## **Nellie Ripley Celebrates Her 100th**

Dalhousie University and

Anthony is a mechanical engi-

neer in the United States. In

addition, nellie has four great-

grandchildren to pop her but-

tons over: joseph, Ashley, Abagail

In the past, before age finally

slowed her down, Nellie had a

variety of interests to keep her

busy, from cooking and baking

for everyone of making sure

everyone had a quilt or a hand-

made sweater. She also has a

love affair with The Bible, read-

ing it daily until her eyesight

weakened. These days, Nellie

gets her word from the Good

Book from listening to a record-

ed version, something she still

In 1995, Nellie moved to the

Dr. Samuel Prince Manor in

Halifax, where she lived for 13

does every day, Ida noted.

and Zachary.



Ida Ripley and her mother Nellie Ripley look through a special scrapbook Ida prepared for her mother's 100th birthday which was celebrated at Cedarstone in Truro on Sunday, Oct. 11. (Peter Heckbert Photo)

By Peter Heckbert

Nellie Ripley's eyes sparkled as she laughed at the memory of picking an orange off a tree during a 1976 trip to California.

"The woman who owned the tree was a little strange, wasn't she Mom?" Nellie's daughter Ida Ripley reminded her. "Yes, she was," was Nellie's reply. "She didn't really want you to pick any oranges but finally said you could," Ida added.

Mother and daughter were sharing some special memories recently in preparation for Nellie's 100th birthday. She was born in Truro on Oct. 9, 1911 so friends and family gathered at Cedarstone in Truro on the ninth of this month to help Nellie celebrate her special day.

Nellie was raised by her foster parents, Lily and Dan Meekins, "in Londonderry on the hill above the 'Art Mattix place'," explained Ida. In 1930, at the age of 19, Nellie married Arthur Ripley and together they raised six children: John, Ida, Ruth, Joe, Art and Paul.

Ida said her father was working in maintenance with the railroad in the early years of his life with Nellie but his failing eyesight forced him off the rails and to the family farm where he grew vegetables and raised animals for the table, despite losing his eyesight.

After the three oldest offspring left home to further their education, the Ripley family moved into a second home in Londonderry in 1958. In 1960, Ida said, her parents took a trip to Oxford, N.S., where Art was originally from. A year later he died at the age of 65 and was buried in Oxford. A few months later, Nellie moved there with the children, staying for 34 years.

In 1970 tragedy struck the Ripley family when youngest son Paul, who was 16 at the time, was killed in a car accident. "He had so much going for him," Ida said. He was class president, a avid hockey player and soloist at the church, she added.

'Mom was always proud of us and what we accomplished," Ida said. John retired as Professor Emeritus from McGill University; Joe worked at the Chronicle Herald where he became general manager and vice president before he retired; Ruth is a nurse: Ida taught in Montreal and Art is a business man who graduated from the University of New Brunswick. Ida also noted that Nellie has a special place in her heart "for her other daughter, Charlotte MacVicar." Charlotte and her husband Reid have been close family friends for years, Ida said.

And it's not only her children who have things to be proud of, Nellie's three grand-children are successful in their own right. Jessica is a social worker with the Ottawa Police; Anita established her own business after graduating from

years. A year after settling in, Nellie fell and broke her pelvis and spent 18 weeks recovering in the hospital. It was at that time Ida was able to lend a hand to her mother, staying with her in Halifax. Ida managed to still get away to Montreal, thanks to help provided by her brother Joe and his family, who also lived in Halifax. "joe was a wonderful man," Ida said. "Her (mom's) wish was his command."

In 2008, Nellie was agreeable to moving into a nursing home so when a spot opened up at Cedarstone in Truro, they jumped at the chance. Ida had nothing but words of praise for the establishment. "This place in wonderful. There's such kindness and understanding here. They treat the people here with such respect and, they make life fun and enjoyable for the people who live here," she said.

Anne White, who is Nellie's regular caregiver at Cedarstone, and Madeleine Harding, her companion who drops by on a regular basis to lend a hand also came in for high words of praise from Ida.

"I have such admiration for mom," Ida said. "She had such a hard beginning in the early years so now I want to make her time as good as possible."

The love between mother and daughter is evident as they look at the scrapbook, recalling the good times.

## Bass River & Area Fire Brigade News

By Peter Christensen

Happy Thanks Giving to you all. A busy last few weeks for sure. On Thanksgiving weekend the brigade had our auction. A stunning day of sunshine and smiles all round. Lots of great items up for grabs, old stuff, new stuff, food stuff and the canteen was awesome, soooo folks stuffed.

I have to thank all the firefighters who gave their whole day up for our auction. The whole thing would not go on without every one helping out. From the chief down to the event coordinator and everyone in between, thanks so much for your contributions through the years.

The Sunday after the auction, we had our Trail Ride on the 16 of Oct. It was a beautiful day for a ride. The weather was sunny and warm, and we had twelve riders with different types of horses, from ponies for the smaller young adults to Tennese Walkers and blue roan Appalossa horses

and paints of all colors. We had a great looking wagon with a stunning team of Halflingers, driven by Gordon Lewis and his brother Ivan, with his wife Judy in the back of the Rolls, as we called it. They were in fine form with their leather Stetons, and full chrome harnesses on the horses. i believe they were named Woody and Max.

We had dinner at the Chiefs chalet and the folks went away full and happy. A great big thanks to all the folks that made dinner and sweets for the ride.

And this past week was fire safety week and we went to the seniors complex and checked out their complex, and give them some suggestions for better fire safety. I believe a trip to the local school is in the works as well.

I have seen the sun going down sooner and the nights are cooler sooo make sure your pipes and chimneys are clear and ready to take the heat.

I noticed in the media that the chief of Bible Hill brigade did an interview on civic signs in Bible hill. Great piece, Frank, and I hope the folks that read it will get out and buy a civic address. As in Bible Hill, we have the same problem with signs, lots of folks don't have them. At night we cannot see your sign if it is on the wall, or veranda posts. A nice little blue and white sign on the edge of the lawn will work awesome

The training sessions are going well, with last night's training on trucks, and the proper use of the tools in each compartment.

The memorial is going well, but the busy month has slowed work on it, the flag is doing great, flying high. The next event at the hall is our final dance, for more reasons than I want. The last dance is on Oct 29 from 9 pm until 1 am. Should be a great time, hope to see you there.

Well, I have to get the wood in to the house, cool night tonite. Keep your pipes clean and be safe.

## 3rd Annual Titanic Toy Drive

Central Nova Women's Centre is holding their 3rd Annual Titanic Toy Drive this year hoping to make it bigger and better! Join us in the quest to save the spirit of Christmas for local children by donating NEW, unwrapped toys. All toys collected will be

donated to the Christmas Index Program to be distributed to families in our communities.

Toys can be dropped off at the centre at 676 Prince Street (Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. For more info call Michaela at 895-4295.





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