

98-year-old woman defends her 1936 spelling bee title

- 1 Adell Williams-Keays was 11 years old when she was asked to participate in a spelling bee competition at her school in Barney's River Station, N.S., back in 1936. It was then that she received her first trophy, a giant honeycomb made of wicker with a painted wooden bee sticking out of it. "I wasn't nervous or anything, it was just one of those things I did," said Williams-Keays nonchalantly.



- 2 Since then, it has become one of the many stories Williams-Keays has repeatedly told her family. "I've been hearing about her 1936 spelling bee since forever, and a little bit of a brag to it," said her niece, Joan Williams-Mann. This summer, the family once again heard about Williams-Keays triumphant win 87 years ago, which led to Williams-Mann challenging her aunt to defend her title as a spelling bee champion at the same school she attended when she was a young girl.
- 3 "In order to compete, you had to either go to this school or be a descendant of someone that went to this school," explained Williams-Mann. Each person had two tries to spell the word correctly – and Williams-Keays only needed one, she had no misspellings. "It was not much different I guess. I learned a little bit from the first time. A little more confidence," she said.
- 4 The event was not just organized for the spelling bee; it also acted as a fundraiser for the old school, which is now a museum.

atlantic.ctvnews.ca, 2023

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- 1p 3 Why did Joan ask her aunt Adell to sign up for the spelling contest again, according to the text?
- A because Joan could not participate in the competition herself
 - B because Joan wanted to help the school to raise more money
 - C because she was a bit fed up with Adell's continuous boasting
 - D because she was certain that Adell was still up to the task

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift.