

Twin sisters celebrate 95th birthday

There was cake, lots of candles, cards and kisses for Acton twins Marjorie Winter and Phyllis Gibbs when celebrated their 95th birthdays recently.

The Welsh-born sisters, the last of 10 siblings, basked in well wishes from friends and neighbours at a "sort of a surprise" party in the common room of their Birchway Place residences to mark their September 15, 1915 births.

Debbie Winter Zinke, a dutiful daughter and niece, helps her mother and aunt, both legally blind due to macular degeneration; maintain independent lifestyles in separate apartments.

"They don't shop 'till they drop any-

more. Mom takes care of Aunt Phyl, and they do incredibly well, considering their age..." Zinke said recently, adding they are basically healthy and happy, but unfortunately, very hard of hearing.

Through her daughter, Marjorie Winter said her greatest joy is spending time with family and friends. Zinke said Mohawk Racetrack and Swiss Chalet are special outings, for which her "vain" mom and aunt "dress" with full make-up and jewelry, although once, Zinke was sent back to get her mom's teeth. A hairdresser comes weekly, and Gibbs gets help several times a week from a community care service.

The twins were 11 when they emigrated from England, settling in the Georgetown area, where their mother ran a hardware store and a farm. She married Acton's Frank Winter in England, and settled here after the war, raising three children, Zinke, a deceased older sister and another sister, Susan. Phyllis married Ross Gibbs and had a stepdaughter. She moved to Acton from Burlington to be near her twin, a special bond that Zinke envies.

"They are so alike. They are just so close – the twin thing is so much more than just a sister thing – it's such a connection," Zinke said, adding like any siblings, they "can squabble" forcing her to step in. "It's like telling your kids, 'go to your room until you can behave.'"

Unable to watch TV, the twins spend a lot of time listening to tapes and CDs – mostly Country and Western, and Gospel. When able, they walk along the path behind the Legion senior's building, but the uneven sidewalk bricks ended the twin's regular downtown outings: Zinke was pleased the Town is replacing the bricks with concrete.

Both sisters credit their longevity with leading clean lives – no drinking or smoking. "My mom has got a great attitude and says, 'every day I wake up and see the sunshine (and) I say I've got another day,'" Zinke said, grateful for her mom's hopeful attitude, especially when dealing with her aunt, who has dementia.



DOUBLE THE FUN: Hitting 95 was a piece of cake for Acton twins Margaret Winter (left) and Phyllis Gibbs who celebrated their birthdays recently with family and friends at their Birchway Place residence. – Marie Shadbolt photo



2010 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

ADVANCE VOTING DAYS and VOTING LOCATIONS

DATES:

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

LOCATIONS:



All Wards	All Wards	All Wards	All Wards
Acton Agricultural Building	Acton Arena	Georgetown Market Place Mall	Halton Hills Civic Centre
30 Park Ave. Acton	415 Queen St. Acton	280 Guelph St. Georgetown	1 Halton Hills Dr. Georgetown

ELECTION DAY - MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010

Suzanne Jones - Town Clerk and Returning Officer

1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2

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