

# Oshawa's oldest citizen is 106

By John Goodwin  
Oshawa Times staff

For the vast majority of us, the history of Canada is something we learned from a book.

But not for Violet Moon.

She remembers almost the entire history of this country because — except for 22 years — she has lived through it.

On Tuesday night, family members, friends, and neighbors at 155 King Street East (The King Charles Apartments) honored the woman who was born Jan. 15, 1885 — 106 years ago yesterday — in a log cabin near Chalk Lake, about 25 miles northwest of Oshawa.

Also at the party were her son Bill and his wife Charlotte, of Havelock, and her daughter Dorothy Bridger, and her husband, Jack, of Lakefield, Ont.

It's difficult for young Canadians to comprehend, but when she was born, Queen Victoria had reigned for 48 years and would continue on the throne for another 16 years.

The redoubtable Sir John A. Macdonald, our first prime minister, was still the political head of a struggling Dominion of Canada that had six provinces and fewer than five million people.

And he would soon be sending troops to the Northwest (now Saskatchewan) to put down a rebellion led by the great Metis leader,



**HAPPY 106th — Violet Moon, Oshawa's oldest citizen, cuts a cake to mark her 106th birthday yesterday. When Mrs. Moon was born, Sir John A. Macdonald was still prime minister.**

(Oshawa Times photo)

Louis Riel (hanged later in the year for treason).

It was also the year that the last spike was driven in the trans-continental Canadian Pacific Railway, which spanned the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

South of the border wide areas of the United States were still suffering the effects of the Civil War, which had ended just 20 years before.

When she was three months old, Mrs. Moon's family moved from Chalk Lake to Ashburn. A few years later, another move was made, this time to a 600-acre farm

## Oshawa's oldest citizen dies in 108th year



Violet Moon

Oshawa's oldest resident, Violet Moon died Thursday. She was in her 108th year.

A woman who maintained that she "didn't really have time to think about her age," Mrs. Moon said she "took one day at a time."

A longtime resident of 155 King St. E., she was a popular resident at her apartment complex and took delight in playing the piano for social gatherings.

Born Jan. 15, 1885, in a log cabin on Chalk Lake, she was the youngest of eight children. Her family moved to Ashton, where they worked a 600-acre farm. In 1923 she married Roy Moon and they bought the old homestead. She remained there until she moved to 155 King in 1980.

Mrs. Moon was the mother of Dorothy and her husband Jack Bridger of Apsley; Bill and his wife Charlotte Moon of Havelock; and stepmother of Fern Tobin of Seagrave. She had eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held today at Armstrong Funeral Home, Oshawa. Interment will be in Pine Grove Cemetery in the spring.

## Obituary

Mrs. Violet Moon

Mrs. Violet Moon of Oshawa died Jan. 30, 1992, in her 108th year.

Born in a log cabin at Chalk Lake, Ashburn, Ont., she was the youngest of nine children and daughter of the late Loren and Lucy Stanton.

On Feb. 7, 1923, she married the late Roy Moon. From the age of five and throughout her life, music was important to Mrs. Moon. She began by playing the autoharp and then went on to play the piano. She was invited to sing at strawberry socials, garden parties, church socials, funerals, and weddings. In her teens, she studied music at the Ontario Ladies College in Whitby and she attended schools at Raglan and Cedar Creek.

In 1979, she moved into a senior citizens apartment in Oshawa, where she made many new friends and where she maintained her own apartment until two months before her death.

Mrs. Moon belonged to the Raglan United Church Women and was a life member of Raglan United Church.

She is survived by her daughter, Dorothy Bridger, and son-in-law, Jack, of Apsley; a son, Bill, and his wife, Charlotte, of Havelock; and a step-daughter, Mrs. Ferne Tobin of Seagrave.

She is also survived by many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

# Violet Moon is just 106 years young

## HAPPY 106th BIRTHDAY MOM

Violet Moon  
Love Bill and  
Charlotte and  
Dorothy and Jack  
and families.

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at Raglan, north of the small community of Oshawa.

"I think I was three or four when we moved to Raglan and I do remember it took 13 wagon loads to move everything because there were no cars or paved roads in those days, just horses and wagons or buggies," she said with a smile.

Education for Violet Stanton began in the one-room Cedar Creek School (still standing) but was interspersed with helping on the farm, a common occurrence in those days when Canada was basically a country of farms and small towns.

In those days, young women were not expected to work or to go on to higher education, so far Violet Stan-

ton it was life on the farm after her years of schooling.

And there was lots of help; the Stanton family consisted of parents Loren and Lucie (McDermott) and nine children, including Violet.

Life on a farm in the late 19th century was far different than today; there was no hydro, no indoor plumbing, no paved roads, no central heating and everything moved along crude dirt roads by horse and buggy.

"Port Perry was our main shopping town and in the winter, when the roads were drifted, we'd often just drive the cutter over the fences on the drifts," she recalled.

The Stanton farm bordered the CP right-of-way, then the main line, and she often would watch the trains go

by. And it was by train that she travelled, mainly to points in the United States.

As for Canada, she barely remembers Sir John A, but does recall various Ontario premiers, mostly on the Tory side. "I remember in federal elections my father saying he was not voting for Sir Wilfrid Laurier," she laughed.

She remembers learning that Canadian troops were being sent to South Africa to fight in the Boer War. And she recalls the death of Victoria in 1901.

And later, of course, there was the First World War, the Depression, and the Second World War. Now there's talk of still another war — this time in the Persian Gulf.

"And I certainly remember when the Titanic went down," she adds.

In 1923, she married her husband, Roy, (he died in 1960) and they set up their own farm, also in the Raglan area. There they raised a family that now includes seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

"Until I moved to Oshawa and the apartment here, I lived my entire life on a farm at Raglan," she said.

And if there was one thing that she loved through all those years, it was music, from playing the piano to singing in choirs. And she also taught piano lessons to neighborhood children.

"I've always loved music and I

think that's one of the formulas for my age," she said, although she added that she never smoked. "But I take the odd drink," she chuckled.

Until surgery slowed her down a bit last year, she also took daily walks around the block — rain, snow, or sun. (The walks now are in good weather). And she continues to maintain her own apartment alone.

Last night, Violet Moon was one of nearly 20 residents of the King Charles Apartments who were guests of honor at a common birthday party held in the building's common room.

But for Violet Moon, 106 years young, there were greetings from prominent people such as Gov.-Gen. Ray Hnatyshyn, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, MP Mike Breagh, former MP Mike Starr, and Mayor Allan Mason. Other congratulations have also come from Premier Bob Rae, and Industry Minister Allen Pilkey, the city's MPP.

Now in her 107th year, Violet Moon discounts the so-called generational gap. "I've always tried to live with the times and not look back," she said.

But then she shook her head when it was mentioned that her birthday fell on the same day as the deadline in the Gulf.

"The world doesn't seem to be in such good shape these days," she said.

## MOON Violet May

At the Oshawa General Hospital on Thursday January 30, 1992. Violet May Stanton in her 108th year. Beloved wife of the late Roy C. Moon. Dear mother of Dorothy and her husband Jack Bridger of Apsley and Bill and his wife Charlotte Moon of Havelock. Step-mother of Fern Tobin of Seagrave. Predeceased by two sisters and six brothers. Also survived by eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Resting at the ARMSTRONG FUNERAL HOME, 124 King St. E., Oshawa with funeral service in the Chapel Monday February 3 at 1:30 p.m. Interment Pine Grove Cemetery in the spring. Memorial donations to the V.O.N. would be appreciated. Visitation commencing Saturday 7-9 p.m. and Sunday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.