

1981

R. B. SMALLMAN

100th BIRTHDAY

# This remarkable man has seen many changes, but still loves Port Perry

In the year R.B. Smallman was born, Canada was a mere 14 years old.

Mr. Smallman, who lives at the Community Nursing Home in Port Perry, celebrated his 100th birthday on June 29th.

And he did it up in style with a private dinner party Saturday night at Conway Gardens with family and friends, and on Sunday, his many friends and acquaintances paid tribute at an Open House held at the Nursing Home.

Anyone who knows Mr. Smallman (he is called R.B.) agrees that he is a truly remarkable gentleman. His mind is as sharp as a whip, and in an interview with the Star last week, he snapped off dates, names and places with ease.

In response to the obvious question about how one lives to be 100 years old and enjoy relatively good health, Mr. Smallman's eyes lit up and with a smile he said: "I have always been very strong physically and mentally. I am very strong willed, and I have had a clear mentality right down through the years."

He adds that a strong faith in God and clean living may also have had something to do with his longevity.

"I only smoked a very little during my life, and don't drink, except for a little sherry wine," he says.

Mr. Smallman was born in England in 1881 and came to Canada in March 1908. In September of that year, he came to Port Perry and

opened a blacksmith shop on Queen Street where he worked for the next 47 years.

Mr. Smallman is something of an expert on local history, and many people still come to him with questions about the growth and development of Port Perry.

"There have been many changes over the years, but I love Port Perry, I always have," he says.

While Mr. Smallman credits his strength, lifestyle and strong faith as some of the reasons he enjoys good health on his 100th birthday, he comes from a family who lived to a ripe old age.

His mother and father both lived well into their eighties; his grandfather lived to be 84, his grandmother reached 99 years of age, and he has a sister Annie who will be 98 this July.

One of the great loves of his life has been reading. Although failing eyesight has curtailed this recently, he says he looks forward each week to his issue of the Port Perry Star. In fact, the day this interview was conducted, he was slightly upset at the fact his copy of the Star had not arrived.

He has also written an autobiography and a 400 page novel, which he has never tried to have published.

Another great love in his life has been children. He and his wife Ethyl, who passed away five years ago, had two sons and a daughter, and he now enjoys 17 great grandchildren.

When asked what it means to him personally to reach the milestone of 100 years, he replied: "I am amazed that I have lived to be 100. I sometimes wonder why. There must be a reason for it."

The cards and letters of

congratulations began arriving at his room in the Nursing Home last week. The Star joins with his family and numerous friends in wishing this remarkable gentleman a very happy 100th birthday.



After 100 years he still sports a healthy smile and a twinkle in his eye.