

## IN MEMORIAM

### **ELIZABETH (BETSY) FEE, 1912-2010**

On October 5, 2010, Betsy Fee died at the age of 98 and was laid to rest in St. John's, York Mills Churchyard on October 8<sup>th</sup> beside her parents, her husband and her daughter. Betsy was likely the most-enduring member of St. John's...98 years!

She was born in 1912 in the house in which she died, and in which she lived most of her life, beside the church path on Yonge Street. Her parents were Callie and Charles W. Jefferys, who moved to the house in York Mills, a former Presbyterian manse, in 1910, after having spent two summer vacations at the York Mills Hotel, now The Miller. There was scope for Mr. Jefferys, a prominent Canadian artist, to draw and paint in the rural village of York Mills, close to the Don River.

Betsy and her sisters grew up in the village. She spoke of her childhood watching the brides being driven up the church "road" past their garden on summer days, of the excitement in the village when the Prince of Wales attended a dance at "Strathrobyn", the home of Col. F.B. Robins in Armour Heights (now the Officers' Mess of the Canadian Forces Staff Training College), and the attending excitement about a local girl who "danced with the Prince of Wales".

Betsy attended the local school in York Mills, and as there was no local high school, she took the radial car north on Yonge Street to school in Richmond Hill. After her marriage to Dr. Alex Fee, they lived in several places while he was completing his specialist studies in Ear, Nose and Throat medicine, and then following her mother's death, they returned to the house in York Mills to care for her father. There, her three daughters, Barbara, Judy and Nancy were raised.

Inspired by her father's interest and work in Canadian history, Betsy became a founding member of the North York Historical Society in 1960. At the time of her death she was its Honorary President. When the North York Historical Board was formed, Betsy was a vital member of that management board.

At St. John's, she worked tirelessly for many years with M. Audrey Graham on establishing the Archives of St. John's, York Mills Church, collecting, cataloguing and preserving materials pertaining to the church, and facilitating the publication in 1966 of Audrey's book, *150 Years At St. John's, York Mills*.

Until the end of her life, Betsy retained her life-long interest in history, and shared many delightful stories of her near-century-long life in York Mills, leaving a unique legacy for those who follow. She will be remembered with deep affection and gratitude by many who share her interest in a remembrance of things past.

*Penelope Potter edited*

### **BETTY CROSSLEY 1925-2010**

Betty died peacefully at home after a short illness on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Betty was a long time member of the North York Historical Society and archivist for the Willowdale United Church. She, together with Gunild Spiess, was a driving force in the celebration of 200 Years Yonge Street.

### **DOROTHY MILNE 1929-2010**

Dorothy died in hospital after a long illness on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy was a long time member of the North York Historical Society. She was a researcher for *Pioneering in North York* by Patricia W. Hart. She was also part of the group who spearheaded the preservation and restoration of the Gibson House Museum and worked many hours coordinating the Society's scrapbooks (now in the Heritage Resource Centre, NYHS).

### **V. STANLEY DAVIES**

Stanley passed away on February 1, in hospital after a brief illness. Stanley was a past director and long-time NYHS member. He was a proud member of Fort Henry and also Fort York Guards.