

Leavers, Helen

PEEL COUNTY DOC - L.

# Port Credit resident chalks up 105 years

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The grand old lady of Peel County is 105. Mrs. Helen Leavers of 63 Forest ave., Port Credit, chalked up her 105th birthday yesterday (Tuesday) and toasted the occasion with a glass of dry ginger ale.

"I've never drunk anything stronger," she says.

Mrs. Leavers and her husband Arthur, who died in 1935, came to Canada from the lace manufacturing town of Nottingham, England, in 1912 and set up a business in this fine art in Toronto.

In 1920 they moved with their five children, Sybil, Elsie, Bill, Jack and Les to Port Credit.

Mrs. Leavers believed to be Peel County's oldest resident, remembers

those days well, when theirs was one of the few houses on the street and they were surrounded by fields.

She recalls how their old Ford got stuck in the mud when they were moving in from Toronto, and how she used to be able to sit at the bedroom window, look straight across to the lake and watch the boats leaving for Niagara and Hamilton. Now the view is one of apartment buildings.

"Port Credit is not what it was when we came here," she observes. "There were only 1200 people living here then".

In spite of the fact it was 56 years ago when she left England and has never been back to the

Old Country, Mrs. Leavers still retains a trace of her Nottingham dialect.

Her age does not prevent her from getting up and down stairs under her own power and she's justly proud of the fact she is still nimble of joint and limb.

"If I could see better I could do anything, but in the past year or so I have had to retire," she laughed.

Mrs. Leavers firmly believes that a busy life, as much as anything, has enabled her to become a centenarian — plus five.

In fact, Mrs. Leavers, who was married in 1887, has outlasted her original wedding ring.

"Her own ring was worn so thin, it was just like a thread," explained

her daughter, Mrs. Elsie Edwards, who lives with her mother and brother Jack. "So we took her own ring and her mother's wedding ring and melted them both down into one new one, which we gave her for Mother's Day this year."

No big party was planned for Mrs. Leavers' 105th birthday yesterday. "There will relatives and friends dropping in to see her during the day, of course," said Mrs. Edwards.

The family, apart from Mrs. Leavers' own five "children", includes six grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. And nearly all of them live in the Port Credit-Mississauga area.



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