



## Heritage honour awarded posthumously to Laura Davis Nesbitt

Laura Davis Nesbitt (1897-1993) received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” posthumously from the Morin Heights Historical Association at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Awards Gala held October 25, 2019. The award honours Laura’s role as a pioneer in preserving Morin Heights’ history. A number of her descendants were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Davis-Nesbitt family.

Laura is credited with being Morin Heights’s first historian with her detailed research and written account of the town’s history that she produced for the Morin Heights 1955 Centennial celebrations. Her passion for community involvement also got her elected in July 1956 as Morin Heights’ first female town councilor.

As a true woman of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Laura took on many other less traditional roles throughout her life. As a young woman she worked briefly as the town’s Assistant Secretary Treasurer in 1919 (a post

held previously by her sister Edna). She lived for a number of years in Montreal and worked at the Bank of Montreal until she married William Nesbitt in 1926. She also taught in the Morin Heights one-room schoolhouse and helped to run the family boarding house, Maple Villa.



In addition Laura turned her formidable sewing skills into creating a quilt for Morin Heights’ 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary entitled “Morin Flats Quebec / 1849-1908” in which she depicts pioneer life through the seasons. Laura’s pioneer roots run deep as her grandfather John Davis was among the town’s original settlers. Her passion for history continued into her 80s as she worked on family genealogy tracing her roots back to England and Ireland in the 1700s. One of six children, Laura had a strong sense of family, which she carried on as a wife and mother to her sons Gordon and Keith. Her legacy lives on through 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren and counting, some of whom still live in Morin Heights.

The Morin Heights Historical Association has been presenting Heritage Awards since 2016. Previous winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award were Bunny Basler, Sandra Stock and Michael Tott. (See *Porcupine 11* for more about their achievements).

*A more complete version of Laura Davis Nesbitt’s story will appear in Porcupine 12 due to be published in 2021.*