

Mossie's secret for 100 years: worrying, living a good life, and minding her own business



By Brock Weir

For most people, a nagging worry could be considered a key factor of wearing out ? but most people aren't Mossie Hillis.

The Aurora resident was feted by her children, family, along with her friends and neighbours at Park Place Manor on Thursday afternoon as she celebrated her 100th birthday.

The spry centenarian was escorted gingerly into a packed banquet room on the arms of two members of the Central York Fire Services where, at the head table, they presented her with flowers, a birthday cake, and numerous rounds of applause.

?I am flabbergasted,? Mrs. Hillis told The Auroran as she settled into the festivities.

When asked for the key on living such a long and fulfilling life, she was pretty modest about her milestone.

?I'm putting it on! she laughed, before noting that ?worrying? was the key to her longevity.

?I have always been a worrier.?

Beyond worrying, the second key to Mrs. Hillis' longevity is to ?live a good life.? And, what is a good life? ?To mind your own business!?

Mrs. Hillis was joined at the main table by her daughter Carole, an Aurora resident, son Ross, and their spouses. While waiting for their mother to make her grand entrance, they said they were very happy to be there, although it might have been hard to wrap their heads around the fact their mother was celebrating a very vibrant century.

?She has been a great mum, she has a great sense of humour, and I have never thought of my mum as being old, even now when she is 100!? said Carole. ?She is a tower of strength, and she's a worrier on top of that. She says that is probably what has kept her going, and it hasn't killed her yet. She is very patient, and I think that has helped. She can relate to everyone, carry on a conversation with anyone, and they enjoy talking to her.?

Most of her family gathered at Park Place on Saturday for a more intimate celebration. To underscore Mrs. Hillis' longevity, they were joined by two former neighbours, brothers, whom they met when they were just 14 and 7 at the time. They are now 65 and 58.

?She really enjoyed that,? said Carole.

Mossie Hillis was born on April 3, 1914, in Dixie, which is now part of Mississauga. Raised in Port Credit, she eventually moved to Toronto and studied at Shaw Business College before taking up a position as a legal secretary for five years. She eventually married and started her family, devoting her time as a homemaker. After the children left and her family expanded, the next phase in her life was devoted to being a caregiver to her husband, and eventually to her mother and brother.

She moved to Aurora over a decade ago to be closer to her daughter.