



A Tribute to Nursing Sister

Ida Crocker

Cerebrating 100 Years



Figure 1: Lt N/S Ida Crocker (nee Bain)

Nursing Sister Ida Crocker, RN, RCAMC

Nursing Sister Ida Crocker (nee Bain) was born 29 June 1920 in Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay), Ontario. She became a Registered Nurse in Hamilton, Ontario in January 1942 and joined the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1943. She was sent to No. 13 Canadian General Hospital in Sussex, England, where she served for several months. She was then sent to No. 14 Canadian General Hospital in Perugia, Italy, where she served until the end of the Italian Campaign in April 1945. She then returned to Surrey, England, where she served with No. 24 Canadian General Hospital until November 1945, during which time she married her husband, Major Bob Crocker of the Royal Canadian Artillery. She returned to Winnipeg, MB and was discharged from the Canadian Army in December 1945.

Nursing Sister Crocker settled with her husband, Bob, in Ottawa and raised their four children. She returned to nursing as a civilian at the Ottawa Royal Hospital and Ottawa General Hospital for five years in the 1960's before finally retiring from the workforce. Ida lives happily in Ottawa and has been an active member of the Ottawa Unit of the Nursing Sister's Association of Canada (NSAC) for many years.

Ida now lives at the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre in Ottawa. She continues to socialize and attends NSAC functions whenever possible. Her latest function was on 12 March 2020 when she attended a luncheon hosted by Veteran's Affairs Health Professionals Division as Guest of Honour for a celebration of the



Figure 2: Ida Crocker at 60th Anniversary of the Italian Campaign

"International Year of the Nurse and Midwife" in advance of Nursing Week 2020 where she was interviewed for an online video series by Veteran's Affairs. The Minister of Veteran's Affairs and the Surgeon General were also in attendance as keynote speakers.

Although Ida's Birthday celebration plans changed due to COVID-19, she was able to celebrate with her fellow residents at the Perley and Rideau Veteran's Health Centre. Her day was jam packed with social engagements starting with multiple phone calls this morning, followed by a celebration lunch with cake , then a ZOOM family call this afternoon and will be topped off with her favourite drink of Gin & Tonic with dinner (the first one she has had since moving to this residence last Fall)! Her secret to have a long happy life is to be grateful and appreciate every day.

In commemorating and assisting Nursing Sister Ida Crocker in celebrating her milestone 100th Birthday the Royal Canadian Medical Service presented Ida (via Canada Post during these Covid-19 times), a [letter of Congratulations and Birthday Wishes](#), a certificate of a Life Time Honorary Membership to the RCMSA, a RCMSA Commemorative Coin and brochures on the Association and the Commemorative Coin.



Figure 3: RCMSA Life Member Certificate



Figure 4; Presentation of Quilt of Valour



Figure 6: VAC International Year of the Nurse and Midwife Luncheon L-R Dr Courchense, Ida Crocker, MGen Andrew Downes



Figure 5: VAC International Year of the Nurse and Midwife Attendees