

The Mississauga News

She's 100 years old ^{5/4} and going strong ^{Aug 10-77 NN}

On Friday, August 26, Mrs. Annie Kevan will celebrate her 100 birthday with her friends at Sheridan Villa, where she now resides, and family of two sons and a daughter.

In a recent interview Kevan spoke of her anticipation of the party that Villa officials had planned for her because a son working in business in England, her native country, would be flying over for a visit. That would complete her family.

One hundred years young and she still keeps herself active by walking around the Villa helping others in their wheelchairs and visiting with them. Sometimes she takes to one of her hobbies of needlepoint, knitting or sewing.

Her sewing skills reach back over 86 years to her apprenticeship years from age 14 to 16 years then full-time employment as a "high class dressmaker" on Bond and Regent Streets in London.

And if we think people are underpaid now consider that Kevan made the grand total of six pence (pennies)

a week, six days in the week, working from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. every day.

But she is obviously proud of the career she made for herself in this field.

"We didn't do any cheap work," she says.

Kevan gave all her money to her mother to keep safe.

At age 32 years she married "a good man, who worked in tin plating". By 1941 they decided to come to Canada and she has stayed here ever since, outliving her husband.

She talked about her young life in England, starting with her mother and how strict she was.

"But when I think of that strictness now," she said, "I am glad she was like that. It was certainly better than what many children get today."

On the matter of school, she pointed out that she had to leave at age 14. That was just too early, she said, because I was just getting started. But we had to leave to make room for others, she added and anyway in those days all we had to do was write our names clearly. Since leaving school she has educated herself.

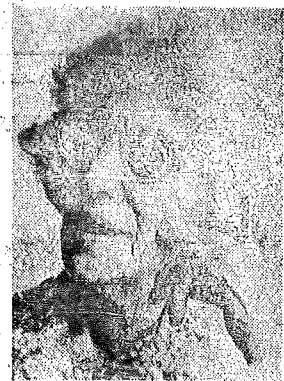
She also remembers the first flight by Wright Brothers and the discovery of electricity, going up to bed carrying a candle for light before the electricity was installed, and heating the house with coal.

World War 1 was a "terrible time for everyone" and people had to sleep in their clothes and shoes because they just didn't know when the bombs would strike, she said. When it was particularly bad people would go down into the bomb shelters, she said.

Kevan likes her life at the Villa where she made a home for herself after entering in June of 1975. Immediately previous to entering the villa, she was housekeeper for a man who entered the Villa shortly before she herself did.

Kevan still thinks of her native country and would like to return. She remembers vividly the fields of tulips and daffodils and has kept her memory full of her life's experiences, even at this age.

But she realizes that she has also built a good life in Canada and especially at the Villa, where her good humor and activeness add to her days and friends.



ANNIE KEVAN...

fondly remembers times when she would stand out in the crowds waving flags as the Queen passed by.