

We are here to celebrate the long and remarkable life of Gertrude Alton.

Eva Gertrude Davidson was born at home on her farm in East Oakwood, on March 3, 1906. She was the second oldest in a family of six - four girls and two boys. One winter they were quarantined until spring as whooping cough spread through the family. From the nearby one-room schoolhouse, they could hear the kids playing and laughing outside at recess while they remained confined inside. Their father would take them to *the barn* and have them run up and down behind the cows to loosen the congestion in their lungs. They also had the usual family adventures. One day two of them had taken the horse and buggy out. When it was time to go home, the horse refused to move. Today one could use their cell phone to get help. **THEY** had to solve the problem. Resourcefully, they unhitched the horse and tied it to the back of the buggy. Then each of them picked up a shaft of the buggy and led the horse home.

Gertrude saw her first car when she was six years old, and in 1918 the family bought a MacLaughlin-Buick. The car was mainly used to go to church and Sunday drives. She was amazed at how fast you seemed to be going at fifteen miles an hour. She certainly witnessed a lot of changes in her life.

When Gertrude was fourteen she left home to board in Lindsay to attend high school. She missed her family and eagerly looked forward to going home with her father in the horse and buggy or cutter. In 1924, Gertrude attended Peterborough Normal School, travelling to and from Peterborough by train. When she was nineteen she began her teaching career. Teaching positions were scarce at that time so she had to re-locate. One of her first assignments was in Lost Channel, a remote logging camp. It was so isolated even the train didn't go there. She had to ride into the community on a railroad jigger. Gertrude always looked upon life as an adventure. She liked to tell the story of the "Lost Channel Bed Bugs." Most of us would probably find sleeping with bed bugs *disgusting*, but she just considered it part of life in this community. She would chuckle while telling us about hearing the bed bugs coming out of the corners and crawling across the ceiling as soon as it was dark. When they were in position - "click" - the bed bugs would plop onto the bed.

She enjoyed the North and taught in Paudash, Pakesly and Golden Lake. In these communities she liked to experience "Northern activities." She bought a gun but the first