

# FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS 1953 - 2003

**HISTORY OF NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE** - Avril Glenn, Historian Committee - 2003

## BEGINNINGS

The North Glenora Community is relatively small in size but has always been a very vibrant community. Hard-working people with a vision for the future have kept the standards high and have provided leadership to make this a very desirable area in which to live.

The area began to be developed in 1952 and 1953 when there were only three homes already built: the Shaw, Cameron, and Tomko homes. Early residents have memories of mud caused by heavy rains and even flooding in the 107 Avenue area. Gravel roads and paved sidewalks were constructed over the next few years. Limited bus service between 124 Street and 139 Street began in July of 1953; the same year letter and parcel boxes were introduced.

Signs of progress were seen in 1955 when Westmount Shopping Centre, anchored by Woodward's, opened August 15th and Groat Road opened on the 19th of November.

## EXECUTIVE

It was evident from the beginning that, with so many young families in the area, some recreational facility was needed. Meetings were held in Coronation School in 1953 and an executive was elected to begin the establishment of the North Glenora Community League. **First President** was Marcel Lambert. Other members of the executive were:

Gordon A. Keddie, Vice President, Jim McFall, Secretary, Frank Payne, Treasurer, George Giles, Buildings and Grounds, G.D. Butler, Recreation and R.I. Davis, Social.

The following year, November 1954, a new president, Jim McFall succeeded Marcel Lambert (who was later elected Member of Parliament for Edmonton West). Robert Campbell came on as secretary, Hal Villett as treasurer and Len Callow as membership, with George Giles and Dave Butler staying on in their positions.

A firm foundation had been made and as the community grew interest remained high in providing the best possible facility and leadership for the young people as well as recreation for all. This necessitated more positions on the executive to handle the demand. The number of positions on the executive has increased over the years until today there are 18 voting positions, with their committees, and several other non-voting positions.

## COMMUNITY LEAGUE BUILDINGS

In 1953 two prefab garages were brought in to make change rooms for the skating and hockey rinks. Volunteers erected fences and flooded the areas. The small rink shack was replaced in the mid-1970s and continues in use to this day.

In the mid-1950s, it became evident that more space was needed for meetings and social activities. A wartime building was purchased for approximately \$500.00 and hauled into the city from Namao. This building lacked some basic amenities so skilled volunteers added a kitchen, washrooms and a cloakroom. This building was further extended in 1968 and was well used until the 1980s when the new community hall was built.

It was with great jubilation that the new hall was officially opened on January 17, 1981. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were M.L.A. Les Young and representatives from the City and the Federation. This hall now deemed the "Cadillac" of community halls was upgraded and extended in 1993-94.

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

Getting funds, especially in the early years, was not always easy. The annual membership drive in September helps defray the cost of running the buildings, but in recent years the greatest source has been the participation in Casinos and Bingos. These dollars have been supplemented with matching Grant money from the Provincial and Federal governments, the City of Edmonton and other granting agencies to pay for buildings, facilities, supplies and equipment. Over \$320,000 in grant funding was recently raised to redevelop the playground and park area in celebration of the Millennium. In addition, residents contributed \$15,000 and the Community League \$90,000 to help make the project a successful collaboration.

## **GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Baby Boom was evident in North Glenora in the 1950s and, with so many boys, hockey quickly became a major part of community life. Teams under dedicated coaches soon gained many trophies. Lacrosse, curling and softball were also enjoyed. Figure skating was important and many girls got their first lessons here on home ice under the leadership of Arlene Meldrum. In February each year there was a Winter Carnival with a Carnival Queen, figure skating, a concession and other winter events.

In 1953 a Women's Auxiliary was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Coventry. This group organized many fund-raising and recreational activities. In 1956 the first Brownie Pack was started by May Halhead, followed the next year by a Guide company.

The Federation of Community Leagues and Parks and Recreation sponsored a variety of programs for children and adults, such as: crafts, gymnastics, dance, painting, macramé, quilting and millinery. Yoga has been added in recent years. The still very active 45 Plus Club was organized in January 1993.

## **NEWSLETTER**

From the early days when it was cranked out on the Gestetner to the present high tech computerized version, the Newsletter (best in the city) has been the lifeline of the community. It ensures that news and information is communicated to all residents throughout the neighbourhood.

## **PLAYGROUND**

The original playground consisted of swings, slides and a sandpile. Over the years this has been modified, added to and completely revamped until now it is a state-of-the-art facility. A committee, chaired by Dianne Dennis, planned the present playground that was opened on June 21, 1998, with Anne McClellan, Member of Parliament for Edmonton West in attendance.

## **PLAYSCHOOL**

Organized in the mid-1950s the first playschool group met in the rink shack, then moved to the basement of Zion Baptist Church before moving into the community hall. It has now become a well-established part of the community.

## **GARAGE SALES AND GARBAGE FAIRS**

Under the guidance of Kay and Gene Wannamaker, Garage Sales have been held spring and fall for many years with great success.

Concern for the environment and the need to recycle was met in North Glenora with the first ever Garbage Fair to be held in Edmonton. This initiative put forth by Arlene Meldrum and Bill MacDonald and their committee spread rapidly to other centres. In 1995 North Glenora was runner-up in the community division to receive the Emerald Award from the Alberta Foundation for Environmental Excellence.

## **ADVOCACY**

The residents of North Glenora have taken exception to certain plans for commercial enterprises in the vicinity. A Bingo Hall, a Casino, a Hotel, an Antique store and a Used Car market were all thought to be inappropriate for this area. The Community League opposed them and, with the backing of the Federation, they were turned down.

## **FEDERATION**

Leadership is always evident and North Glenora has been the only Edmonton community league to provide three Federation presidents: Arlene Meldrum, Barry Logan and Don Eastcott. The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) regularly honours volunteers from North Glenora.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING**

In 1994 a community planning survey was held with good response from the citizens. The purpose was to put the community in a pro active position to adjust to the rejuvenation occurring with young families once more moving into the community. A committee from North Glenora, chaired by Tim Brockelsby, with the City of Edmonton Planning and Development Department, prepared a document: **The North Glenora Community Plan: A Vision of the Future**, which was approved by City Council in August 1998. This Plan emphasizes that North Glenora is an attractive place to live because of its central location, its tree-lined streets and its affordable, well-constructed housing. Guiding principles are set out to build on tradition and thus ensure that North Glenora will continue to be a special place to live.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Without volunteers we would have nothing. All the events, happenings, services and facilities have come about through the initiative, energy and hard work of volunteers. There were some lean years in the 1970s when it was feared the Community League would have to fold, but strong-willed people persevered. Some have given more than others; their names keep coming up. The list is long. Fifty years of service deserves recognition. To those who have helped make North Glenora the strong, thriving community it is, we say,

**"THANK YOU, WELL DONE!"**

The following articles were contributed by Elizabeth Turner for the 2003 NGCL 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

## North Glenora Kings and Queens – Harriet and Cliff

### *Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more*

Did you know that there was a plumbers' strike in 1952? It may seem insignificant now, but it delayed King Cliff and Queen Harriet's move into North Glenora by six months, from July when the house was almost finished until December 1, 1952, when the plumbing could be completed. While waiting to move into their new home, the family lived on 128 St just north of 107 Ave. Harriet remembers the travelling Aboriginal people pitching tents across the street to the west. Where Groat Road is now was the city dump, from 107 Ave down through the ravine.



This photo was taken on Cliff and Harriet's 60th wedding anniversary

Left to right: their one and only grandchild so far, Sharon, Harriet, Cliff and Russell

On moving day Cliff & Harriet brought their children Sharon (8) and Russell (4) into the world of mud. The house, the first completed and one of many built by Mike Leskiw in North Glenora, was finished on the main level. The basement was unfinished and there was no garage. In fact, Cliff had to bring in two loads of gravel to deal with getting into their house. Amazingly there were sidewalks on their street, but the road in the middle was a slough. North of 111 Ave, both where the shopping centre and the high school now stand, was open water where children would delight in catching tadpoles and frogs.

Sharon, who had been attending old Glenora School, switched to Westmount, which included elementary grades, and then Coronation, once it opened. Russell began his schooling at Coronation. One of Sharon's Coronation teachers brought a puppy into school one day and made the offer that the first child to bring him \$5.00 could have the dog. Sharon raced home at recess, broke into her piggy bank and returned with enough money to claim the puppy, all unbeknownst to her parents. To settle the ensuing dispute between Sharon and Russell about ownership of the dog, Cliff paid Sharon the \$5.00 and Corky became the family dog.

Cliff and Harriet have been members of the North Glenora Community League since its beginning. Both children were involved in community activities over the years. Sharon's interest was figure skating and the Carnival Queen contest, coming in second one year. Russell loved baseball, hockey and golf. His parents remember Russell's surprise at making a hole-in-one at the Victoria golf course as a 12-year-old.

Harriet and Cliff were an early version of today's double-income family - both had careers outside the home and after-school care was provided by willing neighbours. When Cliff and Harriet were first married, they worked conflicting shifts and passed each other coming and going in the morning. Harriet was grateful that her brother and wife also lived in North Glenora. Her brother was Elmer Souch, one of Coronation's early principals.

Cliff, born in Manitoba, arrived in Edmonton in 1936 via Saskatchewan. He first worked in the service station business and under Wop May from 1940-44 at the Air Observers School where he was a crew chief. He later became an electrician and worked for the government at Alberta Hospital for 25 years, retiring as head of the Electrical Department.

Harriet, born in Stettler, attended McKay Ave and Garneau schools and then took secretarial training at McTavish Business College. Her career included working at Clover Bar School Division, a doctor's office, Brewster Cross and Taylor (an insurance adjuster) and, during the war, at Bechtel Price Callaghan, an American company sending supplies to Alaska for building the pipeline. Before retiring, she worked 19 years for Con-Force Products.

Cliff and Harriet and family were actively involved in raising funds to build the West End YMCA in Westmount, Cliff through the Y's Mens Club and Harriet with Y's Menettes. They both remember the swimming pool (now closed), the rifle range in the basement and the many cold days spent selling Christmas trees in the lot at 111 Ave and 119 St. Another family involvement was attending McDougall United Church where Cliff and Harriet had met in the young peoples' group. Both of their fathers and Cliff were on the board and Cliff sang in the choir for 25 years. Harriet took on leadership of the Women's Missionary Society. These go-getters traveled far and wide with their trailer and started up the WeeTotem Trailer Club with 24 members visiting places such Banff, Jasper, Fairmont and other Alberta locations.

By 1980 Cliff and Harriet were retired and decided to winter in Sun City, Arizona. They rented a garden apartment at first and then towed a trailer for many years. Sharon had completed high school at Ross Shepard, attended NAIT and trained as an X-ray technician, married, had two children, moved to Belleville, Ontario and returned to Edmonton and NAIT for further training as a health records administrator. Russell completed high school at Victoria Composite, took architecture courses at NAIT then worked for Inland Cement and AGT. He is currently working in the real estate field as a computer support analyst, is married and has 2 children. Both Sharon and Russell, now living in St Albert, were able to look after their parents' home during the winters for 17 years.

Cliff and Harriet returned to our lovely Alberta winters in 1997 to stay. They are committed to "one of the best communities in Edmonton. Everything is here and we have great neighbours." Cliff and Harriet celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 13, 2000 at our North Glenora Community Hall.

# North Glenora Kings and Queens – Helen

## ***Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more***

Life holds joys and challenges for all of us. We all contribute in different ways and that's what defines a community – bringing out the best in each of us for the benefit of the greater good. Little would Helen know when she moved to North Glenora with her husband Aubrey and 5 year-old daughter Linda, that she would play a major role in the development of the neighbourhood's children.



Very pregnant at the time with her second child Judy, Helen and her family moved to our community from Calder on September 26, 1953. The house was already one year old and the first owner had just completed the upstairs development. This was one of six houses built by Mike Taylor on the same street. Coronation Park was still bush and the pheasants used to wander through the backyards looking for food. And of course there was mud everywhere.

Helen was born, bred and trained as a teacher and was also bilingual. However in those days, because she was a married woman, she was only allowed to be a substitute teacher, not work full-time. So Helen volunteered at Coronation School as a parent while substitute teaching at other schools. It wasn't until Linda was 11 years old and Judy was ready for Kindergarten that attitudes changed and Edmonton Public Schools offered Helen a full-time teaching position. For the next 15 years Helen taught grades 2, 3 and 4 at our community's school and also acted as the librarian for one year. Helen remembers clearly that women were not allowed to wear pants to work in the school until 1967 and then only as a "pant suit". As a strong, independent woman, Helen continued her studies at the university part-time while working under five different principals and teaching the children of many of the early settlers in North Glenora. Helen subsequently moved to Westglen School where she taught until retirement at age 65.

Aubrey had served in World War II and, upon his return to Canada in 1947, went back to working at Edmonton Motors, first as a mechanic and then in the claims department. Helen and Aubrey were actively involved in the Community League. Helen was Secretary for several years and Aubrey helped build the first Hall. He later taught bicycle safety classes to children. Aubrey also served on the Coronation Home and School Association.

Both daughters, Linda and Judy took their schooling through Coronation Elementary, Westminster Junior High and then Ross Shepard High School.

As the girls were growing up, the family took frequent trips in their Airstream motorhome to eastern Canada and the United States. Later they vacationed at their cottage on Lac St Anne. Linda currently lives in Calgary with her husband Sheldon. Judy and Roy, of Quadra Island, began their relationship as high school sweethearts, and now have two daughters Jessica and Abby. Judy now lives in Victoria where Abby goes to university and Jessica attends university in Sydney Australia this semester.

Helen's love of gardening came from her childhood. Her father owned the first orchard north of Edmonton. Over the years she has taken great pride in her garden and generously donated a large number of the plantings that now make up the mini-parks in North Glenora.

Helen describes North Glenora as a caring community. She has felt supported through her 50 years of living here, both with and without Aubrey, through thick and thin, mud and all!

# North Glenora Kings and Queens – Bobbie and Johns

## ***Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more***

Sometimes it's the little things that bring about life changing decisions.



In the case of Johns and Bobbie, it was running water. When you live in the bush near Lesser Slave Lake and your water comes from a rain barrel, moving into a house in North Glenora with indoor plumbing and running water, you feel that you "have arrived"! Despite the moving truck running out of gas on the long trip to their new home, that cold day in February 1953 was the beginning of a new life for Johns, Bobbie and their two daughters, 10-year-old Betty Lou and 4-year-old Donna May.

Johns' new job at a hardware store enabled these self-described "prairie chickens" to move to Edmonton. Johns and Bobbie had grown up together in the hamlet of Naco, Alberta. This new house for the family was a dream come true. It was fully finished on the main level when they moved in and the outside was stucco. There was not yet a garage on the property and just as well, because the road did not extend to the house. As Bobbie says, "we had to mush into the house through the snow" from 111 Avenue. Johns

and Bobbie were the first to occupy a house on their block. Telephones, albeit the neighbourly party lines, came later as the community developed.

As far as schooling was concerned, Betty Lou attended Westminster, which at that time included elementary classes, as Coronation School was not yet open. She then went to Westmount Junior High, Westglen (then a high school) and finally Ross Shepard when it first opened. Donna May, being 6 years younger, was able to attend elementary school at Coronation. Bobbie remembers, in particular, Coronation teacher Miss Jean Day and Principal Mr. Ramsey. Donna May then continued on to Westmount Junior High and Ross Shepard High School.

When the girls were young, both parents supported their community activities. Johns remembers driving the girl's softball team to its various games by squeezing the whole team into his Toyota station wagon, obviously before the day of seatbelts. Donna May played ball and Betty Lou kept score. The girls were also enrolled in the community bicycle lessons called "peddlepusher kids". Donna May enjoyed Brownie activities and Betty Lou belonged to the Canadian Girls in Training (C.G.I.T.) which used to meet in members homes.

Once the girls were older Bobbie began working outside the home. She obtained a position with the Toronto-Dominion Bank, first at the downtown branch and then at the Westmount Branch. To get downtown she had to walk over to 124 Street to catch the bus, so walking to work at the shopping centre was a breeze. Westmount Shopping Centre was a strip mall at that time, not an enclosed mall, as it is today.

As a family, Johns, Bobbie, Betty Lou and Donna May, took their camper trailer to Baptiste Lake for regular vacations. They also camped extensively around Alberta, Canada and the United States. Following retirement, Johns and Bobbie were snowbirds in Mesa, Arizona from 1980 to 1998, usually from the end of October to the end of March. With rising health insurance costs and advancing age making driving more challenging, they have remained in North Glenora to enjoy the winter since 1998. Johns' memories of Edmonton winters includes the day he stopped to pick up "four frozen ladies standing at a bus stop" and let them thaw out in his Toyota as he drove them to work.

King Johns (short for his mother's maiden name Johnston) and Queen Bobbie (a paternal nickname for Evelyn) are happy to participate in North Glenora activities. They especially enjoy the community turkey suppers, bus trips to interesting locations and 45 plus activity nights. The potluck suppers always have a good variety of food and fun entertainment. Card games for seniors are a particular interest of theirs. The couple describe North Glenora as a "great place to live and we hope to enjoy a few more years of it".

# North Glenora Kings and Queens - Louise

## *Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more*

In November 1952, North Glenora became the new home for Louise and Harry, childhood friends who fell in love and were to raise three children together in our community.

Louise was born in Medicine Hat but grew up in the Oliver area. In 1947 she graduated from the Royal Alexandra Hospital's nursing program. She worked first of all in the operating room and then went into private practice with a local doctor.

Meanwhile, Harry was growing up in the west end of Edmonton, going to Westglen and Westmount schools and was friendly with Louise's brother. Harry served in the Air Force and then played professional hockey for Dallas and Fort Worth. On returning to Edmonton, Harry played for the Waterloo Mercurys when they won the World Championship in 1950.



As Harry and Louise settled into married life in 1950, they went house hunting and found a bush lot to their liking in North Glenora. Louise's mother thought she was out of her mind to buy property so far out. They were the first on their street to move in.

Although their house was completely finished on the main level, a garage and landscaping were to come later. At that time they had to park their car on 106 Ave and walk in through the mud. There were no roads or sidewalks in the community. 107 Ave did not exist. In fact, from the end of Groat Bridge looking west was just bush. Louise remembers the horse-drawn milk wagon making its rounds and in summertime, the horse-drawn vegetable wagon. The vegetables were farm grown and brought into North Glenora to be sold door-to-door.

North Glenora was becoming a community of young families. Louise and Harry's contributions were Dianne born in 1953, Scott in 1955 and Brian in 1956. Dianne started Kindergarten in the Community Hall and the boys attended in the

Presbyterian Church with teacher Mrs Campbell. All three children took their elementary schooling at Coronation. Louise remembers, in particular, Miss Cohen as a Grade 1 teacher and Mrs Carter in Grade 3. Dianne and Brian then attended Westminster Jr. High and Ross Shepard, while Scott went to Westminster and then Victoria Composite.

Harry moved on from playing to coaching hockey and took the Jr. Oil Kings to the Memorial Cup and then devoted his time to the Knights of Columbus Midgets. Both Scott and Brian played lacrosse in the community when they were young. Dianne was involved in skating lessons offered here which led her to skate at The Gardens, now called SkyReach Centre. All three children took bike-riding lessons through the Community League during the spring sessions.

Over the years Louise did her share of canvassing in North Glenora for various fund-raising efforts, as well as selling Easter lilies on Jasper Ave. Her life was full with looking after Harry, 3 children, an invalid mother-in-law, sewing all Dianne's clothing, baking, and gardening. Thanks to Louise's donation of a water supply one of our community parkette's has stayed in bloom for many years.

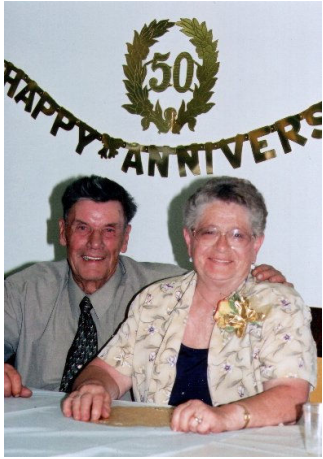
Unfortunately Harry was not able to enjoy his retirement at age 67, as he was hospitalized within days and died within a few months in 1990. Louise has continued to live in our supportive community and has been fortunate that her children are close by in Edmonton. She is truly thankful for the wonderful volunteer efforts of so many residents in North Glenora, without whom we would not have the great playground, gardens and hall.



# North Glenora Kings and Queens – Marg and Al

## *Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more*

On April 7, 1953 Al and Marg, having been married about a year took on a BIG commitment, at least in the eyes of their family. They moved from a rented basement suite on the south side costing \$80 a month, into their first owned home for \$10,000. "Why did you move so far out, and how will you crazy kids ever pay for it?" their parents said. Well Marg and Al were in love and had the courage of their convictions and they're still with us in North Glenora 50 years later.



On their block of five houses, four new owners moved in within days of each other, creating a supportive community for these pioneers. Today, Marg & Al are the only remaining original owners. The houses were finished only on the main level, leaving the upstairs and basements for the owners to complete. The outsides of the houses were left at the tar paper & wire stage for almost a year. The stucco finish was applied in the spring of 1954.

In those early years Al traveled all over northern Alberta in his company truck, leaving Marg in their new home without a car, but with the luxury of a phone, and facing the mud that all the old-timers remember. An old school friend of Marg's from Lloydminster, named Bernice, lived with them for the first 3 years, keeping Marg company. Mail was picked up at the West End Grocery on 127 Street & 111 Avenue. Groceries were ordered & delivered from Derek Brown's grocery on Stony Plain Road. When their new stove arrived, it was

carried in from 111 Ave through the mud.

For Al and Marg the letter D must have played a big part in their life for they named their five boys, Darcy, Douglas, Daryl, David and Dale. Being dedicated parents they dove right into community activities in order to keep their boys busy and safe in North Glenora. Before a kindergarten program existed at Coronation School, there was a playschool for 5-year-olds, first of all in the church on 135 Street and later at the community hall. All of Marg & Al's boys went to Coronation School. The school required 3-4 portables to handle the burgeoning population. The boys skated at the community rink, played lacrosse, baseball and hockey. Marg says it was easier raising kids then because she knew all the parents of their friends and could count on them for support, especially with Al being gone so much.

Marg was instrumental in bringing bingo funds into North Glenora. She had heard at her bowling night



about what other communities were doing and so helped organize a bingo committee for us in 1974. For many years there was a team of 40 volunteers working every 12 days at the 150<sup>th</sup> Street West End Bingo. Each bingo cleared \$4000 - \$6000. This money allowed the community to build a new hall to replace the old army hut that had served as the first North Glenora hall. The skating rinks were rebuilt, with the new boards being painted by hand. Al remembers that all eager and willing community kids were paid \$1.00/hour to help with the project, which he believes reduced subsequent vandalism to the facility. Eventually, with too many bingo halls being built, the bingo profits dwindled.

*The photo of the sons is from 1986 and they are as follows from left to right: Daryl, Dale, Darcy, David & Doug.*

During the days of door-to-door milk delivery, Henry Sayers and his team of horses were community heroes. All the kids were allowed to ride in the milk wagon. Because it was a trusting time and doors were never locked, Henry was always welcomed at the end of his route to drop into Marg's kitchen for

a coffee, whether she was home or not. One day in the rain, one of Henry's horses fell into a sink hole. It took a truck with a boom to lift the horse out. After the horse was washed down, it was good as new and back on the delivery route the next day.

Al was President of the Community League in 1975-76 and again later for 2 years. The annual report for 1975-76 reveals that softball was resurrected in the community with 55 children playing on four teams. In addition, there was a girl's basketball team, four hockey teams, figure skating lessons, learn to skate and power skating. Social activities included a barbecue & dance, Halloween party, New Year's Eve Frolic, Box Social on Valentine's Day, a Parent-Teen dance, a Carnival (with 6 contestants running for queen and the winner going on to take the city finals) and a Christmas concert. During the 1970's Marg & Al's son Doug and his cousin Michelle used to run teen dances at the hall which successfully gave the young people a focus in the community. Al says that "North Glenora has had very few kids in trouble because the community has spent a lot of money on programs to keep them busy and out of trouble, which costs less than getting them out of jail!"

For their work in the community over the years, Al and Marg and their sons were nominated and honoured in 1995 with the Urban Family Award, sponsored by Northlands Park and A.G.T. Thank you Al and Marg, you "crazy kids" for your long term commitment to North Glenora.

# North Glenora Kings and Queens - Mary

*Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more*



Surviving the great depression: that's what brought Mary to Edmonton and makes her the undisputed earliest and longest resident of North Glenora.

Her father, a teacher in Ontario, had brought the nucleus of a Holstein herd from Ontario to a homestead south of Duffield to establish the family's future in Alberta. Mary was born in the original Edmonton Misericordia Hospital in 1919. By the time she was 7 years old, Mary, her younger sister Marj and their parents had moved on to Holden and then Stettler, looking for financial stability with a Massey Harris dealership and schooling for the girls.

The stock market crash of 1929 was soon to devastate the business. After struggling to make a living, the family headed for greener pastures in Edmonton, living first of all at 109 Ave and 128 Street. Mary and Marj attended Westmount School which accommodated all the primary grades in

that area and all high school students from the Westmount area, as well as some from Oliver and all from Jasper Place and Calder.

Mary's mother's family had been local pioneers and owned Great West Saddlery Company. During Edmonton's boom time, her maternal grandmother had bought undeveloped property in west Edmonton and had willed it to one of Mary's aunts. The aunt didn't want the property and so traded it to her sister (Mary's mother) for a more prized possession – a hat! Remember those were depression days. This bush property was in the middle of no where – in fact – it was in the middle of what is now 107 Avenue. Mary's father built the family a house in 1933 and, subsequently his sister Lou built a house right next door. Mary says her father took pride in his large vegetable garden and in the raspberries he grew. He also raised chickens. Mother was an excellent cook. Her meals and her whole wheat bread are never to be forgotten.

At that time the only other development north of 105 Avenue was a small acreage. Along 105 Avenue from 127 to 142 Street there was an old spur line belonging to the Edmonton Yukon & Pacific Railway. Every spring the ditches along the rail line would fill with water and the local boys would float rafts along this waterway. Mary remembers that in the bush, which extended over to what is now 142 Street, there were regular summer camps of travelling Aboriginal people. A decade later, the year 1942 brought the beginning of work on the Alaska Highway and the arrival of the American personnel who built and staffed the new Railhead on 142 Street. The Railhead extended from about 108 Ave to 111 Ave where goods were stored for use in the construction of the highway. A railway spur was built to serve the large new warehouses and laundry, 142 Street was hard surfaced and utilities were installed. The activity and traffic on 142 Street north of Stony Plain Road was exciting.

Mary and Marj completed their schooling at Westmount School, walking the trail across the prairie for 1 ¼ miles, 4 times a day, coming home for lunch most days.

Mary next attended McDougall Commercial School where she took a one year secretarial course. She worked first of all for the Official Guardian in the Alberta Attorney General's office. From 1942 to 1950 Mary worked for the War Time Prices and Trade Board, for a year in Ottawa and then in Edmonton. She loved working in the law field so much that when the Board closed down she joined the Bryan Law firm where she stayed until early retirement in 1977.

As a single working woman, Mary took on responsibility for her mother after Dad died in 1945. By 1952 the City was ready to build 107 Avenue and offered to exchange two nearby lots for the lots in the middle of the bush. Mary's family home and Aunt Lou's house were both moved into North Glenora before the residential development began in our community. Marj and her husband took over the larger family home and Mary and her mother moved into Aunt Lou's old house. Mary's mother lived in North Glenora until 1968 and was then hospitalized until her death in 1980 at age 97.

Mary and her mother were early members of St James United Church that was first established in Coronation School. After a few years of sitting on hard school chairs, the group raised funds to build its own church on 107 Ave west of 142 Street. St James fell prey to the same difficulty as many other churches with ageing congregations, and closed down in 1990.

Mary says she is grateful, after the difficult earlier years, for the discovery of Alberta's "Black Gold" in the Edmonton area. The purchase of some oil interests enabled her to travel in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, continental Europe, Mexico and Central America. Her happiest travels have been driving herself to British Columbia through our gorgeous Canadian Rockies on numerous visits to her nieces in Tofino and Coquitlam. These days, however, she is an armchair tourist with lots of wonderful memories to keep her happy.

Remembering the old days in North Glenora, when there were concrete sidewalks but still the roads were dirt, Mary can picture the milk-wagon and its horses being stuck in the mud. She watched as the milkman unhooked the whiffletree

holding the horses and the mud went flying in all directions as the horses took off.

Mary's feels she's had a full life in North Glenora. She kept busy with her legal secretarial job, with looking after the house and the gardening and her mother in her declining years, with volunteering and church activities. She says "there may be grander areas to live in, but North Glenora has survived well and everyone can be proud of their community".

# North Glenora Kings and Queens – Mary and Nin

***Those hardy men & women who have lived in our community for fifty years or more***



In the summer of 1952 this much-in-love and betrothed couple came house-hunting in the new west-end of Edmonton. They found an almost-built new house they liked on 141 Street. Following their wedding on September 6, 1952 and their subsequent honeymoon, the house had to be fully finished before Mary would move in. At the time, there was a mud road, no curbs or sidewalks, no garage, no phone, no mail delivery, no school, no church and very few neighbours! All the roads west of 124 Street were gravel, including 111 Avenue. Westmount shopping centre did not exist. Mail was picked up at a post office in a drug store at 142 St and 104 Ave. Groceries were bought at the Bay or Woodwards downtown.

When this happy young couple invited Mary's parents to visit their new home for the first time it was a memorable experience for all concerned. Mother and Dad were told they would have to park their car on 142 Street and hike in and, for sure, to wear their tall rubber boots. Mary was concerned to see her mother arrive with short rubber boots instead. As the foursome trudged through the muddy neighbours' lot to their new house, Nin followed behind collecting mud-stuck boots and shoes. Mother arrived at the back porch in her stocking feet and she and Mary laughed until their sides ached.

In the ten years that Nin and Mary spent in their first house, they built a garage and a deluxe dog house for their beloved black Labrador dog, Chloe. Chloe lived in her insulated kennel year-round. Nin may well be remembered for not putting in a lawn for the first three years as he waited for the sidewalks and curbs to be built and the ground to settle, while his neighbours had to rebuild their lawns when the city arrived to make the road improvements.

In 1962, Nin and Mary moved into their second home in North Glenora, where they still live to this day. This couple, who both worked full-time until retirement, have been North Glenora Community League members since the League's inception in 1953. They share a love of gardening and still play golf regularly. Nin remembers that ducks used to swim in the lake where McQueen Lodge now stands and that pheasants used to nest on the bank of dirt where Ross Shepard High School is today. A bus ran

along 111 Avenue from 142 Street to downtown. When Westmount Presbyterian Church was built, Mary began attending at the invitation of her new neighbours and is still in the pews today. She has been involved for years in the Catherine McQueen Group at the church, providing service to the Edmonton community in general.

## ***Mary & Nin: Celebrating 50 Year Together***

Mary and Nin have been happy in North Glenora for over 50 years. "It's close to everything and Edmonton's "Cadillac" bus service even stopped at our door, eventually."





## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS

*....contributed by Elizabeth Turner*

The weekend of September 19, 20 & 21 certainly demonstrated to everyone who attended that “no man (or woman or child) is an island” in North Glenora. This fantastically successful 50<sup>th</sup> celebration event could never have happened without the concerted effort of a multitude of people.

So how did all this happen? From the first time that alumni names were collected at the school polling station through until the last piece of garbage was picked up in the hall and the last cup of coffee was enjoyed after the church service – this whole event was accomplished by the spirit of dedicated volunteerism in this community.

Let's take a quick trip through the activities involved. Starting with the November 27, 2000 federal election, Coronation School alumni names and phone numbers were collected from voters as they left the polling station at the school. The same process took place at the March 12, 2001 provincial and October 15, 2001 municipal elections. This was carried out by Elizabeth Turner, Inge Fenger-Anderson, Darlene Rogers and Cara Lee Stevenson.

The date was chosen for the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration by agreement between the North Glenora Community League Executive and Coronation School's Principal at that time, Howard Saumer. The League and the School established an organizing committee and met for the first time in September 2002. The committee met every 4 to 6 weeks after that.

The following people who committed to actively work on this event comprised the organizing committee: David Beckman, Marg Bowler, Agnes Brennan, Avril Glen, Marge Lilley, Peggy Skett, Elizabeth Turner, and Connie Wardhaugh. Supporting players included Judy Cook, Barb Hayes, Suzanne McAfee, Heather McKay, Jan Newton, Bernice & Harry Popowich, Vera Saunders, Cara Lee Stevenson, and Lil Steward. David & Peggy co-chaired the committee, representing the community and the school respectively.

This group of volunteers relied on its wits, ingenuity, contacts and persistence to see the event unfold. Committee volunteers drew on their experiences as students, parents, home & school volunteers, community residents and volunteering in general – not uncommon experiences.

It was decided early on that Westmount Presbyterian Church should be invited to be a partner because of its long-standing involvement in our community and Rev. Richard Frotten graciously agreed to host an all-faith service. He is also a Coronation parent and a resident of North Glenora.

In the spring of 2003, school alumni information was obtained from the Edmonton Public School archives and the word began to spread about the upcoming reunion. Over 4200 student names from 50 years were organized alphabetically by family name to simplify the contacting process. This is how a school librarian spends her summer vacation! Word of mouth advertising - one alumnus to another was counted on. Phone numbers were hunted down and only local calls were made in this low-cost operation. We did not find everyone by any stretch of the imagination. We made a start for future reunions.

Agnes Brennan researched all the local media contact information. Elizabeth Turner arranged for paid advertising in the Edmonton Examiner and faxed requests for “community column” exposure to the rest. Alumni Susan Burgess, Suzanne McAfee, and Heather McKay and parent Inge Fenger-Anderson volunteered to reach out and find alumni. NGCL newsletter editor, Donna Jackson, promoted the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration through the newsletter and the website, worked on the brochure layout and offered her computer expertise to the effort. 2003 alumnus, Nathan Willis and Coronation Parent Council President, Colin Shillabeer were called upon for their talents when pictures needed to be enhanced and touched up.

Over the summer, Marie & Kai Iversen gave the community hall special attention and the floors were gleaming in anticipation of coming events. On the first two weekends in September a volunteer work crew led by Tim Brockelsby spruced up park grounds and buildings - painting, raking, cleaning, etc. along with the installation of a new stage floor inside the hall. Our community facilities were looking their best for our visitors. His helpers included Brian Bochar, Heather Bachen, Dave Beckman, Darrell Berard, Michel Diotte, Don Eastcott, Frank French, Margaret French, Dave Hill, Diane Hill, Bill MacDonald and Dan Zacharko. This was physical work, and a free workout, for the willing and able.

As the school year started, each teacher at Coronation took on responsibility for educating a class of students about a specific decade - politics, world events, music, dance, pop culture, food, etc., in preparation for a special 50<sup>th</sup> birthday assembly. Timelines were created, posters and artwork were displayed. Every student (116 this year) had a 3-week crash course in what some of us older students of life consider happened only

yesterday! Thank you to Mrs Belden, Mrs Ho, Mr Khan, Mrs Laubman, Miss Wilcox and Miss Yaniv for going above and beyond and adapting the school curriculum to this event. Coronation custodian Kathleen Sullivan used all the elbow grease she had to ensure the school was sparkling clean for visitors. Secretary Shayla Dubilowski did all the things in organizing a school year and a principal that no one ever anticipates and she did it with a smile. You may think that all these EPSB staff are just doing their job; but all this 50<sup>th</sup> stuff (as our e-mails were called) demanded a voluntary effort and long hours over and above the regular school life.

During the week leading up to the 50th, the Bowlers, Brennans, Humbkes and Micia Kuwalka went shopping for supplies and food that would be needed for the weekend. McGavins provided buns at half price. Salads came from the Sherbrooke Bakery, meat at a NGCL discount from DeRose Bros Meats. Balloons were purchased from Picture Perfect on 124 St at a discounted price. Volunteer Lynn Harrington, who had cleaned and revived all the school artificial plants, also set up the school balloon display.

On the morning of September 19th, an assembly began the celebration. Students, all decked out in their new birthday t-shirts (thanks to the School Council) sang three songs, staged a fashion show through the decades and were treated to visits from Edmonton-Glenora MLA Drew Hutton, EPSB Vice-Chairman & Trustee Svend Hansen and EPSB Superintendent Angus McBeath. Thanks to volunteer School Council President Colin Shillabeer and parent volunteers Cindy Farrants and Brenda Franczek who helped organize the children and decorated the gym and to Dee Bochar for videotaping the proceedings for our archives.



On Friday afternoon our community hall was a buzzn' with volunteers preparing for the event. Photo collages and archival materials prepared under the guidance of Marge Lilley were displayed. Marge's team of volunteer contributors included: Audrey Gilley, Avril Glen, May Halhead, Chris Lawrence, Doreen Leia, Jan Newton, Bobbie & Johns Ratledge, Elsie Spady, Lil Steward, Norma Taylor, Faye Young and Sonja & Dan Zacharko. Marge's son, John Lilley, had taken to the skies a few weeks earlier to get fantastic aerial shots of North Glenora for the display.

Tables and chairs were set-up by David Beckman, Harvey Humbke, Al Bowler, Michel Diotte, Gordon Pratley, Basil Steward and Jim Brennan. Micia Kawalka along with Avril Glen, Isobel Henderson, Doreen Leia, Susana McAfee, Marg Pratley, and Basil & Lil Steward were cutting up vegetables, cheese and meat for the "meet and greet". The Bowlers were getting prepared for the next morning's breakfast.

Back at the school excited former teachers and students began arriving at the school by 4:00 p.m. that day. Registration in the gym was handled by volunteers Jo Tayler, Linda Twigg and Elizabeth Turner. Alumni name tags were colour-coded by decade as were all the 50<sup>th</sup> displays and classroom balloons. "Look for your decade colour to find photos and memorabilia and fellow classmates" were the instructions. Almost 200 alumni and former staff congregated in classrooms and the hallway reliving their earlier years at Coronation. Alumni were often accompanied by spouses, children and parents, especially parents who had been actively involved in the life of the school through volunteering.



The School Council held a "hotdog bite" barbecue. Thank you Leslie McGlennon, Sandra, Braden & Devin Abraham, Dee & Kaitlyn Bochar, Daria & Jamie Elias & Rob Taylor, John Griswold, and Colin Shillabeer. Volunteers also staffed the annual fall book fair. Thank you Connie Wardhaugh, Sandra, Braden & Devin Abraham, June Austin, Inge Fenger-Anderson, Corinne Eckert, Maryann Henderson, Joanna Jamieson, Sue McGaffin, Leslie McGlennon, Karen Myers, Luis Saravia, Cara Lee Stevenson, Mark Sulz, Colleen Thasitis and Christina Vince. Grade 6 volunteer student librarians Cecilie Fenger-Anderson and Kathleen Frotten acted as hostesses in the library. And to all the nameless book fair customers, thank you for providing hundreds of dollars worth of new books for the school library.

As the barbecue wound down and the sun set, the Community League "Meet and Greet" was warming up. Alumni streamed over from the school to join current and former North Glenora residents.

Agnes Brennan's registration team was ready but had to work hard to keep up with the unexpected and last minute overwhelming requests for breakfast and dinner tickets. The following volunteers variously greeted guests, sold tickets and looked after the guest book throughout the weekend: Marge Fokkema, Barbara Hays, Donna Jackson, Natalia Krawetz, Chris Lawrence, Doreen Leia, Bauni McKay, Eunice Minkler, Jan Newton, Bernice & Harry Popowich, Vera Saunders, Devika & Doug Short, Audrey Siever, Lil Steward, Jo Tayler, June Villette, Pat Yearwood, and Sonja & Dan Zacharko.

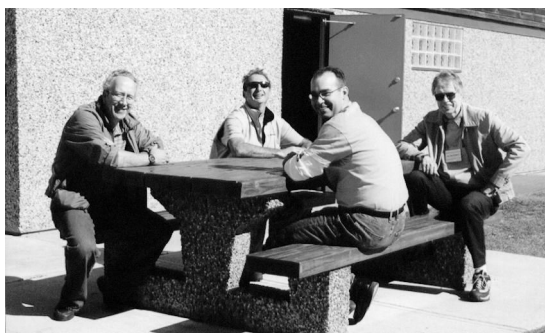


Micia Kawalka with the help of Suzanne McAfee organized delicious snacks and a cash bar, managed by Pat, Heather, Greg and Jeanine Bachen. Close to 200 people enjoyed this community-based activity. The excitement was palpable as old friends found each other and shared their memories of North Glenora. By 11:30 p.m., volunteer security crew members Brian Bochar, Tim Brockelsby, Bill MacDonald and Dan Zacharko, headed by Michel Diotte, were locking the hall doors for the night and ensured that the local police looked after any possible after-hours disturbances.

Before the birds were up on Saturday morning, the Bowlers were back at the hall making orange juice to go with the pancake and sausage breakfast. Outside Jim Brennan helped set up a tent rented by the Community League from the Fire Department Retirees. By 10:30 the volunteer crew of Marg & Al Bowler, Doug Bowler, David & Lynn Bowler, Doreen Leia, Marg & Gordon Pratley and Pat Yearwood had served more than 200 breakfasts. The Taylor sisters along with Basil and Lil Steward joined the crew for dish duty. The much-used grill was left to the experts, Marie & Kai Iversen who readily offered to help with the clean up.



The hall was a great meeting place for old friends and neighbours. Throughout the day there were always at least 100 people just sitting around and catching up with each other. Angela Turner, our Community Service Representative from the City of Edmonton, had arranged for 2 recreation supervisors, Christine & Tina, to provide face painting and other kid's activities during the day. Our wonderful North Glenora playground (built by volunteers too many to mention here) was the scene of happy children playing in the sunshine.



At 2:00 p.m., the ceremony honouring our community leaders of the past packed the hall. On hand to bring greetings and shake hands with all the honourees were Edmonton West MP Anne McLellan, Edmonton-Glenora MLA Drew Hutton, City

Councillors Jane Batty and Michael Phair, Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Debbie Cavaliere and EFCL Vice President Shane Bergdahl. The audience enthusiastically applauded the contributions of almost 50 people who received engraved pen and pencil sets as a memento of the occasion. Tribute was made to past local leaders who are no longer with us.



League President David Beckman in his comments stated, "This is the legacy of North Glenora Community League – people helping people, people who care and share. This legacy of volunteerism is what we need to focus on in the future. We need to embrace new, young community residents, encourage them to get involved and continue this legacy. Can you offer to help? It takes time and dedication. But it is worth it! You will be contributing to making your community a better place to live for everyone."

With a half-hour break, the audience filled up on fresh veggies with dip, birthday carrot cake and coffee. Then we were treated to North Glenora Idol – a local talent show reminiscent of the past and organized by Marg Bowler and mc'd by Agnes Brennan. Participants Aimee Louw, Kathleen Frotten,



Miranda Bowler, Miriam Querengesser, Eva Hamilton, Judy & Jane Hambley and Shannon Bowler contributed piano playing, singing, poetry recital and story reading. Thanks to each of you for displaying your home grown talent.

The hall was next cleared only for a brief time to set up for dinner. We squeezed in all the tables and chairs we had. Then the unbelievable happened. We served over 300 people for dinner. The enticing smell of BBQ



permeated the community. Harvey Humbke's talented BBQ'ers Al Bowler, Jim Brennan, Michel Diotte and Dave Hill kept the food cooking. The hall was filled, the tent was filled, and playground benches were filled. Friends and neighbours feasted on 3 different salads, homemade beans, hotdogs, hamburgers,

ice cream. Though the line-up for food was long, everyone was in great spirits. Volunteers Michel Diotte, Bill MacDonald and Elizabeth Turner kept the tables cleared and the garbage bags changed. Harvey's kitchen crew consisting of Ellen & Les Abbott, Jim Brennan, David, Lynne & Doug Bowler, Dave Hill, Louise & Leanne Humbke, Chiyoko May, Basil Steward and Tara Taylor kept the buffet table filled and left everything spanking clean. The organizing committee looked in disbelief and . . . satisfaction at this grand success.



Live music of the 50's, 60's and 70's was next, thanks to Don Eastcott and his line-up of no less than two bands, West End Edge and Fairly Faded Fifties. The Bachen family bar



crew once again kept up with demand, the fire pit managed by the Brockelsby's kept 35 – 40 partiers warm outside until the end of the evening. Indoors, munchy snacks were served and the sharing of life-long hopes and dreams and

community experiences continued. The security crew and the clean-up crew including closed down the hall before midnight and went home for a well-earned rest. Sunday morning brought more sunshine, blue skies and warm temperatures. Weren't we blessed! The congregation of Westmount Presbyterian Church, which is celebrating its' own 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, welcomed everyone. Church members indicated that this special occasion had doubled the normal congregational attendance, as families reunited in worship and welcomed newcomers.



Richard Frotten spoke insightfully about the challenges facing communities. "Community has to be a place for



give and take. For where two or three gather together, someone is sure to spill the milk. Yet the incarnation calls for the earthly togetherness real living demands. . . .The gift of the Spirit to all flesh (Acts2:17) and not just to chosen individuals, is a mark of the in-breaking kingdom of God. . . . The deep human need for connection with the other, the need for healthy, vibrant relationships remains with us as an essential part of being human. . . . As I think of my interaction with people as a minister, I know that as soon as we draw lines to keep people out of our community (church), we can be sure that the Spirit is already crossing those lines and moving in the hearts of love. It is a fundamental

characteristic of the Spirit that she falls on outsiders as well as insiders. A sign of the future, of tomorrow's will of God, is to be seen wherever outsiders are being welcomed and boundaries of exclusion crossed."

All in all, this 50<sup>th</sup> celebration was a weekend well spent. Please rest assured that if you volunteered and by chance your name is not mentioned, that no harm is intended. This article is also a volunteer effort. Thank you for reading. Give yourself a big hug and know that you are loved.



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**HAPPY 50TH, NORTH GLENORA!**  
**YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER!**  
*"110A Avenue looking west to 141 Street"*

*THEN (1953)*



*NOW (2003)*



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**NGCL LEADERS HONoured AT THE 50TH**

- Arlene Meldrum
- Cole Pederson
- Harry & Bernice Popowich
- Mary Smith
- Robert & Lucy Spears
- Lil & Basil Steward
- Cara Lee Stevenson
- Jo Tayler
- Pat Yearwood
- Neil Nicholson
- Marg Pratley
- Blaine Steward
- Bob Suitor
- Elsie Taylor
- Louise & Harvey Humbke
- Marlene Innies
- Donna Jackson
- Shirley Kaley
- Kyoko & Yoshi Kamie
- Micia Kawulka
- Natalia Krawetz & Bill MacDonald
- Doreen Leia
- John Leuw
- Marge Lilley
- Barry Logan
- Bill Mackay
- Sally Manwaring
- Sandy & Bruce Abraham
- Ellen & Les Abbot
- Heather & Pat Bachen
- Marg & Al Bowler
- Agnes & Jim Brennan
- Diane & Dave Dennis
- Lorraine & Tim Brockelsby
- Liz & Don Eastcott
- Marg Fokkema
- Margaret & Frank French
- Avril Glen
- Archie Heather
- Diane & Dave Hill
- Margaret Humphrey