

Feature

Bill and June Ball celebrate a lifetime of memories

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There's not a single picture to show for the snowy Valentine's Day back in 1948 when Bill Ball and June Dove tied the knot in the minister's home in Brighton. Today, with six decades of shared memories, the untaken photos seem to be of little consequence.

As June approaches 80 and with Bill just past, the physical limitations of age could seriously dampen the joy of the celebration but both are fortunate to be relatively healthy, blessed with almost picture-like memories and quick to see the bright side of life.

Their 60th anniversary party was a true celebration of the power and perseverance of love in lives rich with a breadth of experience — good and bad.

Bill jokes the Governor General was at their surprise party on Feb. 17 — to give June a medal for bravery.

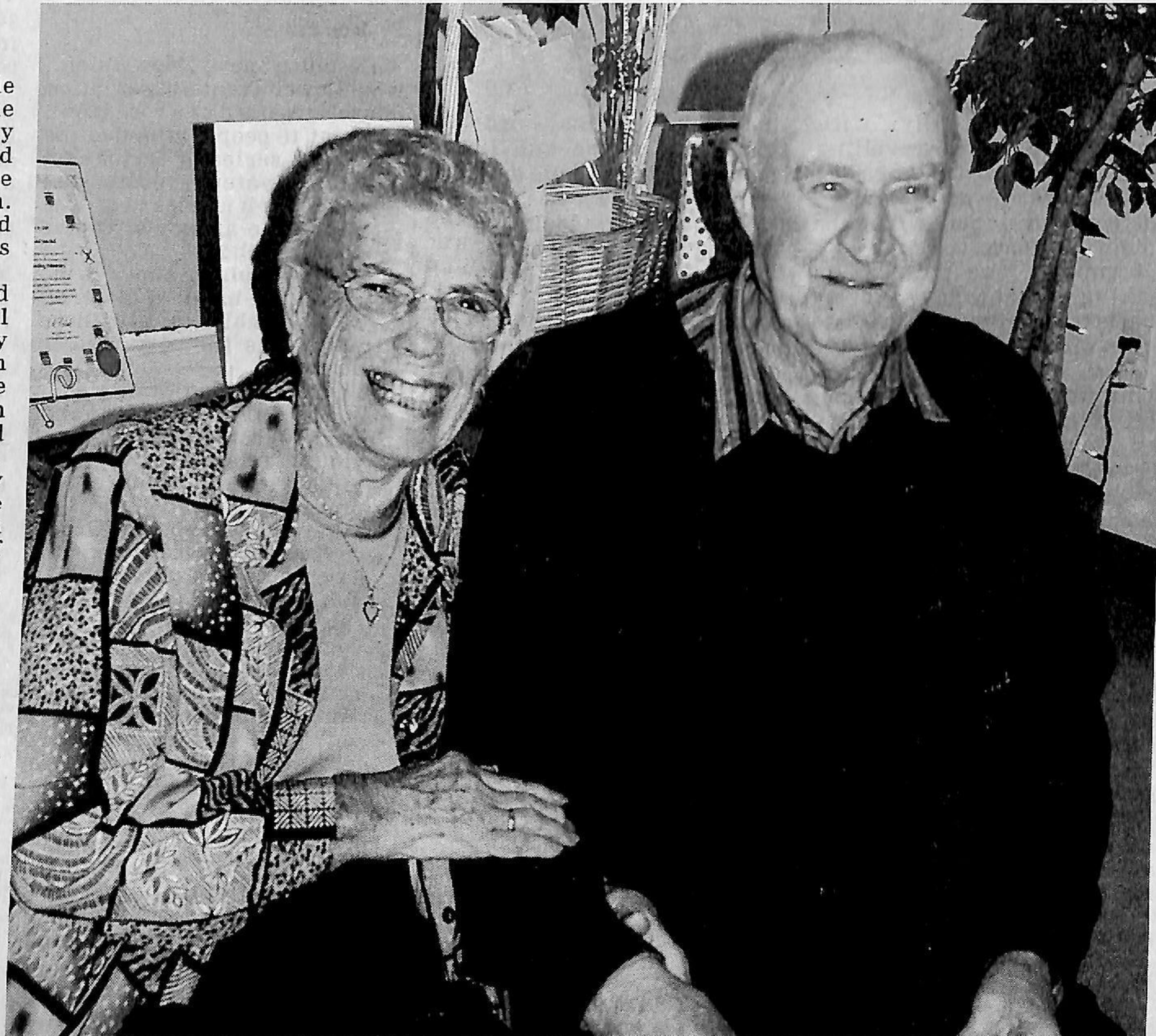
June was born in Oshawa June 23, 1928, the only daughter of Alf and Gladys Dove. Through the war, Alf worked at General Motors while Gladys helped out at an ammunition plant in Ajax.

But Alf tired of GM and decided he wanted to go into business for himself. He thought he might sell car parts.

One morning, he was making breakfast for himself and a young lad when a couple of truckers showed up looking for breakfast. They paid him \$5 for their meal. Alf decided to open a retail food business.

June's father started Dove's Restaurant with a hot plate at the old Victoria Opera House on Toronto Road on the west side of Victoria Square in Colborne and ran the business until he sold it to Marg and Bob Russell in 1970.

Over the years, the Doves had entertainment and held square dances there. June's dad was a capable mouth organist.



June and Bill Ball celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Keeler Centre in Colborne Feb. 17.

PHOTO BY BOB OWEN

Doves. He and his seven siblings lived where Johnston Motors is today.

The names of his elementary school teachers quickly come to mind — Miss Nelson, Miss McGlennon, Mr. Roberts, Mrs. Quinn. The principal was Mr. Cracknell, a strict, no-nonsense veteran of the First World War.

unsuccessfully to join the active army.

It was a job at Rowsome's Grocery Store that ultimately led to Bill meeting his future bride. In 1945, while running a delivery for the store in his car, he nearly hit June as she crossed the road. He stopped to see if she was all right, and now jokes he's paid for

June got her engagement ring Christmas 1947. She picked the wedding date — one that Bill wouldn't forget. They married at the Anglican manse in Brighton. Her friend Betty Snelgrove was her bridesmaid. Betty's boyfriend was to be the best man, but they split up. At the last minute, the couple dragged Leo Peebles out of

asleep in the bathtub on their wedding night.

Who would ever have guessed that 60 years later they would be happily celebrating the anniversary of that memorable day?

Back home in Colborne, June and Bill each made \$27 a week working at Doves. They lived over the restaurant.

In 1949, their first child, Bonnie (Hodgkinson), was born, followed by daughter Billie a year later. In 1954, Brenda (Kelly) arrived. Baby Brett showed up in 1959. All four continue to live nearby.

Times were busy when the kids were young.

The family had a cottage at Victoria Beach where they would spend all their summers until the 1960s. After that, they headed north to Algonquin Park where they camped. It was \$15 a week to rent a cabin with a motorboat and a canoe at Rock Lake. Bill and June still drive up today for walks and tours of the park information centre.

In 1950, Bill hit the road and for 13 years drove a transport. After brief stints at General Electric, BP Oil, George Latimer's and Cuthbert's, Bill went to Hoselton's as a manager. June worked there, too, for eight years. For 23 years, Bill served with the ambulance service. From 1966-74, he was a volunteer firefighter, too.

At one time, Bruce and Betty Cotter were June's employers at Cotter's Grocery Store, located where J&R Variety was for many years. In an odd twist, June babysat Brad, the future husband of Bill and June's granddaughter Nancy.

June also worked at the *Colborne Chronicle* under Les and Kaye Cunliffe, typesetting, proofreading and taking ads.

The old Colborne Cramahe Arena was being built when Bill was working for George Latimer.