rehabilitation School in East Hamilton, ON, and then went on to graduate in 1951 from the University of Toronto Engineering School, with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

Marriage, Family and Career

In 1956 Robert married Isobel McGarry. They had two sons, Robert (“Bob”; m. Ellen) and Thomas (“Tom”; m. Catherine).

Robert’s career was at Ontario Hydro, at first in the frequency conversion department. Later he moved on to the new Sir Adam Beck 2 Generating Plant project, and the Twin Tunnels from above Niagara Falls to just above the plant at Queenston. Following that he held the position of Plant Superintendent at Decew Falls and District Generating and Transformer Station (1960). Finally, Robert accepted a position as Operating Superintendent of Georgian Bay Region (1971). This entailed a move to Barrie. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1983.

Robert had an inquisitive mind and enjoyed sharing his various interests with Bob and Tom. People asked Isobel what it was like to live with *three* engineers: both boys followed Robert’s lead in training as electrical engineers. Robert built his own high fidelity sound systems—he liked music in general and jazz in particular. He was a licensed ham radio operator—call number VE3DE. His sons remember being up ladders and on the roofs working on various antennas.

Hobbies

He liked trains. The boys can name off the numbers of steam trains that they’ve seen and / or rode behind all over southern Ontario. When they were little kids Robert gave them tours through many power plants around Niagara and Georgian Bay regions, including a descent into the bowels of a turbine! That would not likely be possible today.

Robert lived ten years at GPH. Their home was not far away, and we met Isobel many times when she came to visit Robert, together with their little white poodle, “Monty.” Sadly Isobel died in March of 2017, six months before Robert.

The Service in Robert’s Memory

Robert and Isobel were grandparents of Sarah (Patrick), Andrea (Peter), Hayley; Molly and Brendon; and great-grandparents of Jade and Isobel. Thanks to modern technology the service on Sat., Nov. 11, was streamed live to Andrea, Patrick and baby Isobel in Cupar, Scotland. (Andrea lives just down the street from the Baptist Church, where a St. Andrews U. professor friend of mine Tim Greenwood and his family worship.)



Sarah read a eulogy; Hayley read a letter from Andrea; Bob gave a eulogy; and Molly, a musician, performed a song that she had written. Bob filled us in on his dad's some 40+ years connection with "Layolomi," originally a 1920s boys camp and then a family holiday camp at Sundridge, and on his dad's childhood summers in Burk's Falls, among other things. (One can search "Layolomi" on the Internet.) A group of relatives made the trip from Buffalo for the occasion. It was a rich day.

—Thanks to Bob for writing up a life story and checking over this account; and for providing the accompanying fine photo of Robert in his element.

GPH: 03/08/2007

ROBERT, Bernadette

17/02/1943–27/03/2019



Bernadette moved with her husband Doria from Kirkland Lake. All the staff got to practice their French! She was born in Belle Valée, northern Ontario, near Earlton. Her parents farmed; her dad Alfred also did woodworking. Mom was Léa. He also played the violin, as does each of Bernadette's two granddaughters. Bernadette married Doria in 1965 and taught school, grades 1–4, at Assumption School in Kirkland Lake for most of her life. She said she was loved by her students, and I'm sure that was so: she was a lovely person. Bernadette and Doria had one daughter, Noella. When she came to GPH, her granddaughters, Coralea and Melanie, were both in university. She said of them, "I love them so very much." There was a family trip to Disney World that Bernadette included among

“good times.” She had travelled widely, from France to Vietnam. Loved animals and was especially fond of Noella’s dog, Cody.

GPH: 13/10/2017—P1016

ROBINSON, Marjorie Fern *Hodgson*
26/09/1934–20/02/2018



Thanks to Fern’s family for the following biography of Fern and the photo that accompanies it. When Fern lived at GPH, her husband Keith was a constant visitor, so we grew to know and like them both, surely salt-of-the-earth people. I have added section headings to the account that follows.

Beginning in Oro Township

“Fern was born in the little community called Clowes in Oro Township, in Simcoe County. She was the second of six children born to Tom and Marjorie Hodgson over a period of twenty-one years. Their names were Bill, Fern, Kenneth (who died in the first year), Joyce, Gary and Susan. Fern was brought into this world by Dr A. Ross Turnbull (doctors made house calls in those days).

Toronto; her dad joins the C.N, police; Longlac, Craighurst, Barrie

Her Dad was the grounds keeper for a doctor in Toronto and, for about three years, they lived in a house at the bottom of Leslie Street. Her dad applied for a job as a police officer on the C.N. Railway and was accepted and posted to Longlac, in northern Ontario. There they lived in a railway boxcar for a year and a half, until her dad got his house built. Fern and her brother Bill started school in the same year and were together all through public school. When they were in grade 7, her dad had had enough of police work and they returned to Craighurst, where he bought a farm next to his mother’s, just south of town. She finished her public school in Craighurst.

Fern went to high school at Central Collegiate in Barrie and graduated from the commercial course four years later. From high school, she got a job at General Electric in Barrie, working in the pots and pans department.

A year in Edmonton; first car, and a trip to Mexico, another to France

After two years, she and a girlfriend decided to go West and, after making plans, her girlfriend backed out at the last minute, so Fern went alone. She ended up in Edmonton and stayed at the YWCA until she got a job and a small room to live in. She had worked in Edmonton for a year and a half when she became homesick and returned to Barrie, where she got a job at G.E. again, only this time she was in the office, working as payroll clerk. In the meantime, her Dad had become sick with diabetes, and they had bought and moved into a house on Burton Avenue in Barrie.

Fern bought her first car in 1960, a little red Envoy, and had to learn to drive. Shortly after she got her driver's license, she and two of her friends decided to take a trip to Mexico. Fern did all the driving. Not long after entering Mexico, they had to get gas. When they went to start again, the car wouldn't start. They got out to see if they could get some help, when four young Mexican boys came up to see what was the matter. The girls explained that the car wouldn't start. The boys lifted the hood of the car and did something and the car started. They all piled in and took off in the car, doing several circles around the service station before coming back. The girls thought they had lost everything! Fern gave the boys a few pesos and the girls jumped in the car and drove off, thanking their lucky stars. While in Mexico, Fern ate everything. The other two were picky eaters. They got sick. Fern didn't. They all wanted to come home, so they headed north and finally got back to Barrie. Fern also had a trip to France with another girlfriend, but I don't know anything about that trip.

Fern meets Keith; marriage and children

In February of 1965, Fern and three of her girlfriends came to Bondhead to a dance in the community hall. There she saw a young red-haired fellow (Keith), who got up his nerve and asked her to dance. And that turned out to be 53 years of being together. She got engaged on her birthday, September 26th. Fern continued to work at G.E. until the end of October, when she left to plan her wedding.

We were married on December 24th, 1965, at 7:00 in the evening, at the Essa Road Presbyterian Church in Barrie, by the Reverend Syd Bell. We had the reception at the Bay Shore Motor Motel [now the location of Bayshore Landing] on Dunlop Street in Barrie. It was raining hard that night and, the next morning being Christmas, we woke to a foot of snow! After a short honeymoon in southern Ontario, they were back in Cookstown and her life as a farmer's wife began. Fern always wanted to help, and soon was feeding calves for me while I was milking the cows.

Soon she was preparing for her first child to be born, Tom, who arrived on July 12th, 1966 at RVH in Barrie. The doctor, A. Ross Turnbull, also brought John—December 25th, 1967, Paul—November 11th, 1969, and Kent—March 24th, 1972, into the world. Fern made all the diapers for the boys, as well as a lot of their clothes when they were growing up. Fern was a wonderful knitter, a craft she learned from her grandmother years before. She had a “green thumb,” and loved to garden, both vegetables and flowers.

A great loss—Heidi, and the kind help of neighbours

During the summer of 1979, Fern told me that she was going to be a mother again. She was on cloud NINE! When it was time for the baby to be born, Dr. Turnbull and his team decided that the baby wouldn't stand the pressures of a natural birth, so a C-section was performed and we had a little girl on February 21, 1980, but she was in trouble and we lost her, but not before she was given the name Heidi Marie. When Fern returned home from the hospital without her baby, she went into a deep depression. Her mother-in-law saw that she was in trouble and got the neighbour ladies to visit Fern, bringing their knitting with them. This was the start of a group visiting Fern weekly for the next 25 years! It was nothing for me to go into the house for a cup of coffee before I went to milk the cows, and find 6 to 10 ladies sitting around the kitchen table, knitting up a storm. Crocheting also became a part of the group and they became known as the "Happy Hookers."

Special honours and talents

In 1989, Fern got another trip overseas when her husband (that is, Keith) was given the chance to represent Canada at the World Plowing Match, held in Klepp, Norway. Fern's skills at knitting and crocheting won her many prizes and ribbons at local fairs and exhibitions. She also became a judge of needle craft for local fairs. Fern also loved kids and decided to babysit for different people. She looked after newborns to young school-aged children in the area. She also had a great love for her own grandkids and great-grandkids, when they came along. Fern also became a great help to me on the farm. She learned to drive tractors and ran the baler at haying time, and the forage harvester during silo filling time.

Grove Park Home, and another Turnbull!

It was around 2010 when Fern started having trouble following knitting patterns, so I would read them to her and she would knit them.

When Fern had to come to Grove Park Home on June 3rd, 2016, the first person we met was Barbara Turnbull, daughter-in-law of Dr. A. Ross Turnbull."

Keith concludes this life story of Fern with a brief poem:

Those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day;
Unseen, unheard but always near,
Still loved, still missed and very dear!

A postscript: Fern died the day Heidi was born. Her family believes that Fern "hung on" until then to be reunited with her daughter. Doubtless.

Fern is interred at St. John's Anglican Cemetery, Cookstown.
GPH: 03/06/2016—A1184

•• ROBINSON, Phyllis

21/03/1928–05/01/2014

Born on *Grove St.*, number 25. She went to Prince of Wales School, then Central Collegiate. She met husband Jim on a blind date and they had a long marriage. They had two sons, one of whom predeceased her. Son Steve worked at Georgian College in their international program and we got to know him. Phyllis's husband Jim was a plasterer and worked on the original Grove Park Home, what is now Aspen wing! Jim spent countless hours at GPH when Phyllis lived here, usually massaging her back! Many of us got to know Jim; we liked them both. I quoted a saying that Phyllis put on her father's gravestone in *Connections 3*, p. 388: "To live on in hearts we leave behind is not to die." Phyllis worked as a secretary all her life and she and Jim knew a lot of Barrie history. I enjoyed knowing them.

GPH: 11/11/2009—A1139

RODGERS, Barbara *Garrick*

10/02/1935–26/04/2017

Barbara was mother to three daughters and a son: Brenda, Sylvia, Sheila, and John. The staff on Pine knew her as "BA." She had a quick wit, and made people laugh: she always, always asked them their "name" and their "age." At our Celebration of Life in October, 2017, Sylvia offered these personal and insightful remarks about her mom, thoughts that she and Brenda had prepared.



Our mother, Barbara Anne Garrick Rodgers, AKA "BA," but never "Barb," was born in 1935 in "The Beach," Toronto to Gilbert and Annabelle Garrick. She was the youngest of five children and she and her brother, Leon, were significantly younger. Her three oldest siblings were teenagers when she was born.

Gilbert worked for Bell Telephone and the family moved to Sault Ste. Marie, where Barbara and Leon spent their childhood. The family relocated to Barrie when Mom was in Grade 9 and Mom remained in Barrie for the rest of her life. Shortly after the move, she met our father, John Rodgers, on what was then known as the Government Dock in downtown Barrie. Our father's story was that Mom dropped her wallet deliberately into Kempenfelt Bay, he rescued it, and the rest is history ...

They married young (Mom was 21). Mom looks so happy in her wedding pictures, one of which is on display today.

She was a young mother, having her three daughters in the first six years of marriage. Mom was a “Homemaker.” Not uncommon for the time but there was nothing “Stay At Home” about her style!! Mom was friendly and outgoing and always up for an adventure. She golfed, skied, played racquetball, chaperoned school trips, volunteered at Girl Guide camps, taught Sunday school at Collier St United, sewed our clothes and cooked adventuresome meals in her tiny kitchen. Mom took us on annual trips to celebrate the end of the school year, to Buffalo to visit her older sister, Joan, who had settled there to raise her family. Mom started a bridge club in 1960 that is still active today!! “BA” took the PARTY with her wherever she travelled. Within minutes of arrival anywhere, she opened her purse or suitcase and pulled out the cheese & crackers, olives &/or pickles, bottle of wine or a mickey of something!! “BA” was a great bargain hunter and could really stretch a dollar. She loved to find a deal at garage sales.

As children, we were fortunate to be able to attend summer camp at Camp Kitchikewana, a YMCA camp on Beausoleil Island. Our family started attending a one-week family camp in the early 70s. In Aug. 1974 our brother, John, was born—Mom called him her “Bonus” baby!!—and there was no way that my mother was going to miss out on Family Camp, so she took her ten-day old baby with her. A newborn was not going to stop her!!

Barbara Anne gave generously of her time: as a volunteer for Collier St. United Church, Gryphon Theatre, Hospice Simcoe, forty-five years with the RVH Auxillary, and one of the first female members serving on the Board of Directors for the Barrie Country Club. She delivered for Meals on Wheels for many years. In fact, when she moved in to a retirement home, she was quick to note anyone that she used to deliver meals to!!

Mom was widowed at a young sixty-one but she didn’t let that slow her down, she just ramped up her volunteering and travelling (BC, California, New Jersey, Florida, Alaska, Caribbean cruise, Cuba). She found pleasure and renewed her love of music, performing with the “JoyBells” for almost twenty years. Mom also loved to sing!!

Barbara Anne was a generous person, a caring friend and a loving mother, and enjoyed being a grandmother—to Alex, Laura, Aidan, John, Emily and Sarah.

GPH: 08/04/2016: P1046

RODGMAN, Mabel

04/10/1923–29/09/2017

B. in Fredericton. Mabel was in the day programme at IOOF before coming to GPH. She was a member of Central United Church. And had two sons and a daughter. Mabel loved to sing and had an infectious smile. Sing-songs were big on her list of favourite activities. She would break into “My bonnie lies over the ocean” spontaneously. Everyone loved her and it was a sad day when she moved to Miramichi Lodge in Pembroke on Aug. 28, 2017, to be closer to her family. Mabel was only there about a month when she succumbed to pneumonia. Her spirit lives on.

GPH: 14/05/2012—M1221

ROLFF-PETERSON, Harald

08/07/1927–06/03/2017

Mr. Rolff-Peterson was Danish. He came to GPH from Cumber Lodge, North York. He liked to listen to the CBC in his suite. Mr. Rolff-Peterson is survived by his daughter.

GPH: 04/02/2016—S1046

•• ROSS, Hazel

19/09/1928–05/01/2018

Hazel lived a long time at GPH by the standards of today, almost fourteen years! She was a quiet, unassuming person, and seldom missed my Bible study on Wed. afternoon. We had a long-standing joke that she would wear pink on the days that I was a Grove Park. At almost 90, her mind was still good and she enjoyed painting classes with Lorraine Maher.

GPH: 30/04/04

ROSTE, Mary Jacqueline “Jackie”

13/08/1941–31/03/2018*

Macklin, SK; Fort Frances; Marriage and Family

“Affectionately known as “Cookie” by her cousins and high school friends, Jackie was born in Macklin, SK, in 1941, to Grace and Jacob Shucard. Her brother Gerald was thirteen when Jackie was born. Shortly after she was born, Jackie’s family moved to Fort Frances, ON, where Jackie lived most of her life. It was there that Jackie met Wayne Roste and, at age 19, Jackie and Wayne were married. The following year, when Jackie was 20, their first child, Sherri, was born. Three years later, Scott was born, and their family was complete. Sherri



always thought, while growing up, that she was the luckiest girl, because she had such a young mom with whom she shared similar interests.

Roste's Bait and Tackle Shop

Jackie had a number of occupations during her lifetime. In her late teens and early twenties she worked as a teller at CIBC. When the children were in school, she worked as bookkeeper for Wayne's parents in their bakery business, known as Roste's Maple Leaf Bakery. In 1973, Jackie and Wayne purchased a small, independent bait and tackle, grocery and gas station business known as Roste's Bait Service, which they operated until 1989. Jackie managed all the books, ordering, and payroll for the business. Wayne kept the business supplied with bait for the many local and American fishermen who stopped by en route to the many lakes in the area. Wayne was a pilot and would fly into lakes to catch bait. Jackie spent many an apprehensive evening waiting for Wayne to return home with bait in his Super Club airplane and from his fly-in trips with fishermen to the countless northern lakes.

Wayne's death; Jackie and Scott move to Barrie; the twins

In 1989, Wayne was diagnosed with cancer and they sold the business. Jackie then began working in two small retail businesses in downtown Fort Frances. Four years later, in 1993, Wayne passed away; a part of Jackie died that day too. Jackie and Scott continued to care for Grace, Jackie's mother, who was in a nursing home at that time.

In 1994 a great joy came to Jackie's life: Rebecca and Jonathan were born—twins for Sherri and Steve (Holloway). Three years later, in 1997, Jackie and Scott embarked on a new journey. They decided to move to Barrie, to help with the care of the twins while Sherri and Steve were at work. Jackie also worked part-time at "the Bay" in Georgian Mall. She made lots of friends during the twins' early years at St. Monica's School ... getting to know the families. Jackie volunteered her time, driving students to tournaments and assisting on class trips. At the end of June each school year, Jackie and Scott would drive back to Fort Frances and stay up at Wayne's parents' home on the Lake, to help them with maintaining their home. Jackie also had friends she would visit during

the summer months “in the Fort.” As Jackie’s dementia became more apparent, she and Scott no longer made the annual trip.

Senior Encounter Programme at GPH; Rita LECLAIR

In 2011 Jackie enrolled in the Senior Encounter Day program at Grove Park Home. She very much enjoyed her days spent there and she often referred to the program as her “job”—she felt purposeful. The staff were always so wonderful. Jackie also enjoyed her coffee time with Rita LECLAIR, who lived next door with Rita’s son and daughter-in-law. Rita also went to the Senior Encounter program and they shared many laughs there and as neighbours. Rita came to live at Grove Park.

For the last six years of her life, Jackie lived at Grove Park Home. She had suite 2012, on the Spruce unit ... which was significant as it was also the year she moved into Grove Park. Jackie was very happy here and she was well loved. The staff are wonderful and Jackie’s family felt blessed that mom was able to live here. As the disease progressed, Scott often said, “Mom talks with her eyes now.” Her eyes were always smiling. Sherri said, “It seems to me mom was in a state of Grace ... God’s grace for the past while ... as are all the souls sitting in the lounge on Spruce. Perfect souls ... I feel very blessed to have been given the gift of time spent with mom this past year. I know Scott shares this sentiment with me ... our lives have been enriched by the gift of time spent.”

The way Jackie was

Jackie was always a very capable person. She had a strong work ethic and she often worked long hours at the family business, as needed. When she set her mind to something, she would see it to fruition. Jackie was loyal and there was nothing she would not do to help her family. She was passionate about assisting those who were less fortunate than she was. Jackie was always very friendly to people she passed each day, greeting them with a smile and a friendly word. Her family take comfort in knowing that Jackie is now at complete peace, with Wayne and family members who have gone one before her.”

—This account of Jackie’s life was prepared by her daughter, Sherri. On Apr. 13, 2018, we gathered in the chapel at GPH as family and a small group of friends for a service to honour Jackie’s life. Afterwards GPH staff was invited by Jackie’s family to a reception in our auditorium to express their gratitude for taking good care of Jackie.

GPH: 30/04/2012—S2012

‡ RUEHL, Elisabeth

28/02/1928–

A super-senior: active and engaging at a great age.

GPH: 21/11/2018—S2036

RUSSELL, Betty

18/04/1934–

GPH: 25/05/2017—A1149

SAMS, Barbara Lynn

19/04/1947–

Barbara always attends Bible study with me. Her husband Gerry comes and entertains residents with guitar and singing on Wednesday afternoons, moving from one unit to another week by week, very popular.

GPH: 18/12/2017—A1178

•• SARGEANT, Mary Elizabeth “Beth”

20/11/1926–17/10/2016

B. in the Barrie area. Beth was a tablemate of my mother, Doris COX (and Elsie CRAWFORD, and Joan HURLBURT) for several years, so we often conversed. This also meant that I saw her daughters, especially Mary Jane. Beth was a friendly, welcoming kind of person, and it is no surprise that she was a teacher by career.

Beth chose to stay at home and raise her family after the birth of her daughters, Patricia and Mary Jane. She was an active person who enjoyed skiing, swimming and travelling. Music was also a big part of her life and she was able to rhyme off tunes during trivia contests and to hum every tune at special events. She had a group of four friends, called the “Tea Bags,” who came every Tuesday to the café to visit Beth. This relationship extended over thirty years. Beth came to GPH from Whispering Pines, where she had lived for six years.

GPH: 27/03/2013—M1213 > S

•• SCHULZ, Eileene

12/02/1930–01/02/2014

B. in Toronto, into a working class family consisting of her parents, Dorothy and William, and two brothers, George and William Jr. She married Tom Schulz in 1949 and loved him deeply through almost fifty years of marriage. Mr. Schulz died in 1999. They raised six children, five sons (Tom, Bob, Bryan, Randy); the eldest was their daughter Pam.

Mom, “Was I an accident?” And a wise response.

At the memorial service in the spring of 2014, Eileene’s youngest son told an amusing story that reflected her wisdom. He said, “I was born ten years after the youngest of my siblings. I remember, as a youngster, being told by someone that I must have been an accident. I asked my mom whether I had been an accident and she replied that, after Pam, all of her children had been accidents, but deeply cherished and loved accidents.” David continues, “My mom loved kids. Every time she would go out, she would warmly smile at every child that we would see.”

A story: a child at heart

I recall that one winter, she and I accompanied our friend, Fariba, to watch her two children slide down a nearby hill. My mom had become an adopted “gramma” to these two beautiful kids, who had come from Iran without a grandmother. My mom, in her 70s, wasn’t content to watch this sliding. The memory of this old lady careening down the hill on a crazy carpet, and even trying to slide inside a garbage bag, still makes me smile.

She supported several children’s charities, such as UNICEF and World Vision, for many years. And, although she was a very intelligent and mature woman, my mom was herself a child at heart. As an older woman—when she no longer had to set an example for her kids—her diet was the fantasy diet of a five-year-old and included frequent ice-cream dinners, along with lots of “gummy big feet” and Big Turk candy bars.

What I remember most

What I remember most often about my mom, however, is what makes mothers most precious to all of us, namely, devotion. Whatever her children needed in life, at whatever age, she would give to us if she could do so. She would have given up anything for us. And, although she knew our faults well, and was committed to making us fair, compassionate and responsible people, I never doubted that, whatever we did, or failed to do, she would somehow believe in us, support us, worry about us, and be extremely proud of us.

—Thanks to David, Eileene’s son.

GPH: 20/11/2009—P1032

SCORY, Loretta “Joyce”

01/05/1941–09/02/2016

Joyce was a favourite person! I used to tell her that she was this active, engaged person, with a nice sense of fashion, trapped in a body that didn’t work: she had had a stroke. She was young, relatively.

We had a connection. Joyce was from Neepawa, MB. She’d had a happy marriage to a man twenty-six years her senior and they lived in an old house that he had renovated. Joyce had lots of stories. One concerned the first time she made perogies: she learned that you should not stack them! (They stick together.)

I taught at Brandon University for four years (1980–84) and I have been to Neepawa, home of Margaret Lawrence. Further, I have several pieces of pottery that were made by a Neepawa potter by the name of Brenda Nelson. We have had another resident from Neepawa: Hazel *Drew* LEISHMAN (GPH: 1999–2009: see *Connections* 2 and 3). So we had lots to talk about.

Joyce was a smoker and two or three times a day, in all kinds of weather, she would go outside GPH, through the front door, in her motorized wheelchair. This daily ritual meant that many of us got to know Joyce. She has one son, Tim, who took exemplary care of his mom.

GPH: 20/03/2013—W3047

SCOTT, Muriel

29/04/1929–23/11/2015

Mrs. Scott was a school teacher. She went back to school for her degree after raising seven children, six daughters and a son. Her daughter Nancy (Horner) was our neighbour on Roslyn Rd., second door up the street, for some years after we moved there (1989). Nancy loved pugs and we had a pug named Riley. Mrs. Scott's pride was her family and, during her stay at GPH, her children were here often in multiple numbers. Mrs. Scott had lived at 209 Cook St., so, in coming to GPH, she stayed in her neighbourhood.

GPH: 08/08/2014

SCUDAMORE, William "Bill"

20/07/1925–29/04/2019



Mr. Scudamore lived a remarkable life. He went to school in Montreal with pianist Oscar Peterson and played stand-up bass in a band with him. They made recordings, which may or may not be still extant: Bill had copies of these records for many years, but they were scratched so he brought them to an untimely end, as he would probably recognize now. Bill was a veteran and served with an airborne division; played the mouth organ and entertained. Subsequently he was a businessman and, in what is not now uncommon but was not so at the time, made many trips to China where he had shoes made that he imported. He was a "gentleman," and his and Arlene's is a great love story. He enjoyed the outdoors and gardens. At GPH he proved a good conversationalist and still played the mouth organ. He was a person of faith and came to the Wednesday Bible study with me. Many of these details of his life—attended by military memorabilia and lots of photos—were related in a celebration of Bill's life at GPH, thanks to Arlene.

GPH: 18/05/2017—P1046

SHARP, Mary Ann *Maguire*

15/03/1927–

A charming and witty person and, after many years in Canada, still had a lovely Scottish accent. Mary told me that she'd been born in Glasgow, one of four children, three sons and a daughter (her). She had travelled to Canada before her marriage, but then married William McConville, had two children—daughters Susan and Liz, and immigrated. Had four more children. Mary is a singer, "I Belong to Glasgow," "Danny Boy." She talked of Glasgow, in

particular of the Auchenshuggle streetcar that ran to her part of the city. It is, apparently, a Gaelic word meaning “the rye field.” It’s at the east end of Glasgow on the London Road. The tram ran from 1922–1962. Mary’s family lived at 1671 London Road.

Mary is an entertainer. When she first came to GPH, she recited to me a nonsense poem that went this way:

“Mary Maguire peed in the fire;
the fire was too hot,
so she peed in the pot.
The pot was too wide,
She peed in the Clyde,
and all the wee fishes
swam up her backside.”

Thanks, Mary. A poem like that—and there are many—should be kept alive! Hope this helps.

GPH: 23/09/2016—P1042 > P1015

•• SHAW, Pat

16/01/1944–28/08/2013

Pat was born in Corner Brook, Nfld., and endeared herself to everyone. She had a real sweet tooth and I was always surprised to see how many teaspoons of sugar she could put in a cup of coffee. Pat was outgoing and made many friends. And there was that Newfoundland connection to talk about.

GPH: 07/05/2007

SHELENKO, Nick

28/12/1930–12/11/2017

Mr. Shelenko was a heavy equipment operator with the RCAF for twenty-six years. Then he went to Georgian College to study surveying and had a job waiting for him when he finished—did that for eighteen years. His first job as a surveyor was Barrington Retirement Home when it was built: he moved to GPH from there! Years later, of course. So he had quite a life and was a fascinating person to talk to. Mr. Shelenko had two daughters.

GPH: 12/09/2016—M1217

SLESSOR, Daniel “Glenn”

08/12/1929–22/02/2018

Glen was something of a character. He moved to GPH from his home, where he had been living with support from Simcoe Community Services. He had a great seriousness about him; wore work boots; had a girlfriend; was a devout adherent of Emmanuel Baptist Church. At our Celebration of Life, his nephew Simon (Slessor), on short notice, related in a hugely humorous way what Glenn was all about and what he was like. Priceless.

Matthew Sposito, physiotherapist at GPH, snapped a photo of Glenn downtown, long before Glenn came to live at Grove Park. It captures the essence of Glenn. Thanks to Matthew (and Camille) for forwarding it to me so we can all enjoy it.



GPH: 08/05/2015—M1232

•• SMITH, Kathleen “Kate”

11/04/1922–17/06/2015

Mrs. Smith lived on Steel St., across from Westminster Church. She was a tablemate of John FINDLAY, and lunch with them was always an interesting time because they both had long and good memories.

GPH: 18/09/2008

SMITH, Murray

12/01/1920–08/09/2016*

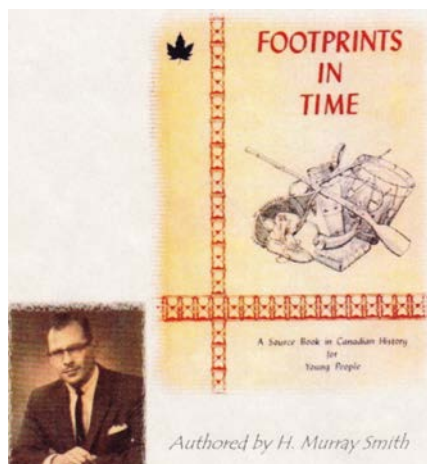
“Murray Smith was born in Toronto on January 12, 1920. He was the second eldest of the six children born to Harold and Agnes Smith. He was predeceased by older brother Alan, younger sister Jean, and younger brother Howard, and he is survived by his sister Thelma and brother Bruce. Murray was also predeceased by his wife, Gail (Myles).

Murray grew up during the Great Depression and so he learned how to make do with very little—as a young boy he sold newspapers on the corner of St. Clair and Dufferin to earn a little money. He built his own crystal radio as a boy of twelve or so, and with the help of his Dad and older brother, built his first bicycle from spare parts.

WWII and university; a teacher

After graduating high school, Murray went to Normal School (or Teachers College) and had his first teaching post in the small northern Ontario town of Thessalon, in 1939. His teaching career was interrupted by World War II. He served in the RCAF as an armourer.

After the War Murray obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Toronto—three years, before resuming his chosen career of teacher. He taught with the Toronto and North York School Boards until he took early retirement in 1971. In addition to his teaching, in his spare time Murray authored history books, including *Footprints in Time*, the first source book for Canadian history to be written for young students.



Murray's textbook. Recognize it?

Marriage and family

Murray married Gail Myles in 1948, and they settled in Toronto, first in Leaside and then in Don Mills. Together they raised five children. In 1952 he built the family cottage at Lora Bay (between Thornbury and Meaford) with the help of Gail's father and brother and his younger brother, Bruce. The family cottage is one of Murray's great legacies and has become a special family gathering place.

Murray took early retirement from teaching and the family moved to Thornbury in 1971. Murray was active in the Thornbury / Clarksburg Rotary Club, where he was recognized for his community service with the Rotary when he was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Pianist in a big band

Murray loved music and he sang in the Toronto Mens Teachers Choir, and in church choirs. He also loved to play the piano, and in his retirement he took on a second "career" entertaining on the keyboards. He sometimes played with a local combo which called themselves the Rotary Retreads. He also used his love of music to bring comfort and happiness to local nursing home residents in Thornbury and Meaford. But of all of his musical accomplishments, the one he was most proud of was playing in the Georgian Sound Big Band. This was the music of his youth, and to actually be playing and singing with a Big Band in his golden years, was a dream come true.

Barrie

Murray's health led him to move to Barrie in 2006, where he resided in various assisted living residences, including Grove Park Home. He lived at Grove Park for the last two years of his life. Although he was less physically active in his later years, Murray was an avid reader of good mysteries and historical fiction. Murray was a beloved grandfather to nine grandchildren and one great grandson."

—Thanks to Murray's family for this eulogy, which was read at his memorial service, in Thornbury, on Sat., Oct. 1, 2016. On that occasion Murray's younger brother Bruce told us how he, ten years younger than Murray, had followed in his older brother's footsteps. Mike, Murray's son, sang and played a humorous



song he wrote about his dad. Mike told us that at the end of the summer season Murray detoured back from Thornbury to Meaford on the way to Toronto so the kids could ride go-karts one last time (at Baker's kart track).

Mr. Smith was a remarkable man. In his mid-90s we would talk about what best-seller he was reading at the time. He had strong ties with Thornbury and Meaford, my home town. Daughter Kathy married Bruce Green and the Green's family business was a well-known grocery store in Heathcote. My parents knew Gail's brother Milne whom I met at the service for Murray. Small world. As the eulogy says, Murray liked big band music—his favourite big band was Glenn Miller's, followed by Benny Goodman, he told me.

One of the special occasions with Murray at GPH was the wedding of granddaughter Kaitlyn to Joshua Rankin, in the GPH chapel on Valentine's Day, 2016. They were married in Cuba months earlier, but the paperwork was never forthcoming, so they decided to have their marriage legalized with another service here. Small group of us, family. It was lovely and especially endearing for Murray. It is one of the most memorable weddings that I have performed, and the only one on Valentine's Day. Kaitlyn and Josh live in Port Elgin.

GPH: 11.09/14

•• SNOWDON, Dolly *Drake* ROBINSON

22/07/1918–02/07/2015

B. Schreiber, ON. Her father was from Beaverton, worked on Great Lakes ships, and then as a train engineer at Schreiber. Her mother, she said, was strict—no peanut butter, which she considered junk food, a strictness she got from Methodism. Dolly met her husband by way of friends in Schreiber. He was an engineer too and the friends invited him to play bridge when he came to Schreiber. He walked her home.

Schreiber was a railroad town. Dolly worked in the railway office, and her brother also worked for the railway. However, her two sisters became teachers, and her two children are also teachers. Dolly's sisters were sent to teacher's college in North Bay. Her parents believed in education.

Dolly said she had an exciting time as a child: once she rode the train engine with her dad to White River, three hours! She rode in the baggage car to Ft. William to have her appendix removed.

In Schreiber the United and Anglican churches are right across the street from each other. She was married in the former, but worshiped in the latter after her marriage. Dolly had a nephew who is a U.C. minister and he served in Schreiber.

As it happens, our son Michael took his driver's license in Schreiber at the end of a summer he worked at Neys Provincial Park, near Marathon. We drove to Schreiber, stayed over night, and he took his license the next day. That gave us a chance to look around. I walked across the many rail lines to the old railway office. The heyday of rail is over now, but there is still evidence of the community Schreiber once was, including a railway museum. I rehearsed this visit to Dolly and it gave me an appreciation for her life. She was a feisty, down to earth, likeable person.

GPH: 16/02/2012

SNIDER, Donald Chaseley

08/09/1933–09/11/2011

GPH: 14/11/2008

SOMMERS, Flossie

18/12/1927–04/03/2019

Flossie came to GPH from Champlain Manor, Orillia. Her son's mother-in-law is Ivy GRANT. Her church was Emmanuel Baptist; she had a strong religious faith. Always came to Bible study and one time offered that her favourite song was "When the Roll is Called up Yonder." We still sing that song from time to time in her memory: "this is Flossie's song."

GPH: 11/03/2016—A1148 > S2014

•• STAFFORD, Joyce *Gaskell*

19/11/1919–08/09/2013

See *Connections 2*.

Mrs. Stafford saw Al Jolson perform in Liverpool, “a wizened old man.” She took up tap-dancing at the age of sixty-six, with a group called “The Tappers,” and performed in various places. Joyce liked Fred Astaire as a tap-dancer, and an American named Ann Miller. Joyce was born in Chester, England, near the Wales border. Later, she said, “say Wallasey, outside Liverpool.” Joyce had amazingly sparkling eyes, a terrific smile, and a lovely accent. I used to stop in just to see her smile.

GPH: 26/06/2001—M

•• STASEK, Jeanne *Hemond*

10/02/1932–05/02/2014

“Jeannie” went to N.J. to work for Maislin Transport. That is where she met her husband, whose father taught at Rutgers U. When she married, she quit work—typical of the time. She was married at 33 and widowed at 39. Mr. S. died suddenly, while she was making breakfast. This was a source of great sorrow and her eyes would well up with tears when she talked about it. Her daughter was six.

Jeannie saw lots of famous singers in concert: Engelbert Humperdinck, with her husband in N.Y. (1967; she saw him three times altogether); Tom Jones, in Albany, with her daughter—who took him flowers, down to the stage. He asked if she’d like a song and she told him to sing “Green, Green Grass of Home” for her mom, which he did. Jeannie saw Don Ho in Hawaii. She requested “Little Bubbles” and he said he would sing that *if* she sang “O Canada” in French. She did.

Jeannie saw Dean Martin ... Anne Murray and Nana Mouskouri at Massey Hall; Lawrence Welk and Guy Lombardo in N.Y.; Pat Boone in Miami. Perry Como; Al Martino; Vic Damone; Sammy Davis Jr.; Frank Sinatra; Nat King Cole.

Her favourite female singers were Liza Minelli—whom she saw in Las Vegas; Ella Fitzgerald; Peggy Lee. Her favourite male singers were Dean Martin and Tom Jones. Long before his singing career, Perry Como had cut her husband’s hair in Pennsylvania. (Como was b. in Canonsburg, PA, in 1912 and at age ten started helping in a barbershop for 50 cents a wk. After graduating from high school, he opened his own shop. Canonsburgh is 20 miles south of Pittsburgh.)

Jeannie liked pets. She had had a Pomeranian named Snoopy for some nine years. Her burial wishes were cremation and burial ashes, with Snoopy’s, interment with her husband in Trenton, N.J. Before she came to GPH and before Barrie Manor, she had a Jack Russell terrier named “Peanuts.”

GPH: 29/09/2003

2nd STEELE, Lorna

08/06/1932–

Lorna’s mother-in-law Sybil STEELE lived on Cedar Wing #36 when I came to GPH in the fall of 1985, having previously lived on Birch (36) and Aspen (3). See *Connections* (1) for her colourful life story. Lorna came to live in RL (near to if not the same suite as Sybil) and then, in early 2020, moved to

Spruce. Lorna was a teacher and had travelled a lot: China, Russia, Scandinavia. Fun. Lots of stories. In the fall of 2017, with friends, we drove to Newfoundland and visited Brigus, where the Steeles are from. Saw the house that Sybil grew up in. I went looking for the Steele family. I found Dave and Joan Steele's house. They were at home and invited me in. Lorna had told me the story of the "Lorna" doll.

One time Harris, Lorna's husband, was visiting the Royal Doulton factory. They had a couple of new, unnamed dolls and Harris was asked if he'd like to name one of them (maybe both). He named a doll "Lorna." At home, some weeks later. The Lorna doll arrived and it looked nothing like Lorna: the figurine depicted a tall, slim woman with blonde hair! In Brigus, Dave and Joan showed me one of these Lorna dolls. You can find photos of the "Royal Doulton Lorna" figurine on the internet. The photo of Lorna appeared during the COVID-19 crisis. The other photo is the one I took of the Lorna doll at Dave and Joan's house in Brigus. The Steele family was really prominent in Brigus, which itself occupied an important place in Newfoundland in former days.



*Lorna Steele and the Royal Doulton "Lorna" figurine.
The photo to the left appeared in The Care Connection [GPH], news from the
development office, Nov. 2020, Linda Muszyinski, director.*

GPH: 08/01/2020

STEIN, Shirley

15/03/1938–07/01/2018

Mrs. Stein moved to GPH from home and her stay was not long.

GPH: 18/10/2017—P1038

•• STEPHENS, (Miss) Mary

29/04/1922–25/08/2018

Mary lived at GPH almost ten years. She had lived at 123 Collier St. and knew Jack MYERS as a child: she had skated with him! Mary also knew Beth PARTRIDGE. Mary was a friend of Audrey *Webb* Nixon, head nurse on the surgical floor at TGH. At GPH she always dressed nicely and had the warmest of smiles.

GPH: 20/10/2018—P1042

STOTT, Mary

28/03/1929–

Mrs. Stott has university degrees and worked as a librarian.

GPH: 14/10/2009—S > P1012

STURGESS, Donald “Don”

21/02/1932–25/12/2016

B. in Toronto. His father was a barber; his mother, Lily Philips, was a dressmaker. Don had one brother, Raymond.

Don was married to Suzanne, whom we often saw visiting with a their dogs. Two children: Donna (in Milton) and Dale (in the United States). He was in the RCAF, where he was a Master Officer. For some thirty-eight years he inspected aircraft. He built airplanes himself, some 34. Don had travelled the world. He liked all kinds of music, movies and reading. Hobbies included wood working.

GPH: 07/02/2014—W

2nd SUTHERLAND, Phylis

29/11/1922–07/01/2015

Resident Vera COOPER was her mother-in-law. “Aunt Phylis,” as I affectionately called her, has two daughters, Linda and Dianna.

GPH: 18/04/2008

•• SUTTON, Sarah “Helen” *Edwards*

10/03/1920–12/12/2015

B. in Aurora. Her mother was a Burling. She told me that her full name was Sarah (a grandmother) Barbara (another grandmother) Helen (a friend of her mother’s). Helen moved to GPH from an Innisfil retirement home. She lived with arthritic pain. Mrs. Sutton was born three weeks before my father was (04/04/1920), but she in Aurora and my father at Cape Rich (St. Vincent Twp.). Helen’s daughter was a frequent visitor during her 7 ½ years here.

GPH: 28/04/2008

‡ SWEET, Alma *McCutcheon*

02/10/1920–03/12/2020 100!

Alma was born a few months after my dad (Apr. 4), but in Rockglen, SK. She came to live at GPH at the age of 98, and brought a crystal clear memory and personal charm with her. Alma still has a sister in Rockglen, which now has a population of 400 (2011). It had grain elevators, on a branch line from Assiniboia. The village is 110 km. SW of Moosejaw. You can get the details with a Google search! In 1939 her dad drove her down to Toronto to enter nursing at St. Joseph’s Hospital. What a trip that must have been. She only nursed two years: met a handsome doctor and had a family!



Alma in the veggie garden area at GPH. Photo by Cindy Rossit, GPH PSW.

As it happens, Alma has a Meaford connection. Her mother's family name was Scarrow; her uncle George Scarrow farmed at Meaford and Alma visited; an aunt (Scarrow) went out West to Carman, MB. (A gt.-uncle of mine, W.F. Cox, was a minister at Carman in the 'teens of a century ago and my gt.-aunt Edna and her husband, Claude, were there as well, selling Raleigh products. In fact, there were quite a few people who emigrated to Carman; the Cuttings, Laycocks, Yorks. There were still Laycocks there when I taught at Brandon, in the early 1980s.) Wes Scarrow was another uncle at Meaford. When I was a child, our neighbours across the street were a Dutch family that immigrated in the early 1950s. Their daughter Janny (Jongkind) married Ken Scarrow, doubtless the same family. Alma's father was born at Annan, near Owen Sound. He went out West, came back, got married, and returned to the West. His drive to Toronto in 1939 doubtless included a visit to relatives in the Owen Sound and Meaford areas. "McCutcheon" is a Meaford and area name. Small world.

GPH: 09/05/2018—P1018

•• SWITZER, Helen

02/09/1924–28/04/2015

Helen lived with her husband Bill at Simcoe Terrace before coming to GPH. Bill lives in RL at GPH. They were both volunteers at GPH, and have known Jacki Giddings, our Nurse Practitioner, for many years. Helen liked to read and dance to the music of the big bands. Bill and Helen were married almost 70 years and raised seven children, five boys and two girls. They were active at Parkview Centre and at St. Mary's, where her funeral took place on May 4, 2015.

GPH: 23/07/2012

TANNER, Reta E.

23/10/1918–18/11/2013

GPH: 21/03/2013

•• TAYLOR, Marguerite *McLean*

06/03/1918–01/11/2016 102½ !



Marguerite and me. LOL.

Born in Toronto near the end of WWI, one of the three children of John and Myrtle McLean. Her older siblings were Max and Helen. She recalled that her mother was nice to absolutely everyone. Marguerite’s childhood friends were Elizabeth Gregory and Marg Fallis.

Marguerite married Herbert “Herb” Taylor in Bradford and they raised two daughters, Barbara (Kent) and Ann (Long), both of whom live in Barrie. She became a grandmother to Michael and Jennifer, and great-grandmother to Uma, Willow and Harrison. Marguerite worked for the IGA in Bradford and was a florist and cashier at the store. And she was a volunteer driver for the Red Cross. Marguerite spent many winters in Florida and also travelled to Australia.

Music was important to her. She loved to dance and sing—favourites were The Lawrence Welk Show, “The Sound of Music,” and singers Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra. Late in her life, Marguerite went through a stage when she sang the song “(I’ll Be Loving You) Always” often, for a year or so! I ran off a copy of the lyrics (from the internet) and was able to sing the words with her. She was just a lovely person.

Marguerite came to GPH first with the Senior Encounter programme, for seven years—from about 2003—and through the time of Herb’s death. She was lots of fun and liked to laugh. The photo says it all. Marguerite attended the Anglican church and that was important to her. Because she had come to GPH with SE for years, many of us knew her for a long time. Her funeral was from the Swarchuk Funeral Home, Bradford, on Fri., Nov. 4, 2016.

GPH: 25/01/2010—W3042

TEVELDE, Gysbertha “Betty”

01/10/1935–29/04/2015

Betty came to Canada with her parents, brothers and little sister, from the Netherlands in 1950, specifically, from Vrounhausen. In turn, she has four children. Betty was an optimistic person and lived with her son Randy before moving to GPH. She was a health care worker for the Red Cross. She lived on Maple, where Jessie BOUIUS lives, who also emigrated from the Netherlands.

Like many other Dutch immigrants, she (and they) helped build our country in meaningful ways.

GPH: 20/03/2014

THICKETT, Deborah

03/08/1953–

GPH: 11/09/2017—S2015

THOMAS, Herbert “Bob”

12/12/1934–20/02/2017

Bob was from Angus and had worked for Hydro. He had daughters and a son (Sherry, Christine, Terry). His hobby was painting.

GPH: 21/03/2014—P1019

‡ THOMPSON, Theresa “Pat” *Haylor*

25/06/1929–

From Birmingham, England. Pat told me that she was supposed to be a boy, “Patrick.” The first of eight children was a boy, but the next seven were girls! Favourite place in Europe: London Bridge.

GPH: 27/11/2018—M1208

THOMPSON-CALVERT, Theresa Josephine *Wallace*

29/07/1929–22/03/2016

Theresa moved to GPH from Mulcaster Mews. She had been a professional person and held an executive position with the Royal Bank for thirty-eight years, dealing with real estate. She was also involved in the Anglican church and was on the Chancel Guild for forty-five years. Theresa loved to travel. She has two children: Bob, in Barrie; Sharon, who is in Singapore because her husband was transferred there. Theresa was a grandmother six times over and a great-grandmother.

GPH: 26/06/2014—A1134

•• THOMSON, Margaret

20/09/1919–03/12/2014

Mrs. Thomson lived in Retirement Living at GPH, before moving into the long-term care part, where she lived on Willow (3017). She was born in Scotland—Dundee, and lived in Aberdeen. John Inglis—of the company by that name—was her uncle by way of her maternal grandmother Inglis. She never contacted him after arriving in Canada. Margaret made exquisite, award-winning costumes for her hand-painted ceramic dolls. Two of her sayings are recorded in *Connections* 3, in part IV, “Quotable Quotes,” pp. 387–88. She contributed to Elaine and my visit to Scotland in the spring of 2013 in this way: I was eager to visit the places where she had lived and that she had told me about. We stayed over night in Dundee; our son Jason was spending a term in Aberdeen when we visited. An amazing person.

GPH: 20/07/2011

THORNHILL, Dorothy
 23/02/1932–21/02/2013
 GPH: 27/05/2009

TOMES, Edward
 10/05/1936–10/11/2018

Edward's parents came to Canada when they were young. He spoke Slovakian. Among other things, Ed was a musician and played in a Czech band: drums. Six nights a week when he was young. He also played the trombone. They made recordings. He told me that his brother was still playing at 86! Ed had three sons and a daughter. He was a traveller for Chrysler in the 1960s and Alex Goudy, who had the Chrysler dealership in Meaford, was on his circuit. I went to school with Alex Goudy's son, Garry, and Alex and my father had known each other since they were young. Amazing connection. Later Ed worked as a travel



promoter, Hawaii and so on. He had many stories and had lived a full life.

In the extensive, informative, and colourful obituary that appears in the *Barrie Advance*, Nov. 15, 2018, p. 43, we read, that "His father once commented that he sat young Ed down at the drums and he just started playing." (!) The photo is reproduced from the obituary.

GPH: 02/10/2015

TOMLINSON, Joan "Mary-Anne"
 06/06/1939–
 GPH: 13/06/2017—A1166

•• TRAMER, Viola
 08/09/1927–21/08/2019

Viola lived at GPH almost nineteen years, unheard of now and a long time even by the standards of the days when GPH was a retirement home. She was a treasure and we all, staff and residents alike, were exceptionally fond of her. Viola had had a stroke before she came to live at GPH which left her unable to speak only a few words but this did not prevent her communicating. She had a terrific smile and a great sense of humour. Viola spent countless hours on puzzles, working on them on a table in front of a window that looks down upon the garden outside Pine. Photos of her children and grandchildren were lined up along the window. Also those little knick-knacks that are activated by the light. There was one picture especially that we looked at, namely, a photo of Viola and

her husband and their five grown children, taken, I think, on the occasion of a wedding anniversary. A beautiful photo. She took great pride in her children and grandchildren. Viola also liked stuffed toys and she had a lot of them. She would have me take them down from the top of her wardrobe so she could see them. Viola wore her hair very short, in a sort of brush cut. In recent years I have had short hair and, with “product,” had a sort of brush. I would tease her that we had the same haircut, that we looked alike, or that her hair was getting a little bit too long and needed a cut. Many laughs. She loved fun and will be remembered by all of us who knew her.

Viola was also a veteran and participated in our Remembrance Day services.

GPH: 10/09/2001

TRIEMSTRA, Jannigje “Jane”

22/08/1938–18/03/2014

GPH: 15/01/2014

TRUE, Paul

11/07/1927–05/04/2019

Paul was married to Cristal for sixty-seven years! German was his first language. He came to GPH from Serenity RH. I remember him as a quiet, dignified, likeable person.

GPH: 14/11/2016—A1153

•• VALLEY, Margaret

08/12/1914–10/05/2014

GPH: 16/10/2009

VANDERWAL, Ybeltje “Ivy”

13/12/1921–16/12/2018

Mrs. Vanderwal was from Groningen, the Netherlands.

GPH: 17/11/2017—W3030

•• VANDRICK, Darlene

12/08/1926–26/12/2020

Mrs. Vandrick was a championship bridge player, who moved to GPH from Whispering Pines RH. She was a real estate agent and interior designer, with the spirit of an entrepreneur. A mother and grandmother.

GPH: 16/04/2012—P1033

‡ VARCOE, Frances

12/01/1924–19/12/2019

Mrs. Varcoe was a sister of Ethel BYLES, and their suites were across the hall from each other. Also, Vera CHAPPEL was their cousin, by marriage. Frances and her husband Cliff owned a restaurant / service station and gravel pits. She looked after the books. Frances moved to GPH from the Waterford RH. There

have been several instances of sisters living at GPH at the same time, for example, Lois STURGEON and Agnes KNEESHAW; Elsie SLATER and Emily JACKSON.

GPH: 30/11/2018—S2046

- VASEY, Mary Agnes Irene *Hazelton*
29/02/1920—08/02/2017

See *Connections 3* for a photo of Irene on her wedding day, May 31, 1947, when she married Ted Vasey at Hillsdale Presbyterian Church. Her married life is to be found in the entry for Ted. There are also two examples of Irene's painting that adorned GPH Christmas cards in *Connections 3*. Hazelton is another old Medonte family name.

The Vaseys farmed on the 3rd of Medonte, on a farm of 175 acres. Among other things, they had about 100 apple trees, Wolf River, Wealthy, and Snow—winter apples. Her brother had a store at Vasey and used to ship them in barrels. Ted sold a piece of the farm at the back, on the 4th, to Karl Amon's brother. Laura Frank, who worked at GPH, married Karl on Aug. 19, 1995—I performed the wedding—and their reception was at that farm. Laura still visits GPH to provide one-on-one care to seniors as part of a business she started.

Irene was an amazing person. She was the quintessential farm wife and maybe the last of a generation of such people to live at GPH, that is, elderly, still active, with excellent memory. Irene lived here a long time and I got to know her well. She had a great memory for the details of farm life in Oro-Medonte and many times I asked her questions that involved living in the country, flora and fauna, and people who lived in her community. At the memorial service where we remembered her (and others), on Apr. 12, 2017, her daughter Hazel (Drury) wore an elegant, stylish but simple dress that Irene had worn when she was young. It was a lovely touch to the evening.

What follows is Hazel's account of her mom's life, prepared for the occasion of her funeral. It includes Irene's experiences as a *Leap Year* baby, working on the *S.S. Assiniboia*, sister ship to the *Keewatin*, and many aspects of farm and family life for her generation.

Mary Agnes Irene Vasey
by her daughter Hazel Drury

“A long time ago, in a place not so far away called Vasey, Mary Agnes Irene Hamilton was born in a leap year, 1920, on leap year day February 29th. Her two sisters also had memorable dates: Jean was born on February 14th, Valentine's Day, and her oldest sister, Marguerite on the first day of fall, September 21st.

Mother's birth date caused her to have tears as a young child because, three years out of every four, she could not circle her number on the month of February. However, every four years she was given a large celebration. When she turned 80 years old, her 20th birthday, she planned a party that would only

include the same eight people that she had at her 2nd party in 1928. It was a very significant birthday because she didn't think she would live much longer!!!! Later in life, tears turned to smiles as she would happily tell people that she would be celebrating a birthday number less than her children and, eventually, less than her grandchildren. Last year she organized her 24th birthday party; the music, the food, and, especially, the cake, including the flavour of the filling.

Mom was raised on a farm on the 3rd concession of Medonte. Walked to a one-room school. Her parents, Mary and Will Hazelton, wanted their children to further their education, so they were boarded in Midland to complete their high school diploma. Mom would also attend and graduate from a business course. At age 18, her first paying job was working in Midland in a sewing factory called Fabulous Formals. During the last year of WW2, Mom moved to Toronto to work at the GECO ammunition plant in Scarborough. She worked on a line assembling munitions for the troops overseas. Much more has been learned about these plants, thanks to a mini-series on TV called "Bomb Girls," and a book by the same name. We were privileged to take Mother as a guest to the book launching at Toronto City Hall. The author, Barbara Dickson, came to Grove Park and interviewed Mom. Barbara has received funding to produce a documentary on the Bomb Girls.

During the 1946 sailing season, Mom and two friends from the Vasey neighbourhood—Emmaline Edwards and Mary Greenlaw—worked on a cruise ship, the *S.S. Assiniboia*, sister ship of the famous *Keewatin*. This ship took wealthy tourists for a wonderful holiday, from Port McNicoll to Thunder Bay. "Inland Oceans in the Heart of a Continent." Mom worked as a stewardess at the captain's table. During these years of working and making money, she bought ready-made dresses. The one that I am wearing today is one of them. About this time, she decided that the "city life" was over and she would return to the country and marry a local sweetheart, Ted Vasey. They married in 1947.

The next chapter of her life would be devoted to raising a family on the farm, and community and church work. She grew a large vegetable garden and lots of fruit too that kept the pantry full at all times. She took part in feeding chickens, raising geese and milking cows so she could sell cream, eggs, chickens, geese, and fruit. This all helped her to maintain her bank account, so she could freely buy household and personal items. Mother loved jersey cows! Her first one had been given to her by her parents. Then she sold it to buy a Heintzman piano so we could take music lessons. Eventually Dad did buy her another jersey cow. Her least favourite cow was a Charlais. One day Dad asked her to help move the cow and her newborn calf from the pasture to the barnyard. Unfortunately, Mother got between the two and the cow charged her. That was the last time she entered the barnyard and her farming days were over.

Mother's productive days on the farm would have started at dawn and ended at sunset. Her other joy of being outdoors was her flowers. Her last two projects were a fish pond and a rose garden. Bill brought her some screened

topsoil and she was delighted to work with the easy soil. Today we remember her rose garden with roses on the casket.

Being actively involved in the community was important to Mom. For over 50 years she devoted time to the Woman's Institute, United Church Women, church committees, church socials, and 4-H. As her children moved on with their lives, she became a horticultural member and started making beautiful quilts. During our elementary school years, Mom taught each of us to gather and prepare items for the Coldwater School Fair. She loved Fall Fairs and soon she started entering items of her own in Coldwater and Elmvale.

Before leaving the farm, Mom and Dad gained some new neighbours, the Wilson "city" family. Mom and Dad readily helped them to learn how to garden and farm. A big job!!! But each couple enjoyed the experience and most of all the companionship. Here is a quote from Mary Wilson, who wrote an article about mom titled "An Unforgettable Neighbour": "She is not eccentric, she is not flamboyant, but she is a warm, friendly lady. She cares, and to me, this makes her unforgettable." Ian, Gail and Mark moved to the Vasey farm when Mom and Dad moved one concession away to a smaller property. They enjoyed trips in Canada and the USA, Europe and the British Isles as they now explored the world they had only read about or had seen on TV.

In 2005, after failing an independent driver's test, she decided it was time to move back to the city. This time, to Barrie. She had experienced a stroke and was on a feeding tube to sustain her life. This was the beginning of a new life. She was retired for sure! No more laundry to do, no dishes, no meals to prepare. She moved to Grove Park, a place that helped her become well again. We are very grateful for their nursing care and all the social events and fun times she had there, while participating daily.

At Grove Park, she took art lessons and began to paint, something she never took time to do on the farm. She was, however, in trouble many times at Grove Park. Eventually they gave up! Rule #1: you must sign out if you are leaving the premises. On Sundays, she would disappear for about two hours. Back by lunch, looking like a Queen. She had walked to Grace United Church, dressed in her Sunday best and wearing a hat. When I asked her why she didn't sign out, she had two replies. "Rules, rules, rules, those darn rules." Also, she said the clipboard was too high for her to reach, so how could she sign out? At Grove Park she also wanted to help others by picking up things for them or pushing them down the hall in their wheel chairs. She would get told, "No!" Mother believed in: Do for others just what you want them to do for you. Luke 6, verse 31.

Mother had a sense of exploration and did not turn down an outing. Maybe it would be going for a two-hour drive to sit at a cottage or sitting around a bonfire at the Vasey farm at Thanksgiving time until well past the curfew hour. In November 2014 Melody was graduating at the University of Toronto with her

doctorate degree in child psychology and Mother was an honoured guest, front row. Our afternoon trip was great but coming back was different. A sudden snowstorm dumped a lot of snow and ploughs had been called off the roads. Once we got to Grove Park, about 11:30 p.m., well past curfew again, we had to park on the street and walk in snow over our boots. Mother laughed and laughed at the experience: she hadn't done a snowy walk for years. Bernice and I took her to the International Ploughing Match in Ivy to see the sights. The next day, she found out the my grandson Carter and three of his high school friends had gone on the helicopter ride. She told us, she would have done that! If we had only known, all she really wanted to do was something different, something more exciting than those exhibits.

Mom cherished her family and was happy to watch her six grandchildren grow from babies to adult life. Next, she was delighted to have five great-grandchildren. Mom also enjoyed joking and expressing her opinion. Rosemary and Jim regularly attend church in Waterloo and one day Jim was comparing Vasey sermons to Waterloo sermons. He asked her, "How come Vasey always talks about the Old Testament?" Her reply was, "There are good Christians in the Old Testament too!"

The next chapter of Mom's life will be one I can't tell ..."

GPH: 12/10/2005

•• WAITE, Harry

25/03/1936–23/12/2013

Mr. Waite was a Presbyterian minister. His wife Wilma's sister moved from Goderich to live at GPH briefly in 2015. Harry and Wilma have two children, a son and a daughter. Harry graduated from Knox College in 1960. Spent three years in Whitehorse; Atwood, ON; Barrie; Shelbourne; 20 Wynford Drive, TO (head offices). Ernie Heikkila, husband of GPH former Director of Care Ellen H., taught Harry sailing.

GPH: 13/06/2011

WALKER, Donald "Don"

03/11/1927–23/06/2020

Mr. Walker was born four months after my mother (July 4). His professional career is intertwined with bowling as a sport and as an industry. Don owned a bowling alley—as did Paul TRUE—and was President of the Bowling Proprietor's Association. He was twice honoured in the Bowling Hall of Fame for five-pin bowling. He also painted, and enjoyed golf. He and his wife retired to Horseshoe Valley and he learned to ski at age sixty-nine! Their daughter Jan traveled often from Chicago "the windy city" to see him. One time Don recommended Montana's to me for ribs.

He was an engaging and interesting person.



Photo: Obituary: *Barrie Advance*, Thurs., July 2, 2020.
GPH: 23/06/2017—W3043

WARDLAW, Lois

04/06/1925–17/02/2018

Mrs. Wardlaw lived on a farm her entire life, in Bradford, Woodbridge, and Cookstown areas. Three children. She attended Teacher's College and taught grades 1–4. She liked to travel and backpacked through Europe when she was in her 60s. At GPH Lois was best friend of Gladys HEPBURN. Lois was a gentle, lovely person. My lasting memory is of Lois, wintertime, wrapped warmly in a blanket, her wheelchair pushed by friend Betty, making their way along the sidewalk in the snow. Unperturbed.

GPH: 04/04/2016

WARNER, Anne

08/10/1933–24/01/2018

Mrs. Warner was born in England, grew up in Halifax. She worked for Sears for many years, in their Toronto office.

GPH: 11/05/2015—M1192

WARNICA, Walter Burton

03/06/1933–08/01/2016

Mr. Warnica was the oldest of three boys. He had his own plumbing business. Innisfil. Two sons. He was a tall, handsome man, and raised quarter horses. They had thirty-two at one time, at Windy Hill Quarter Horses, on Mapleview Dr. Mr. W. suffered from Alzheimer's and his (second) wife, Linda (Thomson), works for the Alzheimer Society.

GPH: 26/08/2013—P1037

•• WAUD, Imelda Theresa *Magee*

27/03/1919–12/11/2017

The information that follows is drawn, often word for word, from the brochure prepared by her family for her obituary. I always enjoyed visits with Imelda. She had a “homey” suite on Willow that enjoyed the afternoon sunshine from the west. You would usually find her in a comfortable chair by the window, with some good books nearby. Imelda and Edward had a family cottage near Midland and she enjoyed good times there with her children. A lovely person.



B. in Holyhead, Wales. Attended Loretta Abbey Catholic Boarding School with all of her five sisters. Imelda joined the Womens Royal Navy Service (WRNS) in the UK during WWII and served as a warship tracker and delivered mail to the British and Canadian soldiers. It was during this time she met her husband Edward, who was a Lieutenant in the Royal Montreal Regiment. They were married in London, England in 1943.

In 1946 Imelda voyaged to Canada with her first-born son David on the *Mauretania*. They were soon joined by Edward and settled in Toronto. Together they raised five children, David (Christine), Michael (Ghyliane), Peter (Jeanette), and Ellen (Kevin Marks). She was blessed to have grandchildren and even great-grandchildren.

Her obituary continues, “Imelda was a strong, resilient, independent woman who was polite, agreeable, appreciative and grateful. She always greeted people with a beautiful smile and a wave hello. She was happiest surrounded by her family. She loved to laugh and had a wonderful sense of humour. She was an avid reader and particularly enjoyed the company of dogs and spending time at her beloved cottage on Wymbolwood Beach.”

Edward died in 1970; she lived to be a gracious 98. Imelda’s daughter Debbie died in 2014. The loss of an adult offspring is a deep sorrow often experienced by parents who live to such a great age.

GPH: 30/11/2012—W3030

WEBSTER, Myrna

26/01/1940–07/11/2014

Lived in Vancouver. Myrna’s parents, Arther and Mary WEBSTER, and her brother Donald WEBSTER, also lived at GPH. For their life stories, see *Connections 3*. Myrna was an accomplished and independent person and we enjoyed that Vancouver perspective that she brought in living amongst us. And that her siblings were frequent visitors helped continue the relationship we had with them through their parents and Donald.

GPH: 18/02/2013

WELLMAN, Evelyn “Phyllis”

30/01/1929–06/07/2019

Mrs. Wellman was born in Botwood, Nfld. She had nine siblings. Phyllis told me that she came up to Ontario with another girl, to Oshawa. Tragically her husband died at age 35 in an accident, when her children were in their teens. We often talked about life in Botwood and about Newfoundland generally.

GPH: 22/11/2017—P1041

WHITE, Joan

01/06/1943–23/10/2020

Joan's time at GPH overlapped with that of my mother on Spruce (d. 23/04/2016), so during that period I saw Joan often. At the time, she had a lovely sense of humour, expressed with a pleasant accent. Husband is Michael; they loved to dance; were friends of GPH staff, Mary Boulay.

GPH: 21/12/2015—S2048

WIEBE, Ruth

05/11/1920–30/01/2016

Mrs. Wiebe moved to GPH from a retirement home in Waterloo.

GPH: 23/11/2015

WILLIAMS, James "Jimmy"

12/06/1926–01/04/2016

B. in Bass River, N.S., and proud of his East Coast heritage. He loved to tell stories to staff about going to barn dances and dancing the jig for hours on end. Family was important to him and he looked forward to visits from his daughter Celina and grandson. He had a kind heart and a contagious laugh.

GPH: 13/05/2013—S2032

WILLIAMSON, Eileen

11/08/1924–09/10/2019 95

Mrs. Williamson's husband died shortly before, on Nov. 7, she came to live at GPH, in a suite directly across the hall from my mother. Mrs. Williamson was the mother of three sons. Ken, who works in maintenance at RVH was a frequent visitor and we often conversed.

GPH: 13/11/2014—S2020

WILSON, Helen

28/05/1922–14/08/2017

B. in North Bay. Helen moved to GPH from Heritage Place. She celebrated her 90th birthday at GPH and I got to meet all her family. Helen would laugh as she recounted the story of her marriage to Murray Wilson. As she told it, she married Jack at age 18—so 1940 or 1941—but they were divorced before he went Overseas in WWII. She was then "almost engaged" to Harry. On a visit to see Jack, who had been wounded, she met Murray at the station in Toronto. They were introduced by her ex-sister-in-law. Murray was on his way to New Brunswick. They met in Jan., 1947, and were married that April! I hope the details are more or less accurate. In any case, it made quite a story.

Helen's concern was always her two sons and their families.
GPH: 07/09/2011—S2038

WILSON, Sara "Sally" *Falconer* CHORLEY
13/12/1933–24/01/2017

Sally was a remarkable person. She had been a coordinator of the Nursing Program at Georgian College. When she came to GPH, she was able to tell me elements of her life: born in Johnstown, PA; took nursing at Presbyterian Hospital (Pittsburgh). Her dad called her "Skipper." The horse farm was on the 6th Conc. of Innisfil. She used to warm up the horses. Sally loved horses. And dogs. But gradually Alzheimer's stole away her memories and the capable person that she had been. Sally has a son (Jeffrey) and two daughters (Kimberly and Kelly) who were attentive to her as her health deteriorated. Sally had been the administrator of a nursing home in Brandon, Manitoba. I myself was in Brandon in 1980–84, teaching at the University and had occasion to visit in Central Park Lodge, with which she had had a connection.



At the Celebration of Life service on Apr. 12, 2017, Jeff read an account of Sally's life, composed from Sally's own point of view. Here it is.

*Sally Wilson ... "Better to Give Than to Take." My Life Story.
1933–2017*

"Alzheimer's. I didn't always have Alzheimer's and, as a matter of fact, I was quite blessed over the years with a wonderful life. I had a true zest for life, a love of people and animals, a good sense of humour, a wonderful family, I enjoyed a fulfilling career ... and was always very self-sufficient and engaged in the world around me. I know that I have left my mark in life and made a difference in people's lives.

Early Life

I grew up in a town east of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a coal miner's daughter, neither privileged nor poor. Later in my childhood years we moved to a small coal-mining village north of Pittsburgh called Curtisville. While my father toiled away in the mines, my mother managed our home and raised two older sisters

and me. I was just busy with life in general, being a kid, learning to hunt rabbits and deer with my father in the hills surrounding our humble home. Sometimes I was pulled from school as a special treat to catch a ball game with my father. My nickname was “Skipper.” I did well in school and looked forward to learning new things and discovering the world around me, so it was not surprising when I pursued the field of nursing and later graduated from Nurse’s training in Pittsburgh.

Marriage, children, Manitoba; horses

I married a Canadian Pro Hockey Player [Elliott Chorley] and continued with my nursing career, as we travelled across the continent, finally settling in his home province of Manitoba [Winnipeg, then Brandon]. We had three children, a son (Jeffrey) and two daughters (Kimberly and Kelly). I had fun with my children. Sometimes I packed them all up in my pickup truck, with pop and snacks for the rural drive-in theatre, or took them swimming at the lake ... or simply played around the farm with our horses and dogs. I always had a love of animals and taught my children how to care for and respect animals. We always had a dog or two, a horse or more, which led me into showing both and starting up a local Pony Club in my area. I rode and showed my horses, got my children involved in the same and became an equestrian instructor at the International Peace Gardens during the summer months. I did all this while continuing to practice my nursing and eventually educated myself further (while working) to obtain a degree for Administration in Nursing, which resulted in running a Senior’s Home [Central Park Lodge] in Brandon, Manitoba.

To Ontario; remarriage; Georgian College

Things changed in both my personal life and working life and, as time marched on, I moved to Ontario, remarried and became Director of Nursing for Central Park Lodges of Canada. I moved from the city of Toronto to enjoy a country living (near Orangeville), complete with pets, horses and the work that accompanied that. I made one further move of residence to Utopia and in my nursing career, and became an educator in the field of nursing as one of the coordinators of the Nursing Program at Georgian College in Barrie. It was my privilege to assist students on their lives’ journeys into this most satisfying career. When it was all said and done, I had enjoyed twenty years of teaching before retiring to continue my interest in horses. My interest in horse racing required yet another move, where my husband and I etched out a small thoroughbred breeding operation on our 100-acre farm just south of Barrie, near Thornton.

Retirement

During my retirement years I was extremely busy on my farm, travelling with

my husband, visiting my children, visiting my family in Pennsylvania, zooming around in my MGB [sports car] and hosting large gatherings. I loved to socialize and was never short of excuses to invite people to my home to share in good food and cheer. I was a pretty good cook and baker ... my butter tarts, Dundee cakes and birthday cakes were legendary ... if I do say so myself! My family was always teasing me, saying that I made enough to feed CFB Borden!

Alzheimer's

Eventually my husband and I moved into Victoria Village in Barrie, in 2003. I had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2002 and my life was unraveling. Despite the struggle with memory loss, I kept busy helping with the tenant garden committee, continuing to do some travel, playing the piano and enjoying my many books with my Jack Russell Terrier secure on my lap. When my husband passed away in 2005, my life took yet another turn and I was unable to manage on my own. This is when my family stepped in and was able eventually to get me into Grove Park Home. I have enjoyed my stay here from the beginning to the end. It certainly wasn't home, as in my own family home ... but the staff at Grove Park Home treated me like family.

Reflection

Due to this disease, I may not always have been as cheery, or mobile as I once was ... but I still retained my sense of humour, and my moments. I'd like to think that, if anything, I had "given" more than I had "taken" in my life ... and had passed that quality on to my three children. So, even though I was not fully present for the act of donating to Grove Park Home (with the purchase of some necessary equipment that helped my fellow residents and assisted the staff here in caring for us) ... I will rest assured now that I have passed from this life, that my children have learned that legacy and have done so in my name. Alzheimer's may have taken away a great deal from me ... but it didn't take away the importance of being generous in one's lifetime."

—Thanks to Jeff for his mom's life story, with its unique perspective.

GPH: 13/03/2006—A

•• WINCHESTER, John

16/08/1921–11/03/2014*

"John was born August 16th, 1921 in Parkdale to parents Arthur (Don) and May Winchester, the son between two daughters or, as it was often said, the thorn between two roses! Both John's parents saw 94.

He grew up in North Toronto attending John Wanless Public School and Lawrence Park Secondary. He went on to study Electrical Engineering at U of T, graduating in the class of 4T5. He immediately joined the Royal Canadian Corps/Signals for training but the war ended before he could be deployed overseas.



John, 2007

Marriage and family

John married the love of his life Ruth West on June 8, 1946, and they celebrated 64 happy and loving years. Together they raised two children Scott (Margaret) and Joan. He was blessed with 5 grandchildren Andrew (Emily), Rodney (Andrea), Pamela (Art) MacNeil, Gordon (Ayako) and Ken Grise. He enjoyed visits from his 5 great grandsons Alexander and Eric MacNeil, Sullivan and Will and Clark Winchester and his “grandpuppy” Gertie.

Career and life in Barrie

John’s working career was with Ontario Hydro. He started in 1946 as an engineering trainee and 37 years later retired as the Manager of Distribution Systems for Georgian Bay Region. Dad and Mom lived most of their married life in Barrie. They were both active volunteers in the community. Dad with the Jaycees, the Simcoe Chapter of the PEO, the Golden K Club but most of his volunteer time was spent with Collier Street United Church (1954–present) where he helped in various roles, including four terms on the Board of Stewards and some eight years as an elder.

Later life and Grove Park Home

After retiring, Dad and Mom spent 10 years in Huntsville at Echo Valley Resort where they made many great friends over coffee, campfires and cards. John was predeceased by his wife of 64 years Ruth, his parents, his older sister Mary and her husband Jim Jack, his brother-in-law Alastair Crawford and a niece Elizabeth Clendening. He is fondly remembered as a strong but fair person who loved his wife, family, a good pun, a crossword puzzle and the great outdoors.

On the afternoon of March 11th, a bright, sunny, warm spring like day John passed away peacefully at Grove Park Home in Barrie. It was the kind of day you would have found Dad outside skiing, snowshoeing, feeding the birds or in the summer golfing, swimming or hiking. Thanks to all who visited Dad at Grove Park Home especially his kid sister Jean Crawford. His family would like to thank the staff of Grove Park Home for their kind and dedicated care.

A final, personal reflection

At Grove Park Home I remember John for his dedicated advocacy on behalf of Ruth's care—and, for his Tilley hat, feeding the birds, and for his gentlemanly ways. Further, it was John and Ruth who brought others into our lives, Jean, Scott and Marg, and Joan and their families.

See the life story of Ruth WINCHESTER in *Connections 3*. I prepared the life story here on the occasion of John's passing. It was read at the memorial service for him at Steckley's on July 28, 2014. John Hart, long-time friend of GPH, was the organist. It was a sunny day, breezy; 18°.

GPH: 04/03/2009

WINCHESTER, Reginald "Reg"

14/03/1929–09/07/2017

B. at Creemore, but lived for 50+ years in Barrie. His father's name was Clem W. After he finished grade nine he went out to work, typical of the time. He and his wife Barbara raised two children, Brenda and Roger. As a teenager, Mr. Winchester went out to Manitoba on "harvest excursions." He liked that and when I went to talk with him, I carried a coffee-table book about Manitoba, which brought back some memories for him. Mr. Winchester worked at Black and Decker. Travelled to eastern and western Canada. Curled. Enjoyed growing tomatoes in his garden.

GPH: 14/12/2016—A1174

•• WISEMAN, Dorothy

10/05/1924–10/11/2015

Mrs. Wiseman was born in Burkes Falls. She was a veteran, as was her husband Bruce. Married 29/06/1946. They farmed near Burkes Falls. As a result, Dorothy knew a lot about farm life. Their son, William "Bill" is a local M.D. Mrs. Wiseman always attended Bible study and had a dry sense of humour.

17/01/2007—S2018

WONFOR, Ethel

28/11/1931–19/03/2017

Mrs. Wonfor's situation was unique in that her son John lived at GPH at the same time.

GPH: 09/03/2015—W3012

2nd WONFOR, John

25/10/1957–

John is young: he suffered an acquired brain injury as the result of a childhood accident. He lived with his mom Ethel until she entered long term care. Nevertheless, he is a social person and everyone at GPH knows him as part of the environment.

GPH: 31/07/2014—M1213

‡ [RL] Young, Jane
 –09/01/2018

Jane lived in Retirement Living and participated in my programme called “Chap-Talk.” She was simply *the most interesting and engaging person!* Jane was from a prominent Barrie family, had grown up here, and had stories upon stories. She was living history. All those kinds of things can be found elsewhere. Here I would like to offer Jane’s mom’s recipe for baked beans. Enjoy.



JANE YOUNG’S MOM’S RECIPE FOR BAKED BEANS

Begin with a pound plus of navy beans. Cover with water the night before use.

Bring to a boil, then pour off the liquid.

Add a can of consommé soup *or* left over gravy.

Add a tin of tomato soup.

Add ¼ cup of brown sugar.

Add ¼ cup corn syrup *or* maple syrup.

Add a dash of mustard.

Add pork, leftover or freshly cooked.

Cover with water.

Simmer for five (5) hours.

Salt to taste.

Jane’s husband Harry YOUNG lived at GPH from 2009–2012: see *Connections 3*.

YOUNG, Jean *Harradine*

04/03/1934–20/03/2015

B. in Barrie, one of nine children. Though she suffered from dementia severely in the two or three years before her death, she had a remarkable memory for the experiences of her childhood. Jean could rhyme off the names of her siblings and recall the various moves she and her husband, Jack, made with the air force, especially the ten years at Cold Lake, AB.

In one of her childhood stories, at about age seven she was shot in the left hand with a BB gun. A neighbourhood boy was discharging the air gun, without BBs in it, and the children were putting their hands over the end of the barrel to feel the air come out. She did that and a BB came out and lodged in her hand. The Dr. did not want to try to remove it, so she had it there for the rest of her life.

All the children were sent out to get jobs at an early age. Jean completed grade 8, but her sisters, she said, went to high school. One time her brother shot a rabbit and brought it home for their mother to cook. Jean said she could taste the hair; it was the first and last rabbit her mother cooked.

Jean met her husband (b. in Winnipeg), when he was posted to Base Borden. Friends invited her over to meet him because they were “the same”—both liked animals.

GPH: 25/05/2007

- ZDANOVSKIS, Zelma
09/09/1920–18/06/2013
GPH: 29/09/2005

- ZVERINA, Alvina
25/12/1927–26/09/2014
Born on Christmas day.
GPH: 10/02/2010

IV. Retirement Living or, Mulberry Lane

RL opened on Oct. 1, 2004, a consequence of the building and renovation initiatives that also saw the construction of the structure that includes Pine, Spruce, and Willow areas. A list of the original residents and then, other early residents, can be found in *Connections* 3, 385–86. Harold Bolton, who moved into RL in Apr., 2006, continues to live there and is, in some way, a keeper of the story.

From 2004 until COVID-19 I led an activity for RL called Chap-Talk. Loosely fitting under the umbrella of spiritual care, we explored all kinds of subjects and interests, often reaching back to recollections of events and happenings, local or not. These were hugely stimulating and, for the last few years, with the gift of a “smart” internet-connected TV provided by Marilyn Kornyk and her family, we were able to expand our horizons and resources. Even before that, time spent with residents such as Fern Ward, Tillie Bertram, Nellie Shea, Eva Brown, Betty Fenton (Britain!), Joan Hamilton (Bath, Somerset), Marc Paris, Elsie Jackson, Harold Johnston, Marilyn Kornyk, Audrey Leis (rural Manitoba!), Jane Young (local history), Lorna STEELE (travel, Newfoundland), and Harold Bolton (farm life, shenanigans at the Post Office)—not all at the same time—was an education and a lot of fun. I often thought, “We should have a video running to preserve these memories of events!” Alas, ...

In addition to those listed as original residents of RL in *Connections* 3, the following people have lived on Mulberry Lane. Their year of arrival is noted. Several eventually moved into the LTC area of GPH, in which case their family name is in caps; if spouses / partners lived in LTC, that connection is provided. The names of a few people who appear in the life story section but did not live in LTC are marked with plus sign (+). “2nd” indicates second generation.

Alice FORD (2005); Myrtle GRIFFITHS “Myrt” (2006); Harold Bolton (2006); 2nd Nellie Seal (2006); Gladys JANSEN (2006); Janet ORMISTON (2006); Margaret BROWN (2007); Arthur Brown (h. of Margaret, 2006); Eva Brown* (2007); Margaret Foster (2007); Ruth Seanor (2008); Lorne ORSER (2008);
Mildred Chambers (2009); Patricia Svensson (2009); James Ernest “Lloyd” NEW (2009); Margaret THOMSON (2009); Jane FANCY (2009); William FORD (2020); Mary Russell (2010); Otilie “Tillie” Bertram (2010);
Lillian Crawley (2011) (m. Donald CRAWLEY: see *Connections* 3);
Audrey Leis + (2011); Victoria “Joan” Hamilton + (2011: see her memory of early WWII in this volume); Amie Allen + (2012); William Switzer (2012) (m.

Helen SWITZER); Margaret “Jane” Young + (2012) (m. Harry YOUNG: see *Connections 3*; also Jane’s recipe in this volume, under the entry bearing her name); George Kennedy (2012);

Joan Forde (2013); Marie Pifher (2013); Clifford Dwinnell + (2013); Joan Cannell (2014); Frances Ward (2014); Evangeline “Eva” PATRICK (2014) (m. Frank PATRICK: see *Connections 3*);

Agatha Robertson (2015); Marcel “Marc” Paris (m. Dorothy “Dot” PARIS); Harold Johnston (2015; † 04/06/2021) (m. Mary “Ethel” JOHNSTON); Manuel Aguiar (2015); 2nd Marilyn Kornyk (2015; her mom was Mabel YOUNG); Ruth PATTERSON (2015); Marjorie Cole (2015); Jessie Mills (2016); Robert Gratto (2016); Betty Fenton (2016) (m. John FENTON: see *Connections 3*);

Elsie Jackson (2017) (m. Cyril JACKSON); Donald “Ken” MCALPINE (2017); 2nd Lorna STEELE (2017); Kerry Langman (2017); Sarah “Bette” Mulvihill (2017); Doria Robert (2018); Wilhelm “Wim” DeVries (2018) (m. Beverly DEVRIES); Ruby Cox (2018) (m. Kenneth COX); Giuseppina “Josie” Tolfo (2018); Duncan McLean (2018).

Between 2004 and 2018, 70 individuals lived in RL at GPH.

If we extend this list through the end of 2020, we add an additional six residents of RL, two of whom had or have a spouse in LTC: Fred Mayer (2019) (m. † Hildegard MAYER); Elaine Broadhead (2019); Leonard “Len” Patterson (2020) (m. Ruth PATTERSON); Mary Johnson (2020); Fred Wall (2020; † 02/06/2021) (m. Evelyn WALL); Rosemarie Macdonell (2020).

V. Second Generation Residents

It's always "a moment" when you meet someone who is a second generation resident: the community has attained an age! You realize that at some point in the past a person was visiting GPH as a son or daughter, or son-in-law or daughter-in-law, or niece or nephew. The earliest second generation resident was Edna KNUPP, who came to live at GPH in 1968 with her mother. Edna was a special needs person, so this was an unusual situation.

If we look beyond the original residents, then the first person to qualify as second generation is Dr. Eleanor ROBINSON, who came to GPH in 1987. Her mother Janet lived at GPH for a time after it opened, before returning to Toronto to live with Dr. Eleanor. Next is Viola HANDY (1991), then Wilbur LAKING (1992). Twenty-seven residents of GPH have been second generation; this includes four who lived in RL.

A few people who later became second generation residents may have first come to GPH with the Senior Encounter programme, for example, like Flora HARPER. We might include in our list someone like Keith Wood, a recent SE participant whose mother Maude WOOD was a well-known resident (1983–1993). In the list that follows, the number within brackets refers to the *Connections* volume where the resident's entry is found or, in the case of RL residents, RL data.

AHERN, Sally (1): mother, Mary HUETHER (1968 or 1969)

BOWDEN, Ralph (1): son of Harold BOWDEN (by Dec., 1974–1979)

BROSKO, Eileen (3): mother, Maude Lewis TORTINGTON (late 1971/early 1972–N/A) and step-father Claude TORTINGTON (late 1971/early 1972–1974?)

BRYSON, Bob (1): mother, Florence BRYSON (1989–1991);

COOKSLEY, Edith "Edie" (4): mother, Violet "Vicky" BENNER (2001)

DOBSON, Erma (3): mother-in-law, Ina DOBSON (1982–1986)

EMERY, Helen (4 [in update of 3]): uncle, Walter HAVERCROFT (1974)

HANDY, Viola (1): mother Teresa DRURY (by July, 1974–1977)

HARPER, Flora (4): mother, Dolly MCREYNOLDS (1983–1990)

HARVEY, Gladys (1): father, Arthur ROOTS (by 1974–1979)

HILLIER, Robert "Bob" (4): mother, Marjorie REID (2008–2009)

JOHNSTON, Wilda *Carr* (4): aunt, Sadie CARR (1978–1989)

KNUPP, Edna (1): mother, Margaret KNUPP (1968–1974); at same time.

Marilyn Kornyk (RL 4): mother, Mabel YOUNG (1984–1998)

- LAKING, Wilbur (1): mother, Ethel May LAKING (N/A–1974)
- MACDONALD, Margaret *Trask* (4): mother-in-law, Mary MCDONALD (sic) (1986–1990)
- MATTOCKS, Muriel (3): father, John MACLENNAN (1993–1997)
- MAW, Bert (2): father, Albert MAW (by July, 1972–1976)
- NORTHOVER, Elizabeth “Bette” (4): mother, Louise Emma PUGH (1975–1983)
- ROBINSON, Dr. Eleanor (1): mother, Janet ROBINSON (1968–N/A)
- Nellie Seal (RL; 3, 4): mother-in-law, Alice SEAL (1980–1983)
- Lorna STEELE (RL 4): mother-in-law, Sybil STEELE (1981–1988)
Transitioned to GPH LTC in 2020 (see 4).
- SUTHERLAND Phylis (4): mother-in-law, Vera COOPER (N/A)
- Fern Ward (RL, 3): father, Albert MAW (by July, 1972–1976)
- WEBSTER, Donald (4): parents, Arthur (2008–2009) and Mary WEBSTER (2002–2008)
- WEBSTER, Myrna (4): parents, Arthur (2008–2009) and Mary WEBSTER (2002–2008)
- WONFOR, John (4): mother, Ethel WONFOR (2015–2017); overlapped.

IV. Senior Encounter Snapshot

The Senior Encounter programme began in early 1978 and has continued since that time to provide a place for seniors in the community to come and spend the day with other seniors and enjoy activities and fun, as well as lunch. For the beginnings of the programme, see *Connections* (1), p. 6; *Connections* 2, p. 4. COVID-19 brought a temporary but extended halt to this and many other such initiatives. For some reason, this photo was taken in late February 2013, the 24th. Muriel has been a long-time participant, as has Blanche. Kelly MacKinnon continues to manage the programme; Chris Flynn, Wendy Brun, and Mary Boulay work in SE.



Participants February 23, 2013

Back row, standing: Daphne Massey, Lorna Bennett, Blanche Morin,
Inez Viera, Eva Brown, Rhoda Willmott, Howard Saunders.
Sitting, front row: Prane BARAKAUSKAS, Muriel Usher Doan,
Eileen Leigh.

Eva Brown* was living in Retirement Living when this photo was taken, but used to come over for my Wednesday visits. Eva's grand-daughter Stephanie works in the kitchen at GPH, and her daughter-in-law Sylvana in Dr. McTurk's office on site. Two of Howard's daughters, Pat and Cathy also worked in the kitchen. Muriel's daughter Nancy was a PSW at GPH, and her (second) husband Grenville DOAN lived here. Sometimes SE participants move into GPH to live. This was true in Prane's case, so she and her family continued to be part of our community. The

size of the group has grown somewhat and there are more men than used to be the case. Jim BLANCHARD and Wayne CUDMORE were two recent SE participants who came to live at GPH. At the time COVID-19 halted this programme, Keith Wood was a participant; his mom Maude WOOD lived at GPH and, before that, she had worked in the kitchen. Maude and Keith's dad donated the big grandfather clock to Grove Park.

VII. QUOTABLE QUOTES AND SAYINGS

“May all your troubles be bubbles.”

Lionel DAWNEY—citing a Weston’s bread delivery man

The Poem “The Preacher and the Bear”

A preacher went out walking
'twas on a Sunday morn
Although it was against his religion
He took his gun along.

On his way he shot himself some quail
and a mighty fine hare
And on his way returning
he met a great big grizzly bear.

“O Lord, didn’t thou deliver Daniel,
Daniel from the lion’s den
also Jonah from the belly of the whale, and then
three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace
as the good books do declare?
O Lord, if you can’t help me
for goodness sake, don’t help this bear.”

— recited by Robert “Bob” JOHNSTON

Mr. JOHNSTON’S grandfather William Patterson taught him this poem when he was nine or ten years old, in Belfast, Ireland. He had remembered it ever since. Mr. Johnston recited it for me on Mar. 15, 2017 and again a week later, when I copied it down.

There are various versions of this poem. A substantially longer version was recorded by Phil Harris in 1947; by Andy Griffith, on his album, *The Wit and Wisdom of Andy Griffith* (1953); by Jerry Reed (1970). And by numerous others, including The Big Bopper (1958), who died with Buddy Holly. It is said to be “Traditional / Joe Arzonia.” The first name to appear with it is Arthur Collins, 1905.

For the lyrics as recorded by Jerry Reed, see:
<http://lyricsplayground.com/alpha/songs/t/thepreacherandthebear.shtml>

Another site says it was composed by Joe Arzonia in 1903; performed by Arthur Collins (1864–1932) and Albert Whelan (1875–1962). See: <http://monologues.co.uk/musichall/Songs-P/Preacher-And-Bear.htm>

Arthur Collins was born in Philadelphia and was regarded in his day as “King of the Ragtime Singers.” His recording of “The Preacher and the Bear” sold more than a million copies.

Mr. Johnston’s version seems to be an abbreviated version of the original. What is of interest is how the song / poem made its way to Belfast and how it morphed into this version.

“Live well; laugh often; love always.”

— Sylvia KENT

“Mercy, mercy” said Sir Percy.

“Fudge,” said the judge.

“Fury,” said the jury.

— Phyllis (and Jim) ROBINSON recited this nonsense poem on Oct. 3, 2007. Is it part of a larger poem or recitation?

“Walk on the sidewalk and cross at the green light.”

— Ursola BANAVAGE

“Here come the Americans: overpaid, over-sexed, and over here!”

— Kenneth COX, citing a complaint of British soldiers in WWII.

“You’re as helpful as a pocket on a shirt!”

— Charlotte “Bonnie” Emms

VIII. Meditations

“Our parents live on in us”

Like Bryan and Mark, my sister and I, in conversation after our dad died three years ago, expressed our good fortune (blessing?) to have had good parents: parents who loved us, encouraged our interests; people who were good examples in the moral areas of life; people “of good spirit”; and so on. The loss of our parents is a definite time of transition. It provokes much thought, much reflection.

On the one hand, we think of all the things that our parents gave us, all they did for us; we think of how much we meant to them. We think of all the experiences we shared; of all the things they taught us, by word and by example. We think of the kind of people they were and, yes, of the kinds of people that they were not, and we say a prayer of thanks. We see at every turn how fortunate we were. Even after their departure we realize that they are continuing to give to us, every day.

At the same time, I think it’s right to realize how much we meant to our parents. What would their lives have been like, what would they have been like, without us, their children. What would their lives have been like without the joys of grandchildren? Think of all the things they did, all the adventures they went on, all the places that they went—maybe, were obliged to go; all the things they learned through us? I often think of this with respect to our children: if it weren’t for Michael, I would not have gone to those Iron Maiden concerts. No heavy metal! And out of all these reflections we realize how much we meant to our parents. We must be special; our lives must be important.

And that’s where my thought for today comes. As long as we are alive, as long as our children are alive, our parents will live on. They live on not only in the way we walk (!), but in the way we approach life, in the way we interact with our families, in the way we treat the world around us, in our fascination with the birds in the backyard, with all nature.

“When it’s good, it’s never enough.” Your mom lived to a good age and you enjoyed each other for a long time. But we all know that the most beautiful of roses eventually withers and its petals fall. And there’s a sadness to that. At the same time, the beauty of the rose, its fragrance, always lingers on.¹

¹ Service for Pauline *Whitely* Fleming. Mar. 28, 2015. See John FLEMING, *Connections* 3, p. 131.

“Carry on, with a song”

The song “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” is one of the most popular songs of all time, maybe the #1 song of the last century. It was Joan’s “signature song,” and her song resonated with many, many people. It resonates with us because we all dream of a better day. It’s that dream, that hope for a better day that keeps us going when our lives are difficult and that makes us appreciative when some rainbow visits us.

Joan’s early life knew its difficulties, dislocations and challenges, but she had people who loved her and cared about her, and maybe an optimistic disposition, that saw her through a long life, a long marriage to a go-go-go person, motherhood, and “grandmotherhood.” Her children say she was always singing and, even in illness, she retained a beautiful smile, engaging and funny conversation, and an easy way. She was my mother’s tablemate at Grove Park Home and I saw her often at mealtimes interact with staff.

We all need a dream. I watched the movie clip of Judy Garland singing “Somewhere over the rainbow,” and, after I had, a list of topics came up, including “dreamers.” I hadn’t really thought of the song as a dreamer’s song, but I guess it is. I watched Celine Dion sing it, in a concert after the death of her husband; Eric Clapton ... The one I liked best, aside from the original, is Bob Marley’s, just his voice and a ukulele, a version meshed with “What a Wonderful World.” The two go well together, because the “wonderful world” fills in the dream, the wish.

The over the rainbow gives us a destination and it helps us bring a better day into the day we are living in, colours it. Those who live hopefully inspire hope in others. Joan has left this legacy for you her family. She has bequeathed to you a spirit of hopefulness, a spirit of song. In fact, I feel that I have been gifted too.²

“There are a lot of good people around.’ Audrey was one of them.”

In May (2017) Elaine and I visited our son Michael in Karlstad, Sweden. Then we took a boat cruise up the coast of Norway. On a stop at Bergen, the rain pelting down, we walked the streets to visit the large, historic city church. It was closed for renovations, but we looked down a street nearby and saw on a building beside a well-kept vacant lot, a sign in neon lights. The sign was attached to a blond-brick building and was “way up” its side. It read, “There are a lot of good people around.” Red neon lights. Who put it there? Why? I googled it when I got home. It’s on the internet to see, but my questions remain. I’ve thought a lot about the words, “There are a lot of good people around.” It’s true. Audrey was one of those good people.

² Service for Joan *Reeves* HURLBURT. May 13, 2017.

When I watch the local news, I am amazed at all the people who volunteer for all kinds of efforts to make life a little easier for others, to fund research that may lead to a cure for various diseases, to collect toys for kids at Christmas, ... and on and on. I watched last night: I didn't know any of the people that I saw doing these things. Police officers; paramedics; all kinds of people. There are a lot of good people and it's an encouragement and a comfort to know that they are out there. I do know good people. Your mom and grandmother was one of them.

Like the rest of us, Audrey had passed through some difficult times in her life, but she maintained a sunny disposition and an optimism about life and its potential. She loved her kids and grandkids. She had researched her family and liked to talk about it. Audrey was interested in lots of things, even late in life. She would ask me about my children and how they were doing. I spent time in Manitoba: we had a connection. Audrey had a happy childhood on a farm in Selkirk, MB; she knew about farm life. She was strongly determined: it was her decision that she was going to "take leave," "move on," rather than return to debilitating pain. Audrey taught us by the way she lived her life.

It's difficult to say good-bye to our parents. Iconic people. It doesn't matter how elderly our parents are at their departure: it's hard. When our relationships are good, the time we have is never enough, in my experience. And the ironic thing is, the more we love the more we are in pain.

Audrey lived long enough that you, her grandchildren, knew her. That's a big deal; it's an important legacy. To know our grandparents gives us insight into who we are. We come to understand why our parents are the people they are, and where our parents learned how to be parents: the circle continues. Good parents produce good parents. Grandparents love unconditionally—often they don't know what we're up to, but there's an unspoken trust that we will act well and a confidence that we will do well. As a result, we are more confident. From our grandparents we learn that we can survive difficult times and we learn what is important and what is not important. Grandparents are often wise and insightful. They stay with us long after their physical presence has gone.

I am encouraged about life when I think of Audrey. We accept loss more easily if we can find compensation in all the good things that came to us through those we love who "move on." Yes, there are a lot of good people around. We are recognizing one today.³

"Success is in the big print"

The world is a better place because Rita lived in it. Daughter, oldest sister to her six siblings; wife; mom; grandmother. Hard worker from a young age. Helping

³ Service for Audrey Leis, GPH Auditorium, Tues., Dec. 5, 2017; 11 a.m.

her dad in the bush; strong as an ox, as they say. Athlete. Competitor. Survivor of a kind of hardscrabble existence in her early years in the North. Funny. Tell it like it is person. Sociable. Born in the north; lived in the north.

There's a lot of fine print in life. I get the impression Rita was not so worried about the fine print. She lived without pretense. Rita got the big print right and lived a good life. A person of faith: Roman Catholic but not exclusive in her Christian identity: worshiped where there was a church. A long life. Cause of death? She simply wore out; the body and mind that was hers simply wore out.

She was loved. In my role here at GPH home I meet many great kids. They are adults, perhaps grandparents themselves, but we always remain children of someone as long as we live. Her sons and daughters are a testament to the person she was, to raise children who live caring for those around them, good parents themselves, who live with grace and humour. It's some comfort at a time like this that we were able to care for our parents. That we were able to give back. It's something. Of course, it's a time to reflect all that our mom (or dad) did for us, but there's also what we contributed to their lives. What would we, as parents, be without our children?

Life will be different now for your family. There's an empty place in the world, and there's no denying that. I've heard that people stay in "middle age" longer when their parents live long lives. I think it's true. But now there's been a seismic shift: the baton has been passed down—now you, her children, carry the Olympic flame, so to speak. But though Rita has left in a formal sense, her life will live on in you her children, grandchildren and her friends.

I spend a lot of time thinking about how people are still with us when they have departed. My parents lived to considerable ages, like yours. But before their passing, I so often thought of my grandparents, almost daily, and perhaps it's the same way for you too. To you Rita's grandchildren, your grandmother's strength, determination, "adventuresomeness," and resiliency—these things will go with you and help you in your life. And that's something.

So today we say good-bye to a mom, grandmother, sibling, and friend who lived a successful life, who completed her task, and has gone to be with those who went before her. May the Lord be with her in her departure for the presence of God, even as he was with her in life. Amen.⁴

⁴ Service for Rita LECLAIR, GPH Auditorium, Fri., Feb. 16, 2018; 1 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

GROVE PARK HOME VETERANS, PAST AND PRESENT REMEMBRANCE DAY 2018

List for Remembrance Day Service, Nov. 11, 2018: 101 (83 residents deceased; 18 resident now). Each year on Nov. 11 the names of all veterans, past and present, are read.

Lived at GPH and are deceased: 83

Three residents served in WWI. Mr Bishop and Mr Sanders were early residents: they came to live at GPH about 1973–1974. See *Connections*. Mr. Caunter served in the British army in WWI. In the 1920s he became a pilot with the RAF and flew Sopwith Camels. He got his Master's degree from York U. when he was 82. Mr. Caunter came to live at GPH in the spring of 1987. His daughter Ann lives in Barrie and I see her frequently.

Viva Armstrong
Alexander Banski
Frank Barber
John Barnet
Norman Bartlett
Evelyn Bauld: nursing sister
Wesley Bishop—WWI
Violet Brocklebank
Robert Burke—Navy
Marion Burns

Robert Bryson
Cyril Caunter—WWI Army
Wilfred Coon
John Cooper—RCAF, RAF
Donald Crawley
Peter Crerar
Howard Deane
Russell Dingman—Army
Ivor Doolittle
Robert Eatock

William “Bill” Elliott
Frank Faye
John Fenton—RAF
John Findlay—RAF
Sidney Fleming
William “Bill” Ford—Army
Pat Frankcom
Charles “Bob” Givens
Robert Griffiths
Margaret Guirey

Hugh Hall
Joan Hamilton [Retirement Living]
Robert Hollywood
Terence Holk
Brian Hope
Arthur Hurley
Warren “Wally” Hutchings
Gladys Jameson
Lyman Johnston
James Kelly

Bill Kelman
Leo Landreville
Allan Leishman
Hazel Leishman
Wilfred Lindsey
Dr. Bill Little
Richard Loney
Harry Luck
Marg Long

Roma Macallum
Muriel McArthur
Bill McCuaig—Air Force and Army
Kenneth McPhatter
Dorothy Morton: Army driver
Phyllis Murray
Ross Nixon
William O’Connor
Stephan Osachuk
Frank Patrick

Robert Purvis
Robert Roach—Air Force
Frank Sanders—WWI

Charles Seagram
 Nick Shelenko
 Wilbur Shier
 Harold “Murray” Smith
 Don Stephenson
 Alexander Strang
 Roy Studdy

Don Sturgess
 Kim Sutton
 Victor Thew
 Albert Urquhart—with USAF
 Cecil Ward
 Imelda Waud
 Arthur Webster
 Patricia Weeks (lived at GPH from Nov. 1, 2001—fall 2010)
 George Wilkey
 John Williamson

John Winchester
 Dorothy Wiseman—Army
 Harry Young—Army

Residents who are veterans on Nov. 11, 2018: 18

Pearl Corrigan
 Kenneth Cox
 Stanley Fojtik
 Charles “Ridley” Groves
 Ray Guthrie
 Robert Hawkins
 Helge Hartung
 Robert McBride
 Duncan McLean (RL)
 Allan McDonald

Anne McEdwards
 Marjorie Murison (WREN)
 John “Charlie” Oliff
 Mark Paris (RL)
 Charles Prosser
 William Scudamore
 Viola Tramer—Army
 Don Walker

At the Remembrance Day services the number of veterans remembered, through 2020, those who have passed on plus residents now, with a total.

in 2010	$49 + 13 = 62$
in 2011	$50 + 13 = 63$
in 2012	$58 + 10 = 68$; plus 2 Senior Encounter participants
in 2013	$59 + 12 = 71$
in 2014	$65 + 13 = 78$
in 2015	$69 + 14 = 83$
in 2016	$73 + 15 = 88 + 1 \text{ SE}$
in 2017	$83 + 13 = 93$
in 2018	$83 + 18 = 101 + 2 \text{ SE} = 103$
in 2019	$93 + 13 = 103 + 1 \text{ SE} = 104$
in 2020	$97 + 07 = 104 + \text{N/A}$, due to COVID-19

JOAN HAMILTON'S DIARY OF EARLY WWII⁵



Autumn 1939

The War begins; in Bath, Somerset

I think I remember the World War 2 years as some of my happiest because everyone was on the same level. That Sunday morning in 1939 at 11 AM when War was declared, we were all scared and bewildered.

At that time my family had two stores [in Bath, Somerset], dairies. My brother John managed the main one, and I the "little one." [Joan had turned 18 on

⁵ Thanks to Lorraine Maher for a copy of Joan's diary entry and the fine photo.

August 4.] That morning, as usual, I loaded up my bicycle with baskets of eggs, butter, etc. My brother Ernest had already delivered cans of milk, and had already attended the 6AM Communion service at St. James Church with Francis and Ernest.

All went well until 11 o'clock, when Ernest came flying into the stores shouting, "You must lock up and come straight home." I left everything, got on the crossbar of his bike, and he took me home, not telling me why!!! That was back in the days we did as we were told, without questioning anything!!

I found the main store closed, and when I went upstairs (we lived over the store), I found mother, John and Francis silent and looking terrified. Then Ernest told me we were at War. I believe at that point we thought we were all going to die then and there. John had the radio (wireless) turned on and we listened to various voices telling us what to do and, "Be Brave, don't give in."

Joan's brother Ernest reports for duty

Just then (there was) banging on the side door, and John went. He was told Ernest had to report at the Drill Hall straight away. Ernest was in the Territorials, the North Somerset Yeomanry. He was gone several hours, and when he came home he told us, he had to go to war straight way. He had done the milk rounds, so who would take over? I was sent to my Uncle's to ask his help, but he refused, so who else ...

[missing p. 2. Joan appears to have fallen and broken her wrist.]

[3] wrist in a heavy plaster, I still drove and delivered. In the spring [1940] my Aunt and sister Lilla left their home on the south coast, and came to stay with us. Francis was called up, and our life got easier because Petrol was in short supply, so our milk round was taken from us and given to a large company.

I started driving for a butcher, and delivering meat, but each week something else was added to my day's work, but when he added cleaning the fridge, which was under the floor, even for the war effort I just could not. So that day on my way home I went into the recruiting office and volunteered.

Life at home during the air raids

By this time, of course, Bath was not escaping the bombs and John had made us an air-raid shelter in the basement. We had a dog and two cats, my Aunt had brought three dogs, two cats, and two birds. It was quite a pantomime to get dogs, cats and people plus tea tray down to the shelter. The dogs always got there first, we just had to shout out "air-raid" and start hurrying and (with) much barking they raced to get there first. The cats were put in (a) clothes basket and carried down, the birds covered over in case the ceiling fell in!!! We also had an elderly lady from London, a friend of my Aunt's, living with us. Miss Lowe was the only one really ready for an emergency: she took down a suitcase packed with a

change of clothes, insurance policy and money. None of us had time to think of such things!!

Joan reports for duty with the Auxiliary Territorial Service

By this time it was spring and we had had several very bad raids on Bath. Within two weeks of signing my name I had a telegram telling me to report to Honiton in Devon. So I was in uniform in the A. T. S., Aux. Territorial Service attached to the Army.

[4] In the district I grew up in, there were twelve girls of the same age; we went to the Infants school together, the Junior and Senior Schools, and all stayed fairly friendly, but I was the only one to volunteer. The other eleven decided they would take their chances, because they hoped to go into a local factory, where they had begun making ammunition, and they did just that, but within the first year of them working there the factory had a direct hit. Ten were killed and one badly injured and didn't live very long after the war.

Just after I left home, my Aunt, Lilla and Miss Lowe decided it was safe for them to go home, and a little later still, John was called up. So he took Mother down to live with our Aunt, and he packed our belongings and stored them with a friend, and just walked away from the stores. Unfortunately this friend's house had a direct hit. Captain Snell was killed, and of course all our belongings gone.

Life in an army camp: Honiton, East Devon

Life in Army camp either makes or breaks one. The day in training begins at 6 AM, out on the parade ground for 15 mins. P.T. Then back to dress properly in uniform, with breakfast at 7 AM, back to the hut for inspection for tidiness. Line up for everything—health examination, inoculations, food, lectures, out on the Parade Grounds for instruction on drills, marching, Route marches in new shoes ... We started with 5 miles, working up to 15 miles; we were never finished until 8 PM, which saw us tired out and sleeping soundly, with our call at 5:30 AM to start again at 6 AM. By the end of that week the instructors gave us information (about) where our next training camp would be.

Another army camp: Hereford; Joan becomes a driver

[5] My next camp was in Hereford, which is just on the borders of South Wales. Three of us left Honiton, and when we arrived at Hereford Railway Station we were a group of about 100 females (of) all shapes and sizes and ages. We were to begin a driver's course. There were 48 of us in one room. 24 double bunk beds. I was allotted a top bunk: the first night I fell out and thought I had better become a more quiet "sleeper." I learnt a good lesson on many females living together!!! and decided to keep to myself and be as quiet as possible. After the second lesson the instructor sent me out of class to report to an officer, as he had realized I—as well as two others—could already drive and was wasting his time.

Lost on a training route at night

We had to drive officers around on the training routes to make sure the instructors were doing their jobs. We were called the “Gestapoes!” The only time we joined the class was to learn to drive in convoy. We completed the day class, but the night class was a different matter. Half way through we changed drivers, two drivers to a lorry, so I was then driving, but suddenly we seemed to be going so slow, we could have run quicker ... the other girl jumped out to see if (there was) any problem and climbed back in, doubled up laughing. It seemed we had lost the convoy and was (were) following a bicycle!!! (This was possible) when you realize (there were) no street lights, so everything (was) pitch black, and car lights were only an 1/8 (inch) in diameter, in fact just a “pin hole.” Not even a sign post, so we had to stay put until first light and we could see to read a map. We found our way back to camp and, of course, we didn’t live that boo-boo down.

Settling in to a regimen

By this time we were used to listening for sounds of air raid sirens, and listening [6] for falling bombs, and how far away they were. Anything for cover, and to pick ourselves up, look around to see if we could help, and then carry on. There seemed to be no time for regular church services, but when a Padre appeared (there was) only time for minute prays (sic).

[End.]

APPENDIX 2

1. Record of passages at GPH Jan. 1, 2013—Dec. 31, 2018

* = conducted funeral / memorial service

A service called “Celebration of Life” now takes place twice a year. For some years after 1985, passages did not occur often, and a service was held in the auditorium of the church next door when a resident died. These became monthly gatherings even before the addition of a Chapel in the renovation and building of 2002–2004. Now there were 143 residents, and as a LTC home the duration of stays became shorter, so that more than monthly services was required. The current practice emerged as a result. Families and staff are invited to an evening where loved ones are remembered; a family member or friend is invited to say a few words about their loved one. During COVID-19—in spring and fall of 2020, and the spring of 2021— a service has been put online to help with the need to say good-byes, by both families and staff.

2013 = 23 passages

03/02/1922–11/02/2013	10/08/2007	ELLIS, Hilda
23/07/1932–21/02/2013	27/05/2009	THORNHILL, Dorothy
18/12/1926–07/03/2013	24/03/2010	DAMERINO, Bambi
17/07/1934–08/03/2013	21/09/2012	PRICE, Charles
19/09/1922–09/03/2013*	20/06/2011	MITCHELL, Ruth
28/07/1924–19/03/2013	15/04/2005	DIGNARD, Marian “Marnie”
12/10/1922–06/04/2013	08/05/2008	MARCHAND, Rita
17/06/1937–04/05/2013	25/06/2012	ARMSTRONG, Lorne
26/09/1921–07/06/2013	04/08/2006	PUTT, Beryl
09/09/1920–18/06/2013	29/09/2005	ZDANOVSKIS, Zelma
03/03/1920–23/06/2013	27/01/2012	HILL, Irene
20/07/1924–19/07/2013	06/02/2012	HOLLYWOOD, Betty
17/01/1929–28/07/2013	25/09/2009	ORR, Robert “Jim”
25/07/1910–21/08/2013 103	23/05/2008	MCKELVEY, Marjory
16/01/1944–28/08/2013	07/05/2007	SHAW, Pat

19/11/1919–08/09/2013	26/06/2001	STAFFORD, Joyce
09/10/1919–06/10/2013	30/12/2010	COLEMAN, Lenora
22/04/1925–11/10/2013	02/04/2012	HOLLYWOOD, Robert
09/06/1919–11/11/2013	11/10/2013	PYETTE, Edna
15/04/1917–17/11/2013	27/07/2012	MCBRIDE, Ella
23/10/1918–18/11/2013	21/03/2013	TANNER, Reta
08/04/1933–21/11/2013	01/06/2012 RL	ALLEN, Amie
25/03/1936–23/12/2013	13/06/2011	WAITE, Harry
2014 = 35		
21/03/1928–05/01/2014	11/11/2009	ROBINSON, Phyllis
12/02/1930–01/02/2014	20/11/2009	SCHULZ, Eileene
10/02/1932–05/02/2014	29/09/2003	STASEK, Jeanne “Jeanie”
25/08/1931–02/03/2014	12/07/2012	MCPHATTER, Kenneth
05/01/1916–09/03/2014	26/05/2010	FORD, Jean
16/08/1921–11/03/2014*	04/03/2009	WINCHESTER, John
04/05/1921–12/03/2014	28/06/2012	NUTTAL, Amy
22/08/1938–18/03/2014	15/01/2014	TRIEMSTRA, Jane
30/06/1925–04/04/2014	10/12/2008	HUGHES, Lily
18/01/1952–17/04/2014	20/12/2012	PETTYPIECE, Helen
02/03/1913–02/05/2014 101	03/01/2007	FINLAY, John
08/12/1914–10/05/2014 99	16/10/2009	VALLEY, Margaret
22/09/1922–30/05/2014	21/10/2013	CHURCH, Gordon
09/06/1920–01/06/2014	11/10/2011	OSACHUK, Stephen
26/08/1932–20/06/2014	29/07/2013	LOWE, Thomas
19/10/1926–25/06/2014	09/03/2012	CHALMERS, John
13/05/1937–03/07/2014	10/03/2014	BORLAND, Betty
23/11/1938–14/07/2014	03/07/2013	GODINA, Faye
28/09/1931–30/07/2014	09/12/2010	EMMS, Dorsey
28/08/1914–31/07/2014 99	09/09/2010	EVANS, Joan
16/04/1939–12/08/2014	07/07/2014	MIDDEL, Dorothy
10/02/1920–30/08/2014	14/10/2011	KILGOUR, Louise
19/05/1928–04/09/2014	19/12/2012	ADAMS, Muriel
04/08/1921–19/09/2014	28/12/2011 RL	HAMILTON, Joan

03/07/1925–26/09/2014	20/04/2012	GRAHAM, Joan
25/12/1927–26/09/2014	10/02/2010	ZVERINA, Alvina
17/02/1929–30/09/2014	17/12/2008	MCGRATH, Nelson
26/01/1940–07/11/2014	18/02/2013	WEBSTER, Myrna
29/12/1936–09/11/2014	17/08/2011	AIKIN, Sandra “Sandy”
08/09/1933–09/11/2014	14/11/2011	SNIDER, Don
10/01/1913–12/11/2014 101	04/01/2010	BOLTON, Viola
20/09/1919–03/12/2014	20/07/2011	THOMSON, Margaret
07/05/1921–06/12/2014	20/03/2008	LEE, Aldythe “Ollie”
15/05/1924–13/12/2014	28/11/2014	KENNEDY, Doreen
20/04/1929–30/12/2014	10/01/2011	CARRUTHERS, Audrey
2015 = 46		
29/11/1922–07/01/2015	18/04/2008	SUTHERLAND, Phyllis
01/02/1924–04/02/2015	16/01/2008	MACLELLAN, Lima
06/11/1931–07/02/2015	22/08/2014	ESKESEN, Kaj
26/09/1932–10/02/2015	10/04/2014	BREAUGH, Shirley
23/04/1924–10/02/2015	07/08/2013	GOUGH, Beverly “Bev”
19/02/1922–14/02/2015	31/08/2009	BAILEY, Minerva “Mickey”
28/12/1929–20/02/2015	13/06/2002	FANJOY, Ruth
28/08/1926–28/02/2015	01/12/2013 RL	DWINNELL, Cliff
17/05/1949–02/03/2015*	18/02/2011	ALLAN, Valerie
10/10/1925–04/03/2015*	29/06/2012	PATTENDEN, Hallie
06/06/1925–09/03/2015	06/10/2014	HUTCHINGS, Warren “Wally”
04/03/1934–20/03/2015	25/05/2007	YOUNG, Jean
11/02/1953–21/03/2015	28/02/2015	DUARTE, Adilia “Dilita”
03/09/1937–23/03/2015	01/04/2013	MARTSKOVICH, Nada
04/08/1928–01/04/2015	03/03/2015	GALE, Donald “Donna”
19/02/1928–20/04/2015	09/04/2015	HILLIER, Robert “Bob”
30/03/1935–27/04/2015	21/02/2012	PINKERTON, Mary
02/09/1924–28/04/2015	23/07/2012	SWITZER, Helen
10/01/1935–29/04/2015	20/03/2014	TEVELDE, Gysbertha “Betty”
30/12/1930–28/05/2015	13/04/2012	FORD, William “Bill”
13/01/1933–03/06/2015	22/11/2013	GREELEY, Irene
11/04/1922–17/06/2015	18/09/2008	SMITH, Kathleen “Kate”
15/05/1913–18/06/2015 102	29/12/2010	BOWER, Helen
11/06/1929–22/06/2015	06/03/2015	MINNINGS, Eugene
19/05/1929–28/06/2015	04/07/2012	MCPHATTER, Mae

22/07/1918–02/07/2015	16/02/2012	SNOWDON, Dolly
13/07/1947–05/07/2015	04/06/2012	MASSIE, Paul
20/03/1925–24/07/2015	02/05/2011	HARPER, Flora
09/09/1929–31/07/2015	12/12/2008	MCGRATH, Helen
10/04/1937–14/09/2015	13/03/2015	GROSE, Garnet
06/09/1922–16/09/2015	23/11/2004	MCLEOD, Rita
24/03/1933–23/09/2015	26/05/2006	MCKAY, James
09/09/1930–30/09/2015	06/05/2010	BURKE, Doris
03/05/1923–07/10/2015	23/11/2000	MASHINTER, Betty
11/07/1932–11/10/2015*	16/11/2009	MACKENZIE, Marion
01/03/1920–13/10/2015	02/04/2012	IMRIE, Eva
02/12/1924–14/10/2015	13/07/2015	NIXON, Elizabeth “Betty”
30/04/1931–28/10/2015	22/07/2013	CLOUGHLEY, Delbert
10/05/1924–10/11/2015	17/01/2007	WISEMAN, Dorothy
12/05/1914–15/11/2015* 101	07/05/2010	MILLS, Agnes
25/04/1929–23/11/2015	08/08/2014	SCOTT, Muriel
21/11/1936–28/11/2015	11/07/2014	FORBES, Howard
20/11/1937–07/12/2015	29/07/2011	HAJGATO, Zoltan
10/03/1920–13/12/2015	28/04/2008	SUTTON, Sarah “Helen”
28/10/1921–16/12/2015	01/05/2015	PETROWSKY, Pauline
18/03/1932–30/12/2015	08/09/2011	HALL, Clarence
2016 = 41		
22/05/1916–07/01/2016 99	25/11/2013	HUNT, Alice “Mae”
07/12/1926–08/01/2016	05/01/2012	KENT, Sylvia
03/06/1933–08/01/2016	26/08/2013	WARNICA, Walter
10/03/1920–26/01/2016	27/10/2010	OAKLEY, Eva
14/10/1928–01/02/2016	24/03/2014	HAWKINS, Vernon “Vern”
20/05/1937–05/02/2016	19/06/2009	GARFAT, Marlene “Molly”
01/05/1941–09/02/2016	20/03/2013	SCORY, Loretta “Joyce”
08/07/1934–20/02/2016	09/05/2014	MARKOV, Elena “Ellen”
13/03/1932–01/03/2016	30/03/2015	GUILLET, Rita
03/06/1929–02/03/2016	22/12/2014	MACMILLAN, Mary
22/08/1918–14/03/2016	06/05/2015	PROVAN, Barbara
19/09/1933–20/03/2016	26/03/2015	HARLEY, Lillian “Joyce”
29/07/1924–22/03/2016	26/06/2014	THOMPSON-CALVERT, Th.
07/01/1932–27/03/2016	15/10/2008	HARRIS, Dorothy
06/07/1934–01/04/2016	13/06/2014	HEAL, Katherine
12/06/1926–01/04/2016	13/05/2013	WILLIAMS, James “Jimmy”

19/09/1932–04/04/2016	10/08/2012	JOHNSON, Marilyn
04/07/1927–23/04/2016	13/09/2010	COX, Doris
29/10/1926–01/05/2016	10/09/2014	ELLIOTT, William
09/04/1922–15/05/2016	11/10/2007	RICHARD, Imelda
04/04/1912–20/05/2016 104	13/07/2011 99	HOLT, Florence
14/07/1924–21/05/2016	18/01/2016	FAIRHEAD, Helen
03/10/1927–29/05/2016	17/02/2016	KENNEDY, Dorothy
09/02/1936–24/07/2016	29/12/2006	CORTOPASSI, Esterina
14/12/1925–26/07/2016	10/10/2012	GUIREY, Margaret
10/03/1917–10/08/2016 99	31/05/2016	PETRYSHYN, Steve
29/01/1935–28/08/2016	13/09/2013	ASHCROFT, John
12/01/1920–08/09/2016	11/09/2014	SMITH, Harold “Murray”
19/12/1924–09/09/2016	08/06/2011	GIVENS, Charles “Bob”
15/03/1923–16/09/2016	17/04/2009	DESJARLAIS, C. “Kay”
23/02/1931–27/09/2016	27/08/2010	BOBBETTE, Joan
12/03/1927–08/10/2016	03/06/2010	MCKEE, Dorothy
20/11/1926–17/10/2016	27/03/2013	SARGEANT, Mary E. “Beth”
28/09/1944–28/10/2016	09/09/2016	MEDEIROS, Silvana
06/03/1919–01/11/2016	25/11/2010	TAYLOR, Marguerite
09/06/1917–17/11/2016 99	04/03/2015	FAYE, Francis “Frank”
02/02/1942–27/11/2016	16/11/2012	DUBOIS, Gail
30/12/1937–02/12/2016	12/08/2015	FERRIS, Mary “Pat”
08/06/1926–06/12/2016	20/08/2012	CURLEY, Rita
06/10/1926–18/12/2016	02/01/2014	HUGHES, Robert <u>Gordon</u>
21/02/1932–25/12/2016	07/02/2014	STURGESS, Don

2017 = 46

27/11/1921–07/01/2017	17/10/2007	INGRAO, Yoli
26/08/1915–08/01/2017 101	15/07/2009	HICKS, Ina
12/02/1922–12/01/2017	22/10/2015	COON, Wilfred “Wilf”
20/12/1970–15/01/2017	03/03/2016	GUTIERREZ REYES, Marcia
13/12/1933–24/01/2017	13/03/2006	WILSON, Sara “Sally”
23/12/1920–02/02/2017	14/03/2011	DONNELLY, Phyllis
06/06/1923–03/02/2017	15/12/2014	BARAKAUSKAS, Prane
15/03/1920–04/02/2017	22/01/2016	MACNICOL, Gladys
30/09/1920–06/02/2017	26/06/2015	KELLY, Dorothy “Dolly”
09/11/1938–07/02/2017	12/03/2015	BYERS, Robert “Bob”

29/02/1920–08/02/2017	12/10/2005	VASEY, Mary Agnes <u>Irene</u>
12/12/1934–20/02/2017	21/03/2014	THOMAS, Herbert “Bob”
04/08/1934–01/03/2017	16/03/2011	MANDAR, Donna
08/07/1927–06/03/2017	04/02/2016	ROLFF-PETERSEN, Harald
28/11/1931–19/03/2017	09/03/2015	WONFOR, Ethel
28/11/1923–03/04/2017*	03/06/2015	FANCY, Jane
10/02/1935–26/04/2017	08/04/2016	RODGERS, Barbara
03/08/1930–05/05/2017*	08/12/2010	HURLBURT, Joan
04/06/1926–07/05/2017	07/04/2006	BANAVAGE, Ursola
23/12/1931–17/05/2017	15/02/2017	FOSTER, Kenneth “Ken”
01/09/1926–17/05/2017	02/08/2016	MILLS, Julia
21/01/1928–02/06/2017	05/01/2011	FLEMING, Joyce “Alex”
03/09/1932–05/06/2017	27/03/2017	HUGHES, Blanche
26/06/1930–15/06/2017	16/03/2015	JOHNSTON, Ethel
17/04/1923–29/06/2017	01/02/2017	MCGUGAN, Donald
26/07/1934–01/07/2017	03/11/2016	LITTLE, Robert “Bob”
14/03/1929–09/07/2017	14/12/2016	WINCHESTER, Reginald
08/04/1920–16/07/2017	29/08/2012	DICKSON, Marie
19/09/1937–17/07/2017	26/10/2015	FERGUSON, Neva
07/12/1921–25/07/2017	24/06/2013	CRAWFORD, Elsie
17/06/1963–12/08/2017	26/07/2017	BOXALL, Maureen
03/08/1926–14/08/2017	12/04/2013	HALL, Hugh
28/05/1922–14/08/2017	07/09/2011	WILSON, Helen
01/07/1943–06/09/2017	06/10/2015	PRITCHARD, Carolyn
10/05/1923–17/09/2017	05/02/2016	PETERS, Eva
18/09/1924–03/10/2017*	10/07/2015	PURVIS, Robert
01/01/1928–11/10/2017	04/03/2013	LATENDRESSE, Shirley
20/01/1925–27/10/2017*	29/08/2007 10	ROACH, Robert
25/03/1924–07/11/2017	09/02/2017	JOHNSTON, Robert “Bob”
22/11/1926–11/11/2017	19/08/2011	COOK, Gladys
28/12/1930–12/11/2017	12/09/2016	SHELENKO, Nick
27/03/1919–12/11/2017	30/11/2012	WAUD, Imelda
20/09/1933–14/11/2017	07/08/2014	IVANYSHYN, Loretta
13/04/1927–09/12/2017	01/03/2017	DONOGHUE, M. “Marni”
10/01/1944–11/12/2017	20/03/2012	FARRELL, John
31/10/1924–25/12/2017	01/09/2017	HOGGARTH, Francis “Ruth”

Mabel RODGMAN moved to Pembroke after five years at GPH:

04/10/1923–29/09/2017 14/05/2012.

2018 = 45

19/09/1928–05/01/2018	30/04/2004	13	ROSS, Hazel
15/03/1938–07/01/2018	18/10/2017		STEIN, Shirley
27/11/1939–10/01/2018	06/12/2017		JAEKEL, Helga
13/11/1928–20/01/2018	13/01/2018		KENNETT, Rosemary
27/02/1937–23/01/2018	03/08/2016		LOWES, Dorothy
23/01/1936–22/01/2018	15/01/2015		FORSYTHE, Shirley
08/10/1933–24/01/2018	04/04/2016		WARNER, Anne
01/12/1927–26/01/2018	18/04/2017		MCGUGAN, Esther
29/06/1930–12/02/2018*	18/02/2012		LECLAIR, Rita
14/03/1928–15/02/2018	07/10/2009		BINNIE, June
20/08/1932–17/02/2018	19/08/2009		AWENDER, Johann
04/06/1925–17/02/2018	04/04/2016		WARDLAW, Lois
26/09/1934–20/02/2018	03/06/2016		ROBINSON, Marjorie “Fern”
08/12/1929–21/02/2018	08/05/2015		SLESSOR, Daniel “Glen”
15/09/1923–05/03/2018	16/02/2018		JEFFREY, Jean
08/12/1930–13/03/2018	19/10/2015		MACNAUGHTON, Barbara
19/02/1930–15/03/2018	22/12/2016		CRAIG, Kenneth
02/06/1925–27/03/2018	07/11/2016		BANSKI, Alexander
13/08/1941–31/03/2018	30/04/2012		ROSTE, Mary J. “Jackie”
12/04/1933–29/04/2018	03/12/2015		CHAPMAN, Susan “Sue”
08/05/1934–01/05/2018	30/12/2011		GERVAIS, Marion
14/04/1929–02/05/2018	20/11/2014		BRINKWORTH, Elinor
20/10/1925–04/05/2018	30/01/2018		JONES, Pearl
09/10/1932–27/05/2018	09/04/2018		CARRIERE, Roseanne “Rosie”
09/04/1936–28/05/2018	04/09/2013		CUMMING, Ruth
20/04/1934–30/05/2018	04/04/2018		DICKIE, Ronald
19/09/1922–15/06/2018	01/02/2018		BIRD, William “Bill”
29/04/1922–25/08/2018	20/08/2008	10	STEPHENS, Mary
03/06/1934–08/09/2018	21/08/2017		FESS, Daisy
24/08/1928–15/09/2018	05/04/2010		MACDONALD, Maureen “Pat”
17/07/1922–26/09/2018	15/12/2017		CALDWELL, Harold
01/08/1940–16/10/2018	08/04/2009		PARK, Norinne
19/06/1925–17/10/2018	13/01/2010		MACGILLIVRAY, M. Jean

10/05/1936–10/11/2018	02/10/2015	TOMES, Edward “Ed”
15/08/1934–11/11/2018	13/04/2016	LEBRETON, Luc
21/08/1923–16/11/2018	31/07/2017	DAWNEY, Lionel
31/01/1929–19/11/2018	06/06/2014	NORTON, Lois
03/01/1940–20/11/2018	05/02/2018	LECLAIR, Sylvianne
03/01/1936–21/11/2018	02/04/2018	JUSTIN, Doreen
27/12/1926–10/12/2018	12/01/2015	REA, Dorothy
16/09/1925–13/12/2018	26/10/2011	HODGE, Lillian
13/12/1921–16/12/2018	17/11/2017	VANDERWAL, Ybeltje “Ivy”
07/11/1922–19/12/2018	19/11/2018	COPE, Marion
12/09/1930–19/12/2018	16/11/2017	MCBRIDE, William <u>Robert</u>
13/12/1925–28/12/2018	24/09/2015	LAROCHE, Elena

Total number of passages by year for 2013–2018

2013	23
2014	35
2015	46
2016	41
2017	46
2018	45

Total 236

Average per year: 39 /yr.

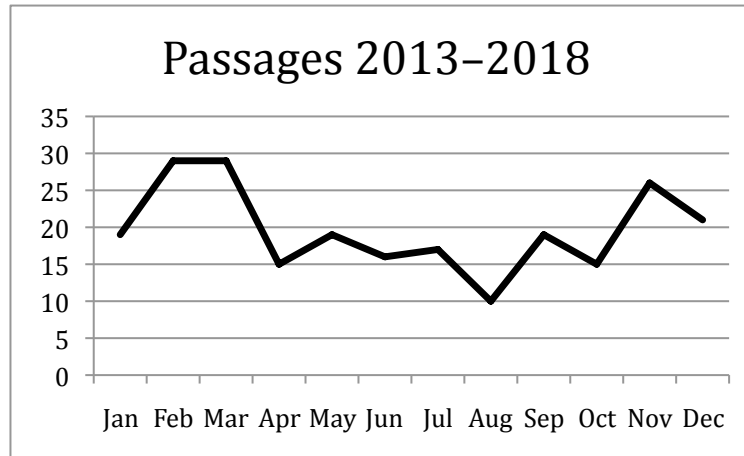
The total number of residents in LTC during these years was 143. This does not include the three persons from RL, whose passage occurred while resident there: A. Allen (2013, Nov.); J. Hamilton (2014, Sept.); and C. Dwinell (2015, February). Their inclusion in the figures for these years affects the data only ever so slightly.

Total passages by month across 2013–2018

Jan	19	July	17
Feb	28	Aug	10
Mar	29	Sept	19
Apr	15	Oct	15
May	19	Nov	26
June	16	Dec	22

Average per month: 3.25.

The months of highest mortality are Feb. and Mar., then Dec.; the month of least mortality is Aug. The following graph shows the two peaks, Feb.–Mar. and Nov.



These data have implications for the provision of pastoral care and care more generally. It comes as no surprise that August, a summer month, is such a “healthy” month and that, in a northern climate, the late fall, Nov.—the onset of winter— attests higher mortality. We note, however, that Dec. and Jan. experience fewer passages than Nov. and Feb.–Mar. Further, Apr. and Oct. are “good” months: in the one, spring is awakening and, in the other, our environment is awash in colour. In fact, all of Apr.–Oct. are better and best months.

2. Passages by year for 2003–2012

Information compiled for *Connections 3* permits a comparison with the data for 2013–2018. The following list provides the number of passages for those years. It needs to be noted that in 2004 the number of residents increased from 93 to 143.

2003	34
2004	36
2005	29
2006	45
2007	49
2008	34
2009	34
2010	40
2011	32
2012	41
Total	370

Average 2003–2012 37 /yr.

The figure for 2009 in *Connections 3*, p. 407, is incorrect: it should be 34, rather than 38. In turn, this requires correction of figures on p. 411. The total number of passages for 2003–2012 is 370 (not 374); the total number of residents from May 4, 1968 to the end of 2012 is 644 + 277 (370 minus 93) + 143 = 1064 (not 1068). In the ten years 2003–2012, there were 277 + 143 = 420 residents who lived at GPH.

Total passages by month across 2003–2012

Jan	34
Feb	36
Mar	34
Apr	32
May	29
Jun	24
July	35
Aug	30
Sept	27
Oct	24
Nov	27
Dec	38

Average per month: 3.1.

3. Total passages by year across 1978–2002

This is a span of twenty-five years. The records for 1968–1977 are too incomplete with respect to dates for easy computation. See *Connections*, pp. 304–309 and *Connections 2*, p.177. GPH was home to 68 residents originally; in 1983, 18 suites were added, bringing the number to 83; in 1987 another addition and renovation brought the number to 93.

1978	12	1987	8	1996	19
1979	17	1988	13	1997	25
1980	12	1989	16	1998	23
1981	8	1990	15	1999	15
1982	12	1991	17	2000	15
1983	14	1992	10	2001	31
1984	13	1993	15	2002	26
1985	10	1994	14		
1986	8	1995	23		

Total: 392

Total passages by month across 1978–2002; twenty-five years

Jan	33	July	30
Feb	24	Aug	29
Mar	35	Sept	35
Apr	32	Oct	31
May	31	Nov	42
June	35	Dec	35

Average per month: 1.3.

4. Total passages by month across 1978–2018; forty-one years

Jan	86	July	82
Feb	89	Aug	79
Mar	98	Sept	81
Apr	79	Oct	70
May	79	Nov	95
June	74	Dec	94

Average: 2 /mo.

The months of highest mortality across the last 41 years are, Nov.–Dec.–Jan.–Feb.–Mar. Since February is two or three days shorter than the other months, the number is $89 + 6 (89 \times 1/15^{\text{th}} = 6) = 95$, when adjusted. As is the case for the years 2013–2018, Oct. is the month of lowest mortality; June is next, then Apr.–May and Aug., followed by September.

These figures are of interest for caregivers in LTC because, “as the residents go, so go the staff”: months of lower mortality are easier psychologically and emotionally than other months. We can also see that staff can expect to experience some times that are unusually difficult, for whatever reason. I remember 1995 as an especially difficult year: we had not “lost” so many residents before and 1995 included Dr. Eleanor Robinson, who had made a deep impression on many of us. That was also a period of transition for GPH, from RH to LTC. The years 2006 and 2007 were also difficult—two years in a row! Along with its many rewards, caring for the elderly involves being able to cope with loss on a recurring basis. This is where being a team player is so important: better times and worse times are experienced with others who care. This book is dedicated to such exceptional people.

5. Average age of residents at admission to GPH for the years 2013–2018

2013	84.86 > 85.0
2014	81.7
2015	82.1
2016	85.2
2017	84.2
2018	85.5

Average age at admission across 2013–2018: 83.9 > 84 years old.

6. Average length of stay in years for residents who died in 2013–2018

2013	3.5
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2014	3.2
2015	4.0
2016	3.4
2017	6.6
2018	3.2

For example, those who passed away in 2013, who numbered 23, had lived at GPH for an average of 3.5 years—that is, three years and six months.

Average length of stay for the years 2013–2018: 3.98 > 4 years.

Synopsis for 2013–2018

The number of passages in 2013–2018 was 236. These residents had an average age of 84 at their admission and lived at GPH for an average of four years. Some residents lived at GPH much longer than this and are remembered especially well: Joyce Stafford (12) (d. 2013); Jeanie Stasek (10) (2014); Ruth Fanjoy (12) and her friend at GPH Rita McLeod (10), and Betty Mashinter (14) (2015); Sally Wilson (10) and Ursola Banavage (11) and Robert Roach (10) (2017); Hazel Ross (13) and Mary Stephens (10) (2018). In several cases we got to know their families and friends almost equally well.

7. The total number of residents at GPH 1968–2018. 50 years.

Between May 4, 1968 (opening) and Dec. 31, 2002, 644 people lived at GPH. See *Connections 3*, p. 411. Ninety-three were residents at the time, therefore, 551 had passed between 1968 and 2002. If we add the total number of passages since then (370 [2002–2012] + 236 [2013–2018]) *and* the number of people living at GPH at the end of 2018 (143), this will produce a total for the number of residents over the period of fifty years. That number is 1300. This extends from the time when GPH was a retirement residence through its years as a LTC home, a transition which took place in the early 1990s, when homes such as GPH came under the umbrella of the provincial government, in the days of the Bob Rae government.

644	<i>Connexions 2</i> , p. 175
<u>-93</u>	
551	
+370	<i>Connections 3</i> , p. 411 (corrected)
+236	<i>Connections 4</i> , Appendix
<u>+143</u>	current residents
1300	GPH's total number of residents, 1968–2018

The number 1300 does not include those who have lived in Retirement Living, which came into being on October 1, 2004. Seventy individuals lived in RL from 2004 to the end of 2018. Added to the larger figure, the total is 1370.

Special Points of Interest and Selected Index

Special Points of Interest

Valerie ALLAN'S Recipe for Broccoli Salad
Jean MACGILLIVRAY'S Casserole to Travel
Jane Young's mom's Recipe for Baked Beans

Roy ATKINSON'S antique tractors
John FINLAY'S Christmas Poem
Molly GARFAT as a child
Loretta IVANYSHYN and her *1956 Pontiac Parisienne* Kodachrome
Robert JOHNSTON'S "The Preacher and the Bear" (Belfast version)
Jean JONES, family photo, Islington, 1925
Alex MCLEAN: the house where he was born outside Meaford
Lois NORTON'S sidewalk song, ca. 1939
Robert ROACH, in his element as train engineer
Mary SHARP'S nonsense poem from Glasgow
Murray SMITH'S *Footprints in Time* textbook
Lorna STEELE and the Royal Doulton "Lorna" doll

Please locate these items in the respective entries.

Selected Index

"(I'll Be Loving You) Always", 164
"Bomb Girls", 169
"Hogmanay", 117
"Humourcraft.", 89
"Kelly's Groceries", 99
"Lorna" doll, 161
"Mineral Baths," at Keele and Bloor, 54
"Parents without Partners", 63
"Somewhere over the rainbow,", 89
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THE COMPILER

Originally from Meaford, married to Elaine Webster, an ICU nurse; they have three grown children, Michael, Jason (m. Natalie Rook), and Laura. His parents, Ralph and Doris, came from Meaford to live at GPH. For additional info, see *Connections 3*.



Impersonating the Big Guy at Fireside with dear friend Harold Bolton. Harold has lived in Retirement Living since the spring of 2006. Former postal employee (sometime prankster), provoker of laughter, professional level knitter, mentor to a number of young men volunteers (Brandon), competitive and excitable player of euchre. Jason and Laura both did high school (North) volunteer hours in RL and, that finished, continued to come, together, to play euchre with Harold. Eva Brown was often his partner. When I picked them up, I would always ask, "Did you beat Harold?" Sometimes they did; always they had fun. And to the right, Hallowe'en 2018.