

ORVAL & IRENE NELLIS

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

NELLIS — Eugene Stanley Nellis passed away at Edmonton on July 18 at the age of 24 years.

Mr. Nellis was born in Grande Prairie in 1948 and resided in Grande Prairie.

He leaves to mourn his passing his parents Orval and Irene Nellis; four brothers, Donald of Grande Prairie, Phillip and Gordon of Dawson Creek, Wayne of Dartmouth, N.S.; one sister Shirley of Dawson Creek; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Nellis of Bezanson; Mrs. Kay Bulford of Grande Prairie, as well as several uncles, aunts and cousins.

Funeral services were held on July 24 at 2:30 p.m. from Trinity Lutheran Church with Pastor L. Lerseth officiating. Interment followed in the Glenn Leslie Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Oliver Funeral Home.

**LESTER JOHN
(MOOSE) NELLIS**

Lester Nellis passed away at Grande Prairie Oct. 17 at the age of 92. He was born in Cumberland City, Wis., and was a resident of the Grande Prairie and Bezanson districts for the past 62 years. He was a charter member of B.P.O.E. Elks, Grande Prairie.

He is survived by his loving wife, Mrs. Stella Nellis of Bezanson; sons Orval (Irene) Nellis of Wembley, Ted (Opal) Nellis and Harry (Grace) Nellis both of Grande Prairie, Lloyd (Lorna) Nellis and Bill (Betty) Nellis both of Clairmont; daughters Mrs. Myrtle (Bill) Schamehorn of

Manning, and Mrs. Mayme Branch of Alexandria, La.

Funeral service for the late Lester John (Moose) Nellis will be held from Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, tomorrow Oct. 20 at 2:30 p.m. Interment will follow in the Glen Leslie Cemetery. Officiating will be Captain George Prior.

If desired contributions may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Alberta Heart Foundation.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel.

ORVAL ERVING NELLIS

Mr. Orval Erving Nellis passed away on Tuesday June 9, 1987 in Edmonton, Alberta at the age of 74.

He was born in International Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A. and came to the Grande Prairie area in 1917, he then moved to Dawson Creek in 1966, and returned to Wembley, Alberta where he owned and operated the Wembley General Store, from 1974-1979. He then retired to Dawson Creek, B.C.

Mr. Nellis had been a life member of the Grande Prairie Elks Club. He served with the R.C.A.F. from 1942 to 1945.

He is survived by his loving wife Irene; daughter, Shirely of Dawson Creek; sons, Wayne (Doreen) of Greenwood, Nova Scotia, Don (Ellen) of Dawson Creek, B.C., Phil (Kristina) of Prince George, B.C., Gordon (Carol) of Grande Prairie; grandchildren, Robert, Michael, Deanna, Rena, Crystal and Mark; brothers and sisters, Myrtle Schamehorn of Manning, Alberta, Mayme Branch of Alexandria, Louisiana, U.S.A., Ted, Lloyd, Bill, Harry all of Grande Prairie area; also many nieces, nephews and friends. He was predeceased by son, Stanley, in 1972.

If friends desire, in lieu of flowers, memorials to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral Services for the late Mr. Orval Erving Nellis will be held at the Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Monday June 15, 1987 at 11 a.m. with the Reverend Bob Hetherington officiating. Cremation to follow in the Oliver Funeral Chapel Crematorium.

Funeral Arrangements under the direction of the Oliver Funeral Chapel, 10212-102 St., Grande Prairie. Telephone 532-2929.



HARVEY STANLEY BULFORD

On Thursday, April 12, 1990, Harvey Bulford passed away in Grande Prairie, Alberta, at the age of 65.

Harvey was born in Grande Prairie on October 30, 1924, and had been a life long resident of Bezanson. He was also a member of the West Smoky Legion No. 244 in Bezanson.

He is survived by his loving wife Annie; children: Lynne (Gerald) Oe of Bezanson, Melvin (Marion) of Bezanson, Grant (Kathleen) of Bezanson, Beverly (Stan) Tissington of Dimsdale, and Harold (Luanne) of Bezanson; 15 grandchildren; his 93 year old mother, Kate Bulford, of Grande Prairie; brother Elmer (Ann) of Bezanson; 2 sisters: Irene Nellis of Grande Prairie, and Eleanor (George) Bain of Elmworth; numerous nieces and nephews; and brother-in-law Henry (Myrtle) Diederich of Dimsdale.

He was predeceased by his father Havi-land; twin brother Harry; and his uncle Stanley.

Prayers will be held at the Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Monday, April 16, 1990, at 8 p.m.

Funeral Mass for the late Harvey Stanley Bulford will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 1990, at 2 p.m., at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta, with Father Albert Sterzer officiating. Interment to follow in Glen Leslie Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the charity of one's choice would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, 10212-102 Street, Grande Prairie. Telephone 532-2929.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Mon, Apr 16, 1990Page 2

Mrs. Kate Bulford 94, of Grande Prairie

Mrs. Dukista "Kate" Bulford passed away on Saturday, October 6, 1990 in the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie, at the age of 94 years. Born in Austria, she emigrated to Canada in 1903 at the age of seven. She came to the Peace River Country in 1917 and spent most of her life in the Bezanson area, retiring to Grande Prairie in 1964.

She was predeceased by her husband Haviland (Avie) in 1959; a son Harry in 1963; grandson Stanley Nellis in 1972; son-in-law Orval Nellis in 1987; granddaughter Betty Gubbe in 1989; and son Harvey in April 1990. Kate was the last surviving member of the Lapitsky family, having been predeceased by three brothers and four sisters.

She leaves to mourn her passing one son Elmer (Ann) of Bezanson; two daughters: Irene Nellis of Grande Prairie and Elenor (George) Bain of Elmworth; and daughter-in-law Annie Bulford of Bezanson. Also surviving are 23 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Alberta Heart & Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Funeral service for Kate Bulford will be held in the Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Wednesday, October 10, 1990 at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Vern Wishart officiating. Cremation in the Oliver Funeral Chapel Crematorium will follow the service.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Grande Prairie. Telephone 532-2929.



Make the MOST of your potential: Volunteer. Meet new people, develop a new skill while enriching your community. Contact the Volunteer Services Bureau, #100, 10124-101 Ave. Phone 538-2727.

The VSB operates an information phone line to provide information on a variety of organizations in the city. Call 539-INFO if you need assistance.

• **Irene Nellis.** Irene has been a member of the **Order of the Royal Purple** for 40 years, working faithfully for the lodge in Grande Prairie and as well as in Beaverlodge and Dawson Creek. She is a caring grandma who also spends some of her time dog sitting and enjoys knitting and reading in her spare time. Thank you, Irene, for all your years of service.



New officers for the Grande Prairie Order Of the Royal Purple No. 107 are Irene Nellis, Marion Shofner, Helene Stretch, Sharon Annis, Barbara Childs, Velma Demchuck (back left), Audrey Stewart, Theresa Blouin, Roxanne Potter, Nellie Mahoney, Joanne Nilson, Bertha Melynk and Opal MacMillan.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Fri, Jul 8, 1994Page 4](#)



Good for the Community, Good for You!

Help your Community by becoming a volunteer for a non-profit organization.

Meet new people, develop new skills while enriching your community.

Contact the Volunteer Services Bureau, 9813 - 116 Avenue, Grande Prairie, T8V 4B4. Phone 538-2727.

Our website:

www.telusplanet.net/public/vsb_gp/index.shtml

Our Email:

vsb_gp@telusplanet.net

Our Summer Hours are 9am to 5pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

New to Grande Prairie? Need information on organizations, community events, sports and recreation? Phone Community Information at 539-INFO.

• Irene Nellis was a very active member of the Royal Purple Lodge last year. She was head of the membership committee, phoned all the members and also served as an executive officer. We kept her very busy and would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, Irene.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Fri, Sep 3, 1999Page 28](#)



Thank You

*Thank you so much to all the family and friends
who came to help celebrate my 80th birthday,
for the lovely cards, gifts and good food.*

*Thank you also to the **Bezanson Seniors** for the
invitation to the **80's and Over** dinner and
entertainment. It was *an* enjoyable evening
visiting and reminiscing with old friends.*

A day to remember.

Irene Nellis

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Fri, Jun 23, 2000Page 36](#)

**Bill Nellis,
83, of Clairmont**



On a cold January 31, 1918, Bill was born in Bezanson, the fourth son of "Moose" and Stella Nellis. He passed away February 27, 2001, at

Mackenzie Place, Grande Prairie.

He attended school in Grande Prairie and later, Lindsay School. In 1941 he joined the R.C.A.F. as a craftsman. he was stationed in England from November 1941 until July 1945.

On October 1, 1945 he married the love of his life and best friend, Betty Morrison. They lived on a farm at Glen Leslie for 32 years. He took up carpentry, working on many schools, gas plants and other buildings.

They moved to Clairmont where he spent his retirement years volunteering at the Pioneer Museum, Evergreen Park, the Clairmont Curling Rink and the Clairmont Senior Centre. He was an avid hunter and curler.

His life centered around his family. Every small child delighted him. His special charm will be remembered by the many people he touched.

Bill is survived by his loving wife, Betty, and their children, Stella Anne (Cliff) Loewen, Frank (Lois) Nellis, Enid (Ken) Biron; grandchildren: Sandra (Jay) Schenk, Wade, Scott and Craig Nellis, Alan and Rene Biron and Stacie (Randy) Bratrud; great-grandchildren Ross and Mitch Schenk, Nicole Williams and Jesse Bratrud; his brothers Ted (Opal), Lloyd (Lorna), Harry (Grace) and sister Mayme Branch and sister-in-law Irene Nellis; his Aunts Peggy Robideau and Maggie Robideau and numerous other relatives including Tom and Annabelle Funnell, Florence Morrison, Evelyn Morrison and Kay Morrison.

He was predeceased by his parents, granddaughter Brenda Harding, sister Myrtle Schamehorn and brother Orville Nellis.

Service will be held at Olivers Grande Prairie Funeral Chapel, 10005-107 Avenue, Grande Prairie, on Friday, March 2, 2001 at 1 p.m.

Donations to Mackenzie Place or the Clairmont Seniors Centre. No flowers by request.

A tea will be held at the Clairmont Seniors Centre following the service.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE
PRAIRIE FUNERAL
CHAPEL**

& CREMATORIUM
10005-107 Ave., Grande Prairie
Telephone 532-2929

The Daily Herald-Tribune

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Thu, Mar 1, 2001Page 7

Royal Purple celebrate 60 years of community service

DARRELL WINWOOD
Herald-Tribune staff

One of Grande Prairie's oldest service clubs celebrated its 60th anniversary on the weekend, looking back on decades of service to the community.

The Grande Prairie Royal Purple No. 107, the women's branch of the Elks organization, was formed in 1947 with an original charter of 26 members.

Today, the club has more than 60 local women who are members. They work at events throughout the community raising funds for various projects and national charities that tend to focus on children.

The group recently donated money toward a new children's reading room in the city's new library that is under construction.

The Royal Purple was formed in Grande Prairie one year after the local Elks Club and many of the founding women had husbands in the men's club.

Deb Crough was one of the founding Elks and his wife Thelma joined the Royal Purple when it began. Dressed in their finest, the couple were two of several long-time members attending the anniversary celebration Saturday night at the Elks Hall.

"It's a very nice night, they (current club members) have put a lot of work into it," said Thelma.

Martha Tofer was also one of the club's founding



The Royal Purple celebrated 60 years in Grande Prairie Saturday night with (left to right) Doreen Fair, Martha Tofer, Thelma Crough and Irene Nellis.

Photo: Darrell Winwood

members and was celebrating with friend Irene Nellis, a member for 55 years.

"The brother Elks were already here and our husbands were Elks," said Tofer, explaining why she joined the club.

With Grande Prairie just a small farming town at the time, there wasn't a lot for people to do, said Nellis.

"I joined mostly for the social aspect. I had four kids running around the house. I looked forward to the meetings. It was my night out," she said.

While the two might have joined at first for the

social aspect, the charity work quickly became something they all enjoyed, said the ladies.

"The Royal Purple made it a point to be involved in the town activities," said Tofer.

"There's a lot of satisfaction in the charity work," said Nellis.

Current club president Kate Blimke said the group is always looking for more members and the benefits of being

in the Royal Purple haven't changed from the club's founding.

It remains a great way to meet other women in the community and learn more about what goes on, while also helping raise money for charities.

"I enjoy the fellowship. Even though I'm busy, you can do as much or as little as you want. I think it gives a sense of community and working together," said Blimke.

The Royal Purple meets for lunch the third Thursday of every month. For more information on the club, call Audrey at 539-6982.

The Daily Herald-Tribune

[Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada • Mon, Oct 29, 2007](#) Page 2