

Turning 90 with 43 great-grandchildren

If you are ever wondering what life was like in Northern France during the early 1900s look no further than Georgetown resident Maria Beene.

This incredibly spry looking woman, who was born in Buray, France in 1900, celebrated her 90th birthday with her 11 children, the eldest being 71 and youngest being 44, 38 grandchildren and 43 great grandchildren at the Georgetown Lions Club Hall, Sunday afternoon.

Ms. Beene, who still retains a slight French accent when speaking English, left France in 1919 after marrying Edgar Beene, a Canadian soldier, posted overseas during the First World War. Mr. Beene died in 1983. They had been married for 64 years.

The couple first settled in Woodstock where they were farmers, a profession they followed until selling their Limehouse farm in 1950.

The couple moved to Limehouse in 1935.

"I was never on a farm before I was married," she said.

But Ms. Beene loved her new life so much that she says, "I would go back to the farm anytime."

Ms. Beene attributes her health to taking life one day at a time and "letting the good Lord take care of the rest."

When asked if there is a secret to her age, she said, "I like to eat, sleep and garden." She also pointed to the many years as a member of the Catholic Women's League and sewing.

"Georgetown has changed for the better" over the years, Ms. Beene says. "There are many new buildings and a lot more people." And "everyone is always so friendly."

Ms. Beene says she's "the most blessed mother in the world. They (her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren) are all so nice."

Her extended family came from Mississauga, Brampton, Midland, Toronto, Owen Sound and Georgetown to celebrate the occasion. Ms. Beene also has a granddaughter in Calgary who was unable to attend the birthday.

Ms. Beene said after being an only child she would never have only one child. Instead she decided on 11.

Ms. Beene seemed especially pleased that several members of her family are nurses. "I have

three daughters and six granddaughters who are nurses," she said proudly.



Oh! to be young. Georgetown resident Maria Beene, who turned 90 this past Sunday, proved the old adage "you're only as young as you feel." The spry looking woman when asked the secret to her vitality, said, "I like to eat and sleep and garden." And it looks as if Ms. Beene is about to pass on her secret to life to the youngest member of the extended Beene family, six-month-old Virginia Carney. (Herald photo)

Police investigate robbery in underground parking lot

By Sergeant DAVE ATKINSON
Crime Stoppers of Halton

Crime Stoppers and the Halton Regional Police in Oakville are looking for a man who assaulted and robbed a woman in an underground apartment parking lot.

The armed assault took place at 1130 Queens Ave., Oakville, Oct. 14, 1989.

The female victim arriving home after shopping at 4:10 p.m., stopped at the entrance to the underground parking, activated the door to enter the parking area, and noticed a small, subcompact, grey car pull in behind her. The victim pulled into her parking space and began unloading her groceries from the car. The grey car stopped directly behind her car and the driver got out, approached the victim producing a knife with a 4-inch to 6-inch blade and said, "Give me your money." The victim screamed and the suspect punched the victim in the face and said, "I won't hurt you, just give me the money."

The victim then produced her wallet, which he snatched from her hand, walked back to his car, drove out of the garage and fled east on Queens Ave.

The suspect is described as follows:

CRIME STOPPERS



—male, white, 20-30 Dark skin with acne or pimpled complexion;

—5'5", 150 lbs., slim build;

—dark, medium length hair (mid neck at back);

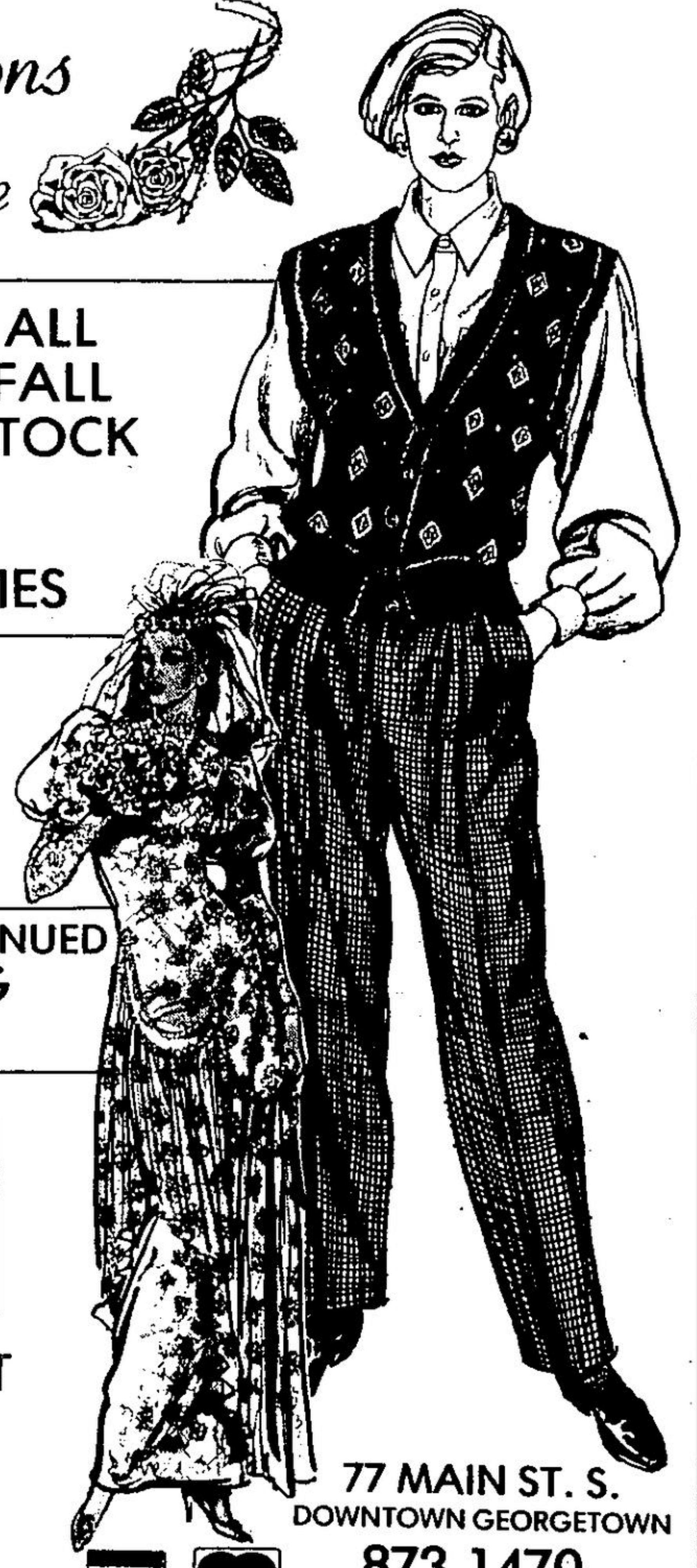
—no facial hair, grubby appearance;

—spoke clear English - no accent;

—wearing blue jeans, dark colored bomber style jacket and dark colored baseball hat.

Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest in this case or any other case. Callers are not required to reveal their identities or testify in court. The Crime Stoppers toll free number is 1-800-668-5151.

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