

# Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) McNamee, from England to Canada

SUSAN WINN

I first met Mrs. McNamee when my husband and I took several ladies on a tour to see the Christmas lights around Montreal. It was a cold December night and we piled into a jeep with Mrs. McNamee in the middle seat where she could get a good view of the overhead lights on Monkland Avenue. This delightful lady, who had moved to Canada from Eng-



*Mrs. McNamee*

land, exclaimed with joy, "It is just like London!" She was thrilled to see all the coloured lights and special decorations.

Betty McNamee was born in Watford, Hertfordshire, England in 1915. She was the fourth of five girls, and remembers having a very happy childhood. She enjoyed school, completed a degree in English and a course in Library Science. She worked as a teacher for a number of years. During the Sec-

ond World War Elizabeth helped with air raid warnings. She was an Air Raid Precautions Warden who would patrol at night to enforce blackout periods. She remembers wearing a helmet and bits of shrapnel would land on her helmet. It was dangerous work for a young woman.

When Betty was married in 1944, she and her husband shared a love of hiking and bicycle tours. Her husband, a mathematician, was offered a professorship in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Once he was settled in Edmonton, Betty travelled to meet him, with four little boys under the age of six, and nineteen pieces of luggage! She decided to travel by train from Halifax in order to see the country of Canada. However, it was winter, and all she can remember seeing is endless snow!

Now a resident at Fulford, Betty can be observed every day reading her newspaper. On Mondays she is a keen member of the Bridge group.

I remarked one day on Betty's lovely hair, so full and wavy. She replied, "I have a lot of hair for someone of my age. It is because I brush it a lot!" Elizabeth McNamee is a charming lady with a twinkle in her eye. She enjoys sharing her good memories of family and friends. On her next birthday in November she will be 102 years young. She is certainly an example of a life well lived.