

PE Co - Biog
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Celebrates 77th anniversary

'She was the only girl'

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PICTON - Married on Dec. 13, 1905, Bernard Morris and his bride-to-be, May Ryckman arrived at Bloomfield United Church in a rented livery rig, after dancing until dawn at a party, the night before.

The Morrises, both 94, Monday celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary at a family tea at Picton Manor Nursing Home, where they are residents. They are among Ontario's longest married couples and the celebration of their wedding anniversary has been a special event to them, for decades.

"She was the only girl I ever went with," says Morris.

He met his bride when they both attended the same rural school and often they saw each other at church services. Morris recalls he would walk his bride-to-be home after church on Sunday nights and they would say goodnight at her front gate. Frequently, her father came to the door to remind them that it was after 9 p.m.

The Morrises were both 17 years old, when they were married but they realized fully that marriage was a serious step. "You never heard tell of a divorce then," Morris says.

His wife agrees and adds that the successful

marriage is the willingness to work together and to make a strong effort toward agreement and understanding. "You know that when you get married," she says.

Bernard and May Morris have many happy memories of their early years of marriage, when community dances and card parties were favorite entertainments. Dances often were held in private homes and carpet tacks were pulled to roll back the rugs.

Square dancing was popular, when mixed with some round dancing and caller Steve Thurston was in steady demand. When neighbors' gathered for a dance, frequently, music was played until dawn. Mrs. Morris recalls that she and her husband once drove home at 9 a.m., with the sun shining on their cutter.

When the Morrises were newlyweds, they lived at Huff's Corners, where they farmed. Later, they lived on farms in Cherry Valley and Hillier and in 1929 moved to Picton. For many years, they resided on Hill Street, where they planted a large vegetable garden.

In 1978, Mrs. Morris fell, breaking a bone in her leg and was admitted to hospital. She became a chronic care patient and was transferred to Picton Manor Nursing Home in 1980. Her husband moved to the home of the couple's daughter-in-law, Gwen Morris and resided there until this year, when he too became a resident of the nursing home.

The Morrises' anniversary party was attended by their daughter, Mrs. Eva Gledhill of Montreal, their daughter-in-law, Gwen and their grandson, Paul Morris and his wife, Martha. The couple's only son, Irvin predeceased them.



Bernard, May Morris mark 77th anniversary

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