

Ladies & Gentlemen:

We are gathered here today to commemorate the century just passed and to look forward to the Centennial Year ahead and beyond that to the next hundred years and the development of our Canada. In retrospect, we realize that the tremendous progress that has taken place in this country has been made by "people", and this Community has been blessed with public spirited folk who spared no effort to build for posterity, and today we have a very worthy representative of this in the person of Mrs. Grace Flood, who has been a resident of Charleswood since the very early days.

Mrs. Flood came West to Winnipeg from Strathroy, Ontario, with her Father and Mother, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick H. Kelly and nine brothers and sisters, in February of 1906. Mr. Flood settled his family in Charleswood, though it was not known by that name at the time. They drove from Winnipeg with horse and cutter and crossed the river just East of what is now St. Charles. Her Father opened the first store and Post Office and Poolroom in this area as there was no Post Office between Winnipeg and Eli. The building still stands on Roblin Boulevard known as the Andrews property. The Winnipeg Electric street cars ran only to what is now the Polo Park area, and Mr. Kelly got busy and persuaded the Transit Company to extend the line to where his store was built and the first street car came out on Christmas morning in 1908 and Mr. Kelly got his family up bright and early to take a ride on the street car so there would be some "fares" in the box!

As the area on both sides of the river developed, it became evident that it was not feasible to operate the two districts as one, and Mr. Kelly and his sons with other people in the community formed a committee and petitioned the Government to allow them to set up a Municipality on the South side of the river. The petition was granted in 1913 and the first Council meetings were held in the Kelly store. Though Mr. Kelly was asked to head this Council, he preferred to work behind the scenes but one of his sons, Charles, was a member of the first Council. They had to decide on a name and "Charleswood" was chosen, named for Charles Kelly who had worked so diligently for this, and because at that time the area was densely wooded, so the name was well chosen.

Mrs. Flood helped her Father in the General Store and can recall her many trips into Winnipeg to the wholesale area where she was sent to buy yard goods, heavy underwear and all those things necessary in those days for a farming community. She also remembers selling bread at 4 cents a loaf! She married Daniel J. Flood in 1916 and lived in Winnipeg for a short time, but eventually persuaded her husband to buy property in Charleswood and she moved back "home" and lived on the site next door to where she and her daughter Margaret now reside. The "new" house was built in the late nineteen thirties. She has many memories of her first years in Charleswood as a wife and mother of seven children and it seems very evident she and her husband carried on the tradition of the Kelly family in being good citizens and good neighbors. She and her husband played the violin for dances held in Chapman School and Mrs. Flood remembers that her door was never locked during the long winter months as Mr. Flood used to say one never knew who might be looking for shelter from the cold or storm. Mr. Flood was Chairman of the School Board for many years, another indication of the public spirit of these pioneers.

These stories just give us some idea of the kind of people who settled this country in the early days; they could be Kellys or Floods or some other name, they were imbued with the same kindness and hospitality, always ready and anxious to make their chosen home a good place to live and raise families. Of Mrs. Flood's seven children, all three boys and one daughter, Helen, served in the Armed Forces during World War Two. Mrs. Flood was one of a Committee of three who undertook to distribute the Ration Books at the request of the War Time Prices & Trade Board. She was a member of the Child Welfare Committee of the Provincial Department of Health and is an Honorary Member of the Charleswood Branch of the Legion. It would seem she has always been ready to give of her time and her talents to make Charleswood a better place, and is still a very vital member of this Community. We wish her well as she continues to live amongst us and we are grateful for all her efforts in our behalf down through the years.

And so as we have progressed and prospered in the last Century, we look forward with determination and confidence that our generation will carry the torch so that the next 100 years will bring greater progress and development to our Community and to all of Canada.

On behalf of Mrs. Moug, myself and the Council of the Municipality of Charleswood, may I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.