

Hard work never hurt anyone

McNAIR
Nan

City women hit century mark in same month

Photo and story by Henry Bury

The Intelligencer

Hard work never hurts anyone, just ask Rosie Reid.

Nan McNair agrees, but added neither does smoking or drinking.

Together, they're living proof that life is what you make of it.

Both Reid and McNair are 100 years old this month and they're still going strong at the Westgate Lodge on Dundas Street West.

The nursing home threw a 100th birthday party Wednesday for the pair, who were showered with greetings, well wishes and presents from family, friends and other Westgate residents.

Reid was born July 6, 1894 in Holloway. She left the hamlet five years ago to move into Westgate.

"I've had a healthy life and that means work. I've had good health because I worked hard all my life. It doesn't hurt anyone," quipped Reid.

Reid worked as a housekeeper and babysitter years ago, earning

\$1 a day. She then turned her talents to embroidery, quilting and baking.

She regularly travelled to the Farmer's Market in Belleville on Saturdays to sell her goods. Many times, she'd walk from Foxboro to Holloway after a stint at the market.

She still bakes bread and buns the odd time at the nursing home where she's affectionately called the "bun lady."

Reid never married, saying she liked to be her own boss and didn't have to answer to anybody.

Besides, Reid said, she did what she liked when she liked to.

Reid never smoked or drank and had only been in hospital once in her life.

"I never thought of becoming 100," Reid said. "I still miss going out and working...but I can relax now."

McNair, meanwhile, has been a Westgate resident since March of 1992, after a fall which broke her hip. But she hasn't let that stop her from enjoying her favorite activities — reading, playing cards and, especially, bingo.

"I've enjoyed life," McNair said. "I've had a wonderful life doing different things and I wouldn't want to change anything."

She smoked cigarettes for some 75 years, quitting a few years ago. She still enjoys the odd drink.

"You're as young as you feel and I feel young for 100...there's nothing wrong with me."

Born on July 27, 1894, in Belfast, Ireland, McNair worked initially for a clothing manufacturer. There she learned the fundamentals of design, tailoring and dress-making — her interest in fashion has continued to this day.

After the First World War, she married John McNair and together they raised three children. In the Second World War, she was in charge of food services for a large war plant.

The family emigrated to Canada in 1948 and set up a car dealership in Port Credit. McNair's husband died two years later of a heart attack and she operated the business until it was eventually sold.

She then moved to the Quinte area to be with her son, Lex, and his wife Olga of Belleville.

Olga said her mother-in-law's interest in the world and people around her "has kept her young."

McNair also has eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

says
100-
year-old



to
the
file

about

Intell. p. 1.
10/6/94