



## Media Release

May 31, 2007 – for immediate release

### **Oldest living twins turn 105**

Winnipeg - Ellen Isabella Robertson (Hall) squeezes her physician's hand and says with a laugh, "Watch I don't hurt you!" The spry centenarian, who has been living at Misericordia Health Centre for the past five months, turned 105 on Tuesday. She was hoping her sister, Sarah Selina Jeanmougin (Hall), would be able to make the trip from Arizona, U.S., to celebrate their historic birthday together, but Sarah's health prevented her from coming. **Together, Ellen and Sarah are the world's oldest living twins.**

Although Ellen is famed by nursing staff for her one-liners, she credits her sister with the sense of humour: "She's the funny one, I'm the sourpuss!" The twins were born in Wolseley, Saskatchewan (then known as North West Territories), on May 29, 1902, the seventh and eighth of 10 children born to Walter and Jane Hall. The family moved to Winnipeg when the twins were eight-years-old.

Ellen remembers her adolescence quite well: picnics at Assiniboine Park, a lovely home on Spence Street with a walk-in pantry and seven bedrooms, the family linen tablecloths on the stately dining room table and her mother cleaning the silverware every Saturday.

Ellen's daughter, Elizabeth Jean Koley, believes her mom's secret to longevity is a fabulous attitude towards life and healthy living. Ellen remains sharp as a tack, reciting her great grandchildren's names upon request. "She knows anything and everything," says Elizabeth.

Ellen led a very active life, teaching fitness classes for 15 years before retiring in 1994 and logging over 100,000 miles on her exercise bike! These days Ellen's favourite pastimes are a little more sedate: sitting outside in the garden watching the traffic whiz by or looking at pictures of her family.

In Ellen's room, the only reminder of her age claim to fame is a Guinness Book of World Records certificate nestled in her windowsill.

**Photo op:**

**When:** 2 p.m. Friday June 1, 2007

**Where:** Wolseley 3, Misericordia Health Centre

**Who:** Both Ellen and her daughter, Elizabeth, will be available for interviews

*Since 1898, Misericordia Health Centre has been providing compassionate high quality health care to those most in need in accordance with our core values: caring, respect and trust. Misericordia provides an array of specialized programs including our Eye Care Centre of Excellence, long-term and interim care, urgent care, ambulatory clinics, diagnostic imaging, laboratory services and pediatric dental surgery. Misericordia also operates the internationally recognized Provincial Health Contact Centre, including Health Links-Info Santé. For more information, please visit our website at [www.misericordia.mb.ca](http://www.misericordia.mb.ca).*

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**Note to Editors:**

Historical photos available upon request