



Brian Wilsdon/London Free Press

Harry White receives a Valentine kiss Friday from his wife Pearl on the eve of their 64th wedding anniversary today at Elgin Manor, Elgin County's home for the aged.

# Cupid on target

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## Elgin couple celebrates 64th anniversary

By Bob Massecar  
St. Thomas Bureau

ST. THOMAS — When St. Valentine smiled on all the world's sweethearts, 92-year-old Elgin Manor residents Harry and Pearl White had to be prime examples of what he had in mind.

On the traditional day when couples reinforce their pledge of affection, the Whites took it one step further 64 years ago today. They exchanged wedding vows that have seen them at each other's side from their first home near Glanworth to their present quarters at Elgin County's home for the aged.

Their bond of love carried the couple through an active farm life and the separations required while Harry pursued a politi-

cal career as MP for Middlesex East from 1945 to 1961. Today they have a close-knit and caring family of three children, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

"That's not bad for fighting that long," Pearl said with a wink Friday on the eve of her anniversary. "We still look pretty good, don't you think, pappy?"

"I'd better not say," Harry teased. "It could still get me in trouble even after all these years." He admitted in a whisper that Pearl was supposed to miss — but didn't from the smile that flashed on her face — that "life's only got better between us."

It was a marriage that took a long time getting started. An eight-year courtship followed their first meeting when Harry went with his father to visit a sick relative in a neighboring township and found Pearl helping in the house.

When the wedding day arrived, a February blizzard swept through Southwestern Ontario and brought travel to a standstill. Pearl, Harry and a few guests were at her father's home, but the ceremony, scheduled for Lambeth United Church, was out.

"We couldn't get to the church, the flowers didn't make it, and neither did the caterers and most of the wedding party," Harry recalled.

"But the minister, Rev. Tiffin, did," Pearl said. "So we got married."

While the storm prevented many from attending, it also stopped those who were there from leaving. Harry and Pearl spent their wedding night with a house full of guests.

A week later, they went to Chatham on a honeymoon that has lasted 64 years.