



449 Scotia

Myra Anten Gray
(1923–2007)

Myra Gray was born in 1923 and moved to Winnipeg in 1939. She helped run her family's restaurant, Santen's Grill, and earned a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Manitoba in 1945—one of the first women in Manitoba to do so. She married Earl Gray in 1949 and lived for decades at 449 Scotia Street, raising two children. She died in 2007.



465 Scotia

Elfriede Leopoldine Berger
(1916–2011)

Born in Graz, Austria, Elfriede Berger worked in her family's gift shop before attending art school in her early 20s. In 1941, she married Hugo Berger, and after the birth of their son Wilhelm in 1949, the family immigrated to Canada in 1953, settling in Winnipeg. Soon after, she made her home and studio at 465 Scotia Street, where she lived and worked for nearly 50 years. Her sculptures were exhibited across Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Notable works include busts of Mayor Steve Juba and aerospace pioneer Wernher von Braun, the fairytale figures at the Witch's Hut in Kildonan Park, and public pieces like the Treffpunkt wall sculpture and the Pan Am Plaque. Berger sculpted into her late 80s, inspired by her love of art, nature, and animals.

Thank you for joining us today!

All are welcome to join our monthly meetings at the Bleak House Centre (1637 Main Street) on the second Wednesday at 7:00pm.



Our next tour, Then & Now: Scotia's Fight Against the 1950 Flood as a part of Doors Open Winnipeg, will be on May 24 & 25 at 1:00pm and start at the corner of Luxton Avenue and St. Cross Street. Visit doorsopenwinnipeg.ca for more info!

If you appreciate what we do and would like to contribute to the society, you can make a donation at sevenoakshs.ca or by scanning the QR code below.



Seven Oaks Historical Society

presents
Ladies of Leila



*The women who built a
street, shaped a community,
and left a legacy.*

Hosted by Kenneth Ingram



173 Leila

Marie Bernice Karasevich
(1914–2000)

Born in 1914 to Ukrainian immigrants, Marie Karasevich was active in wartime volunteerism, including with the Red Cross and the Ukrainian Canadian Women's War Effort. She married John Karasevich in 1935 and moved to 173 Leila Avenue after WWII, where they raised a family.

Marie was known for her Ukrainian cooking, her involvement in women's organizations, and her role in community events. Later in life she moved to St. Boniface. She died in 2000 at Riverview Health Centre.



165 Leila

Margaret Grace McBeath
(1921–2012)

Margaret McBeath was born in 1921. As a young adult, she began business college and worked for the British Government in Washington, D.C. during WWII. She later trained as a nurse in Bermuda and Montreal. While in Bermuda, she met her husband, police officer John Colin McBeath. They settled at 165 Leila Avenue in Winnipeg. She was involved with St. Philip's Anglican Church and volunteered with organizations like the Heart and Stroke Foundation. She died in 2012.



141 Leila

Helen Louise Leavens Lamb
(1914–1993)

Helen Lamb was born to parents Dan and Laura Lamb on a farm in Grosse Isle. She met her husband at age 16 and the two were married in 1937 and resided in Stonewall. A University of Manitoba graduate, she taught for 42 years in the Winnipeg School Division, mostly at Machray School. In 1948, she and her family moved to 141 Leila Avenue and became a founding member of the re-established West Kildonan Horticultural Society in 1951, receiving many awards for gardening over her 45 years in the area.



125 Leila

Stephanie "Sally" Berlin
(1918–2012)

Born in 1918 in Chatfield, Manitoba, Sally Berlin left school early to support her family. During WWII, she worked in upholstery at Parkhill Bedding, replacing male labour. After leaving an abusive marriage, she supported two children on her own. She later married Buster Berlin, with whom she ran Market Sales Sporting Goods and raised their family at 125 Leila Avenue.



120 Leila

Ruth Eva Duncan
(1902–2004)

Born in 1902 in Ignace, Ontario, Ruth Duncan worked in Winnipeg's hospitality industry as a clerk, hostess, and manager. She lived much of her adult life at 120 Leila Avenue. Her brother, Stephen Fowler, went missing in action in WWI and was listed as a deserter. Ruth spent decades seeking to correct the record. In 2001, with help from historian Eric Brown, his name was finally added to the Books of Remembrance in Ottawa.



115 Leila

Anellia "Nellie" Pawlik
(1913–2015)

Born in Veregin, Saskatchewan, in 1913, Nellie Pawlik moved to Winnipeg in 1935 after meeting her husband Andrew. The two moved to 115 Leila Avenue around 1950. She helped found the Manitoba branch of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada and served as its curator for over 40 years. She also co-founded the Olha Kobylianska branch of the Ukrainian Women's Association and became the first president of the Women's Branch at Holy Trinity Ukrainian Cathedral and served as secretary for two decades. For her work she received the Prix Manitoba Award in 1992 and the Shevchenko Medal for community service.