

Family recalls pranks at mom's 100th party

By SANDY MCLEAN
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A woman who suffered a stroke at age 36, at the onset of the depression, celebrated her 100th birthday among family Sunday.

Hailing from St. Thomas, Mississauga's Edna O'Hearn lived in Toronto with her husband and four children for a number of years before moving to Mississauga. She married in 1920.

Most of her 16 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren, including the youngest born Jan. 13, 1994, attended O'Hearn's birthday party at Chelsey Park Nursing Home on Hwy. 10, south of The Queensway.

O'Hearn's family is now spread out across North America from New York, Florida, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Georgetown, Parry Sound, Guelph and Mississauga.

"I was only a kid when my mother had a stroke," said her son Joe, who lives with his wife Mary at Tomken Rd. and Burnhamthorpe Rd. "She was paralyzed

down her right side."

The four children lived with relatives for a year until O'Hearn recovered at which time they were re-united as a family. "She didn't let it stand in her way," said Mary. "She generally enjoys life. She never complains. She always said she put us to shame the way she carried on. Her determination kept her going."

Living to be 100 is especially significant, said Joe, because no one thought she would survive her stroke.

But O'Hearn just carried on the best she could. Her four children — Joe, Marg, Jack and Jerry — were required to take on extra chores and from Mary's point of view, it made them more responsible.

O'Hearn loved to bake. Joe remembers sneaking pieces of his mother's Christmas cake from the stone crock she used to hide it in. One day he was surprised to find a rock wrapped in a cloth instead of the cake. Mary laughs at this tale. "She was always able to keep up and know what they were up to."



Cuddled in dad Joe O'Hearn's arms, six-week-old Paige gets a smooch from great-grandmother Edna O'Hearn at a 100th birthday party held in Edna's honor. O'Hearn survived a stroke 64 years ago and raised four children.

Photo by Joel Robertson

O'HEARN, Edna March 4th, 1994 MW