



Mississauga resident Marion Harrison celebrated her 100th birthday at Wenleigh Long Term Care Residence on Sunday. Here, Harrison poses with her sons, Mark (left) and Robert Harrison. Staff photo by Jason Spencer

Lorne Park resident celebrates 100

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These days, nostalgic talk of dial-up Internet can leave some young listeners spellbound.

And what about the gasps that come from a discussion of life before cell phones?

Marion Harrison can top that: How about watching the emergence of TV and computers?

The longtime Lorne Park resident has seen a lot in her day, including another notable moment over the weekend.

On Sunday, friends and family gathered at the Wenleigh Long Term Care Residence to celebrate Harrison's 100th birthday.

Born Nov. 17, 1914, in the northern Ontario town of Smooth Rock Falls, Harrison moved to the GTA to study nursing when she was 20 years old.

She married and moved to Mississauga a couple of years later where she raised her sons, Mark and Robert Harrison.

Robert, the eldest of the pair, attributes his mother's longevity to a steady meal schedule.

"My mom is a creature of habit, three square (meals) a day," he said. "Even though she spent many years on her own, it was always a balanced diet."

Mark added that religion and a sense of humour are his mother's key to a long and happy life.

"Over the years together we can always recall getting a rise out of her," said Mark. "Some parents wouldn't have a sense of humour to understand the joke - she always got the joke."

Robert's wife, Pat Harrison, has known her mother-in-law since she was 12 years old.

Noting that both herself and Mark's wife are also nurses, Pat considers Harrison - who worked for about two decades at the Queensway Hospital (before it became Mississauga Hospital) - a role model.

She has been called the "Norman Rockwell grandmother" by a friend because she epitomizes the role with her five grandchildren.

Mark recently amazed his adult children in a recent conversation about the many technological and cultural advancements Harrison has witnessed in her life.

"Radio, television, cars, Internet, Elvis Presley, The Beatles, you name it, she's seen it all," he said.