

Local couple celebrate diamond anniversary

BY SARAH BISSONETTE
North Star Staff

She was 16 and he was 20 when they married 75 years ago.

Clemon and Mildred Mintz were married with a small ceremony in her mother's Toronto home Saturday, Nov. 17, 1934, after a whirlwind 18 months of courting.

On Tuesday morning they celebrated their second diamond anniversary with a surprise party surrounded by family and friends at the Seguin Seniors Drop-In Centre.

"I'd like to do it all over again," said Mildred, 91, of the 75 years. "I hate that it's got to end one day."

Today, even after three quarters of a century of marriage, he still dotes on her, making sure she has her coffee and helping with her jacket like a newlywed.

Throughout their marriage the couple has done everything together. The only time they were separated was from 1944 to 1945 when Clemon, 95, fought in World War II. There, in Italy, he lost his leg from shrapnel.

With him overseas, Mildred took her only job outside the home in a factory making Mosquito airplane wings.

"I knew he lost his leg and knew we needed a car, so I saved some money," she said.

They bought property on Horseshoe Lake for a cottage when he returned from the war, then retired to a home they built on the property in 1974. He'd taken a job at Sunnybrook Hospital making artificial limbs after the war. They moved in to town in 1990.

Enjoy each other

The couple doesn't think there's anything outstanding about being an item for longer than some people are alive. As Clemon said, "it's our life."

"The secret for a long marriage - you have to enjoy each other," said Clemon, leaning in to share the secret.

The oldest of the couple's two daughters, Joyce Higgins, sat proudly next to her parents Tuesday morning.

"I've never heard my mom and dad argue," she said. "Never an unkind word between them."

Friends of 20 years, Shirley and Bill Norrie, were also at Tuesday's celebration.

"Seventy-five years, it's something isn't it," said Shirley. "We told them they're survivors."



Sarah Bissonette/North Star
Clemon and Mildred Mintz celebrate 75 years of marriage on November 17 at a surprise party at the Seguin Drop-In Centre.

Book shortlisted for Governor General's Literacy Award

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Times are hard again, many of the men are now going off to Labrador to find work fishing, others are leaving for the eastern United States for education and employment. The unions are coming in, causing both strife and benefit for the fishermen.

There is now a priest from Rome - and division among the population, as he enforces his own rules and Catholic children are removed from the local school and taught in the church. There are no more church approved "mixed"

marriages, some stop attending this church now ruled by some make-believe world of the Vatican.

As we come toward the end of the novel those who we knew as infants are now men - working for the unions, going off to war. Others are now elderly, and many have died. I loved my time with these people and was sorry to see this novel come to an end.

Galore has been shortlisted

for the 2009 Governor General's Literacy Award for Fiction - the award winner is revealed on November 17.

This edition of the North Star will have gone to press before we know if *Galore* has won - it is certainly my first choice.

Cascade bridge repairs delayed

Unco-operative weather has contributed to the delay in completing work on the Cascade Street Bridge in Parry Sound.

The bridge closed on September 14 and was scheduled to open last Friday, Nov. 13.

The \$400,000 rehabilitation project is comprised of a number of repairs including reinforcing concrete, asphalt and paving work, waterproofing the bridge deck, as well as replacing pedestrian railing panels that had been damaged.

All town bridges were inspected and a report was made to the town of the findings, prioritizing work that should be done within one year or within five years.

"We put an ad out and said it wouldn't be open now until sometime between today (Monday) and Christmas day," said Martha Vincent, town operation's department administrative assistant. "They got behind. They came upon some unexpected things and the weather didn't co-operate. It's okay now that the weather's good now so hopefully they'll be able to pick up the pace. When we got all that rain, it didn't help. There were delays in the erecting shoring system because of the site conditions there was poor access and egress so they had to make sure that there workers were safe."

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