

The ongoing miracle of life

by TOM PHILP
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At the time of year when newspapers begin to fill pages with stories of January's first babies, two area men are celebrating 90 years of life.

Ewart and Stewart Hardy were born January 7, 1914 near Dartford. Both grew up to be farmers. Ewart has lived his entire life in the former township of Percy, Stewart moved to Hastings County in 1942.

Stewart married Helen Wells and they had a son Eldon, who lives with his wife Phyllis (Kuiper) in British Columbia; and a daughter, Mary (married to Eric Ross), who lives near Madoc. Stewart and Helen have two granddaughters, three grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

Ewart married Florence Cyrderman (she died in 1995), and they had four children, all of whom live in Warkworth and area: Ruth (married to Gord Allanson), Boyce (married to Sherron

Webb), Dale (married to Judy McCracken), and Margaret (married to Don Campbell).

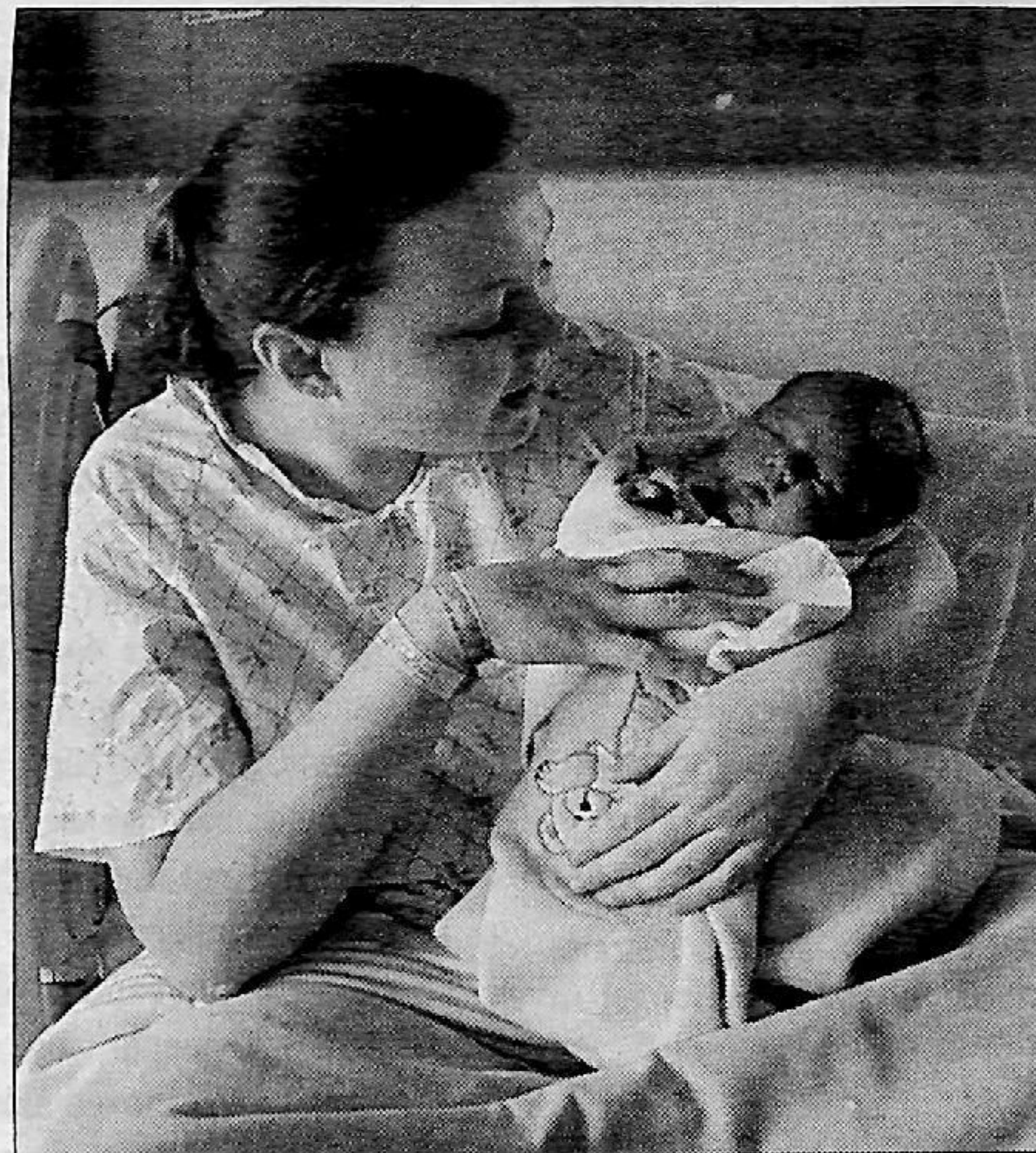
The couple had five grandsons, eight granddaughters, three great-grandsons and three great-granddaughters.

Ewart and Stewart's older brother, Rev. Leslie Hardy, born Sept. 4, 1911, is still alive, and was present for birthday celebrations held January 3 at St. Paul's United Church Christian Education Centre.

Meanwhile, 90 years after the Hardy twins arrived, new life is emerging in our region.

Tyson Carl Scott Dowle (Madill) was the first baby of 2004 to be born at Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) in Cobourg, tipping the scales at 8 lbs. 8 oz.

Tyson wasn't too sure if he was ready for this earth, taking over seven hours to be born, but at 5:02 a.m. on the morning of January 1, he finally mustered up the



New mother Dawn Dowle introduces New Year's baby Tyson to the world at Northumberland Hills Hospital on Jan 2.

Kai Hulshof photo

courage to face the world.

In 2003, there were 311 babies born at both the Northumberland Health Care Centre on Chapel Street, and the new NHH campus at 1000 DePalma Drive.

NHH officials advise that the top girl's name for babies born at the local hospital in 2003 was Emma, while the most popular name for boys was Ethan.

Close runners-up for favourite boy's name of the year included Nicholas, Aiden and Austin.

Other top names among girl babies at NHH were Emily, Claire and Olivia.

The first baby born at QHC this year arrived at Belleville General Hospital

at 3:47 a.m. on January 1st. Her name is Sophie Clark (her parents are Amy and Jason Clark of Prince Edward County), and she weighed 6 lbs, 4 oz at birth.

Of the 1,414 babies born at QHC campuses in 2003, 1,356 were born at Belleville General, and 58 were born at Prince Edward County Memorial.

QHC communications director Jennifer Shea said that neither hospital tracks the most popular names given to their newborns.

According to www.baby-names.com, the most popular name in 2003 for boys was Aiden, followed by Jaden and Caden, while the top girl's name was Madison, followed by Emma and Abigail.



The Hardy twins celebrated 90 years of life with birthday cake last Saturday.

John Campbell photo