

COUNTY

One hundred years and all is well

BY CECILIA NASMITH
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One doesn't get the chance to attend many 100th-birthday parties, but there will be one in Colborne April 17.

On that day, John and Ruth Kripp will welcome friends and family members of Mr. Kripp's mother Hilda into their home at 16 Elgin Street South to help them celebrate the fact that Hilda Kripp turns 100 on April 21.

Originally from Poland, Mrs. Kripp came to this country when she was 21 and is proud to say she speaks German as well as Polish and English.

She settled in Timmins with her late husband Louis, where she raised her only son. She still glows when recalling parents' nights at his school.

"They told me he was a really good boy, a really smart boy," she said.

"I think she's fibbing a little bit," said her son.

Mrs. Kripp also lights up when she talks about her three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, who call her Baba.

That's a European term, her daughter-in-law explained.

"She used to call herself the old

Baba, so the children picked it up," she said.

Mrs. Kripp moved to Toronto when her son moved to that city, though she continued to live in her own home until six years ago. At that time, her son and daughter-in-law moved to Colborne and she moved along with them.

The lovely streamside home has a picture window that affords Mrs. Kripp a perfect view of Elgin Street South — great for catching the parade of children that troop to and from Colborne Public School.

The front porch is a beloved vantage point in the summer upon which to sit and enjoy the fine weather. She especially likes to see public-works crews come around, she confessed, so she can eavesdrop and hear what they are talking about.

The work crews like seeing her on the porch too, her son said. They will often stop and say hi, or at least toot the horn at her when they drive by.

Most of all, Mrs. Kripp likes living with her son.

"I love him very much," she said.

Party plans for April 17 call for an open house from 3 to 5 p.m., with a cake and the fond wishes of the friends she has made in her adopted home town.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Mrs. Hilda Kripp will celebrate her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends including three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom love to call her Baba.

PHOTO BY CECILIA NASMITH