

2.

Shortly after her brother's death, her sister, Ethel, had a fall and was confined to a wheel chair. She moved in with Ethel and her husband, Roy, in Port Perry. Gertrude made many new friends there. She also enjoyed sharing experiences with her niece and nephew and their families. Ethel, Roy, and Gertrude were great company and worked together to do the cooking and general housework. They looked after each other until they were 92, 93 and 95.

At the age of 95, Gertrude retired. She became, as she called it, "a lady of leisure." She moved in with her two daughters, and their husbands. Prior to moving, Gert had broken her hip, while balancing on one leg to get dressed, and required more care. She wanted to walk unaided and did her physiotherapy exercises with determination. She eventually became mobile without a cane, but on the street the family wanted her to use a walker. Her strolls on the street sound so much more adventurous when she would announce she was taking out her "bicycle" (a.k.a. her walker). She loved living in her "retirement home." Whenever anyone was going somewhere, she liked to go too - even if it was only to the grocery store. This fall she enjoyed her first experience at an all-inclusive resort. She thought it was wonderful to order a four-course meal and know it was all paid for. Even at the age of 97 she was open to new ideas. For the first time in her life, in the last election she voted Liberal.

At Thanksgiving she had another fall. Despite the pain in her hip, she was on a plane three days later to visit her sister Anna, in Florida. She always liked to be included in activities. This fall she helped make the family's favourite Christmas cake and the day before she went into the hospital, she sat in the kitchen peeling and grating carrots and apples for the Christmas pudding.

In hospital, even when she was having considerable difficulty breathing, she made us laugh. At one point she informed us she felt like a 'horse with the heaves'. When asked if she would like her Toronto minister to visit, she replied somewhat caustically, but very definitely, "It is too late for THAT NOW!" She firmly believed that salvation came through faith and living your life to help others. We all benefited from her philosophy. As Stewart, her son-in-law said, "They don't make enough people like Gert." We thank God for knowing her so long.