

# Seniors

## Wedding anniversaries are special

By FLORENCE WILKINSON  
Wedding Anniversaries

One of my souvenirs which I enjoy every day is a quilt with embroidered blocks of peoples names which was given to me many years ago. Recently I received a newspaper clipping telling about one of the couples on the quilt who are still very much in love after a marriage of 69 years.

Forty year marriages used to be celebrated quite often, but if a couple made it to their fiftieth everyone considered them lucky. The local history books being written today have pages of 50th anniversary celebrations. Several pictures of 60th anniversaries, some of 65th anniversaries and occasionally a picture of some couple who have lived together for over 65 years.

I realize that 60 years ago our economic system made it almost necessary for a woman to belong to some family economic unit if she was to have any life at all. That may be one reason that some of these marriages have lasted so long, but I am convinced that the real reason that most of them have survived is the result of that era's definition of love - love being a quality of the will for another's good, rather than a desire to fulfil one's own emotions.

### Seniors for the Future

All this talk leads me to say that I have heard recently about at least two couples in the Georgetown region who are about to celebrate sixtieth wedding anniversaries. Sixty years of developing and maturing relationships is a real life's work. Sharing the work, companionship, fun, hardship, spiritual awareness and awareness of all of life's forces which a sixty year time span allows is a work of art that deserves the gratefulness that a community can give. Marriage is indeed a work of art which far outshines many of the works which humanity praises so highly, and goes to such lengths to preserve for future posterity.

Think of the family story that can be told out of such a long association! It is true that many shorter marriages have a lot of family story to tell, and that many marriages are to be just as highly honored, even if one spouse has not survived for so many anniversaries. It is also true that a long marriage might turn out to be only a tale of self development and family security with no thought for reaching outwards to the rest of the world.

However, today I am thinking of the gifts given to communities by so many of these couples who have shared so many years together. I am also thinking of how marriage as an institution has seemed to have lost the stability of the will to the instability of emotion, and has become just another throw away commodity in our throw away society. I think of marriages broken because one or other of the spouses has demanded that human rights be put ahead of family rights or community rights.

I am thinking of these things, but know that even the evidence of such practice cannot discourage those who today aim to make their marriages last for a 60th anniversary celebration. There is, as I mentioned earlier, enough evidence around that marriage can survive for 60 years or more. So take heart younger people, and older people, raise a toast to those who have come together over such a road of experience and change, knowing that their examples do have an influence, and that aging is really a valuable part of social growth.

**HIKING**  
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## Seniors safety show

- Halton Regional Police and the Drama Club at Acton High School are putting on a special performance to inform seniors about personal safety May 28 at the high school.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m. the drama club will present four skits following the theme of 'Don't Be a Victim.' The Halton Police Chorus and the Golden Age

Chorus will also be performing that evening.

Although the evening performance has been designed especially for seniors, everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is free but donations to the Acton Food Share will be accepted.

For more information on the evening's program, call Acton Village Constable, Bill Riddle at 853-2050.

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