



Hilda Siddall, centre, celebrated her 100th birthday last Monday at a party in her honor at Westminster Court. Shown with her daughter Marguerite Sharpe with her husband, Robert.

Airplanes still fascinate centenarian Hilda Siddall

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She remembers watching her uncle march off to fight the Boers in South Africa.

As a teenager she watched her father board a ship in Toronto harbor destined for France and the First World War.

One hundred years later, Hilda Siddall remembers it all like it was yesterday.

A resident of Westminster Court Apartments, Siddall was the centre of attention last Monday when she celebrated her 100th birthday

amidst family and friends.

She can still get around and still does all her own cooking. Until she turned 92, she used to regularly ride the bus downtown to Eaton's for lunch.

Her husband Edward, who died in the 1950s, worked starting up Shell service stations across Canada.

Siddall was born and raised in Toronto, but now calls Mississauga home. She had one daughter, Marguerite (now Mrs. Robert Sharpe) who lives in Mississauga; two grandsons Bob and Michael, and one great granddaughter, 10-year-old Sarah.

Siddall says that over her 100 years, the greatest thing she's experienced, "has got to be the airplane. If you told me as a girl that there would be things flying in the air, I never would have believed it."

And as a young girl before the Second World War she also remembers a more elegant and distant time.

"Every Saturday we would go for a carriage ride down Jarvis St.," she said.

"In those days it was much different.

"We would ride and look at all the Colonels and Majors in their uniforms."

As for change, Siddall thinks that when it comes to something like government, "it really hasn't changed that much — except for Agnes McPhail (first female elected to parliament). I used to love to hear her speak."

As for her longevity, well, that's simple.

"Oh! I eat everything I'm told not to," she said with a smile.

"Butter, salt, and sugar, I enjoy all three and I'm going to go on enjoying all three."

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