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By Bill Hunt

THE INTELLIGENCER

Former Victorian Order of Nurses Dorothy and Grace Connor, who lived on the corner of Pinnacle and Campbell streets, were a staple of downtown Belleville for decades.

The sisters, both extremely small, were the nieces of Dr. Emma Connor, one of the early female physicians of that period.

The two sisters were known for their tiny stature, dark VON uniforms, and the beautiful garden that adorned the home's property for many years.

This past April 30, Grace died at the age of 96. She was predeceased by her older sister, Dorothy, also 96.

Dr. Emma Connor resided at 240 Pinnacle St. and later, Dorothy and Grace moved in with her, where they lived in the large, Victorian style house that sits immediately across from the library on the corner of Pinnacle and Campbell streets. Their brother, William, and an aunt, Alice Northcott, also lived there. William was a music teacher and the organist for the family church, which was appropriate because Grace and Dorothy also enjoyed music, said Theresa Kellaway, who worked with the sisters for six or seven years during the 1950s.

In April, 1994 the two sisters finally relinquished their grand home and moved into the Bridge Street Retirement Residence, where they remained until their deaths.

"Dear little soul," said Peterborough resident and distant relative Doreen Foote, as she spoke of Grace's passing. "They were such lovely, lovely people. Grace is the last of that large family. A generation is gone."

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