

# The Bee

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**North Tonawanda native Esther Loucks**, a resident of Wheatfield Commons, recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the facility with family and friends, along with a life full of service, adventure, and a love of sports.

Photo courtesy of DePaul

## NT native celebrates 100th birthday at Wheatfield Commons

North Tonawanda native Esther Loucks, a resident of Wheatfield Commons, recently celebrated her 100th birthday, one milestone of a life that has been full of service, adventure and love of sport.

According to DePaul, Loucks grew up on Wheatfield Street with five siblings, playing many sidewalk games, kickball and football in an open field next to her home, riding her bicycle, and listening to the radio in the evening. At the age of 16 she moved with her family to a large home on Ward Road, where her father began farming and raising chickens, along with working for the Steam Company.

After graduating from North Tonawanda High School, she worked for the Rudolph Wurlitzer Co. for 14 years. She married Harvey Loucks in February of 1955 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. The couple purchased a home on Forbes Street in 1956, eventually having two daughters, Jan Margaret and Amy Ruth. Loucks remained a homemaker until her daughters were in high school, then attended night school where she received a certification as an electronics technician. She was the only woman in her class, and later worked at Moog Music in East Aurora for nine years until her retirement.

A dedicated parishioner of St. Matthew's, Loucks has been known throughout her life for being an excellent cook and baker, and has worked in the church's kitchen preparing and serving food at nearly every banquet held. When the church moved to its Eggert Road location, she was deeply involved in the design of its new kitchen.

As a lover of sports, Loucks has been a member of the Ladies Guild



**Esther Loucks**

and bowled in the Morning Glories bowling league at Parkside Lanes, becoming a championship bowler and traveling to tournaments. She also became an avid golfer later in life, and as a football fan has never missed watching a Super Bowl.

As a lover of travel and the outdoors, Loucks camped with her family in a pop-up camper nearly every weekend during her working life, graduating to a Winnebago following retirement and traveling the country with her husband. On their travels, the couple visited many national parks, made life-long friends as members of several RV clubs, and visited destinations such as Alaska, Nova Scotia, Switzerland and Norway with tour groups.

Following her husband's passing in 2011, Loucks, then in her early 90s, joined the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and learned how to quilt. She is also a master knitter and has crafted many items each year for her family and the church's bazaar, co-chairing the bazaar's knitting booth for many years.

In 2018, Loucks sold her home on Forbes to her grandson, moving to Wheatfield Commons. She remains active at St. Matthew's, which is still an important part of her life.