



THE TIMES

Elizabeth Ruck is 100 years old

Life begins at 100 years

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By MARY LOUISE BIRKS
Times staff writer

"I don't feel a day over 30," says Elizabeth Ruck, who celebrated her 100th birthday on May 28 at the Chelsea Park Nursing Home in Mississauga.

"Being 100 years old isn't anything special," she says with a grin. "But if I don't get any birthday presents, I'll run away from here."

Mrs. Ruck was the guest of honor at a surprise birthday party on Monday thrown by the staff at the Chelsea Park home. There was cake and tea for all the residents of the second floor.

By her own admission, she's had "a pretty good life." "I feel well, but then I'm not a complainer," says Mrs.

Ruck who was married for 47 years before she was widowed in 1958.

She's the mother of nine children (seven of them girls), a grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of 15.

Mrs. Ruck says she ruled her brood with a firm hand. "I wasn't a stern mother but sometimes I'd say to my kids 'If you don't do what I've asked you — you can sit there until you do,'" she says, wagging her finger for effect.

She was born in Kent, England and immigrated to Canada with her parents and four brothers in 1906. She remembers fighting with her brothers to have her own way. "But I saw the back of my mother's hand if I didn't behave," she confides.