



# Canadian War Brides and Families

October 2012

## Greetings from President Jean

Once again our get-together was a great success! This was due to the hard work of our executive and other members, to which I offer my sincere *THANKS*. The little extras like the bus trip out to the Western Development Museum, followed by the Fancy Hats from Britain Parade, certainly added a little nostalgia to our reunion.

I hope most of our War Brides and Families had the opportunity to be interviewed by Jorge Castillo from 1x1 Productions for his documentary. I am certainly looking forward to the end result.

I was also very pleased with how much local media coverage we received. We were also very fortunate to have their Honours the Lt Governor Schofield and her husband join us for Saturday evening, as well as the former Lt. Governor Barnhardt joining us for Friday evening. We appreciate their support!

I have received a very nice thank you letter from the Dundurn Afghan Family Service, thanking us for the Church donation, which is very much appreciated.

Margaret and Peter Cline accompanied me to attend the Decoration Day Service at Wood Lawn Cemetery here in Saskatoon, to remember our War brides who are no longer with us. I laid a wreath of fresh flowers, which had been provided by the Legion. On November 11th I will do the same at the Remembrance Day Service which will be held in the Arena and is normally attended by between nine and ten thousand. |

Now we look forward to next year and hope everyone stays well so we can meet again and share time together

*Take care, as ever Jean*

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. The main focus of our meeting was to review the 'draft' Bylaws for our organization and finalize them. A copy of the Bylaws is attached to the newsletter.

We also held our election for our executive, with the results as follows:

President	Jean Fells
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-President	Joan Reichardt
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-President	Audrey Waddy
Director	Grace Shewan
Director	Bev Tosh
Director	Sandi Jeffs
Director	Elsie Mills
Secretary	Lorna Staten
Treasurer	Janet Leahy

## Highlights from Reunion 2012

Our 2012 Reunion held at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon was a great success! Our numbers were increased from our 2011 Reunion, which was great to see. We started out with our Friday night dinner, which included some entertainment. Saturday included the bus tour to the *Western Development Museum* followed by the *Fancy Hats Parade*, with Vintage Hats supplied by Lynn Martin, our former Treasurer. Next was the Dinner and Dance, with music provided by the *Saskatoon Jammers*. To end our lovely weekend we enjoyed a delicious Sunday morning brunch!



**Fancy  
Hats  
Parade**  
Saturday,  
August 18



**Our War Brides  
with  
Lieutenant  
Governor  
Schofield**  
Saturday,  
August 18

Throughout the Reunion weekend and following the reunion, we received many positive comments about our get-together, the wonderful meals and the beautiful location at the Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon. One of the nicest comments we received was in a letter from the Bessborough Hotel saying '***On behalf of all of us at the Delta Bessborough I would like to thank you for having chosen our hotel as the venue for this historic event. As I read the news accounts of the history of the War Brides and their families I was struck by the amazing contributions made to our country and I couldn't have been more proud of the fact that we had the honour to host such an important group.***

**SUGGESTION FOR A NATIONAL WAR BRIDE EMBLEM**

Canadian War Brides and Families are a national organization, perhaps the first. We may want to have a symbol. When a group considers an identifying emblem, there is usually discussion. This is an effort to start the process.

Many of the War Bride clubs had emblems or logos which combined wedding rings with the Canadian maple leaf. Usually there was some indication, such as the initials WB, that the symbol was representing War Brides.

In 2006, Melynda Jarratt created a great emblem for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations which included a Maple Leaf, two wedding rings and a brass porthole.



The Alberta War Brides Association and the Vancouver Islands War Brides Association used versions of a ring with a maple leaf and bar and the initials WB (see illustrations). Communications between the various War Bride Clubs across the country may have resulted in these similarities. A plaque commemorating War Brides in Saskatchewan has a similar design (see illustration). I would appreciate any information on other War Bride emblems and who had a hand in designing and coordinating them across the country.



Good logos should be simple and can be used in many ways. I am suggesting a basic ring; gold where used in colour, the Maple Leaf from the Canadian flag and the initials WB. The graphics of the Canadian flag are in public domain and can be used by Canadians for any purpose. While War Brides date back to WW II, their families are part of Canada’s future; hence the “modern” maple leaf is suggested because we are War Brides and FAMILIES.

A black and white version could be used in print. The design in colour would make a distinctive lapel pin (see illustration).



I would appreciate your feedback on these designs. I can be reached at [tlyster@shaw.ca](mailto:tlyster@shaw.ca) or 778-908-5391 or 602 – 32440 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, BC V2T 5R3

-Terry Lyster

## WAR BRIDE LIST

Eswyn Lyster collected War Brides like stamps. A War Bride herself, she spent the better part of a decade meeting, corresponding with and otherwise identifying Canadian War Brides. She estimated that she had records of 5,000 of Canada's approximately 44,000 War Brides.

Her research has been preserved. I am currently organizing and distilling her War Bride information. When complete, we will send it to the provincial archives at the University of New Brunswick for deposit in their War Bride fond. UNB Archives are a national depository for War Bride related material. Anyone with War Bride information, records of War Bride Clubs and the like should consider making a similar deposit.

Eswyn's material was used to write her book, **Most Excellent Citizens**. She had a second book in mind: A historical and genealogical resource listing and providing biographical information about Canada's World War II War Brides. Her family is continuing this work.

We are building a sortable data base of Eswyn's War Bride information. This is actually a surprising amount of work. Her filing system was, shall we say, not quite perfect. A creative person, Eswyn seemed to reinvent her systems each time she used them!

She sent out thousands of questionnaires soliciting stories and biographical information from her contacts. Our first priority is to record War Bride names and sufficient information, such as maiden names or date of birth, to distinguish them from each other. Her questionnaire has been updated. A copy is illustrated.



CANADIAN WAR BRIDE DATA SHEET	
SURNAME:	Lyster
GIVEN NAMES:	Coral Eswyn (Es)
MAIDEN NAME:	Ellisor
BORN:	1923 09 27 Brixton, London UK
IF DECEASED:	2009 07 18 Victoria, BC
WW II SERVICE:	WRNS, Writer
MARRIED:	1942 08 20 Aldwyck, Sussex, UK
SPOUSE:	William (Bill) Leslie Lyster Calgary Highlanders, CSM
WW II SERVICE:	WRNS, Writer
DESTINATION:	Mauretania Liverpool to Empress, Alberta Halifax Feb, 1946
CHILDREN:	Terence William (b Bogner Regis, Sax, UK) Elizabeth Jane, Stuart Allan Born in Canada
KNIFE ID:	Writer "Most Excellent Citizens" Alpine Gardener, Weaver Lived Regina, Edmonton, North Vancouver & Qualicum Beach
CONTACT:	Terry Lyster (son) 602-32440 Simon Ave Abbotsford, BC V2T 5R3
SOURCE:	
IMAGE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Please attach a reproducible, non-removable image if possible.)
ATTACHED:	<input type="checkbox"/> (to)
Please fill out what you know about this war bride. This information is for a historical, genealogical reference and to provide material for recognition, memorials & articles.	
PERMISSION TO USE: Signature: <b>TERRY LYSTER</b> Date: <b>2012 09 28</b>	
SEND TO: War Bride Project, 602-32440 Simon Ave, Abbotsford, BC, Canada V2T 5R3 or email & web: <a href="mailto:Tlyster@shaw.ca">Tlyster@shaw.ca</a>	
* Minimum necessary information. (PLEASE COPY BLANK AND PASS ALONG TO ANY INTERESTED PARTIES)	

Our first product will be a simple **NAME LIST**. Of course, we have many blanks to fill in: at least 39,000. I know that there are records such as Canadian Wives Bureau files and the Ship Passenger Lists. There are other researchers that need to be contacted.

The **NAME LIST** could be eventually used to honour the contribution of WW II War Brides to the national life of Canada on monuments and the like.

The purpose of this article is to let the War Bride and Families community know how I am spending my spare time and to ask for any advice or assistance. If you have any questions or would like to request a form, you can contact me at [tlyster@shaw.ca](mailto:tlyster@shaw.ca) or 778-908-5391 or 602 – 32440 Simon Ave., Abbotsford, BC V2T 5R3

Anyone interested in helping put together the **NAME LIST**, sharing research or helping with data entry is most welcome.

Terry Lyster

## Remember When . . . .

Remember when Christmas meant Carol Singing? Going door to door and hoping to receive a few 'clods' maybe even a 'tanner'? I do not remember doing this very much - given the quality of my singing this is just as well, but I do remember it was always foggy, cold and often drizzly! Never, ever did I carol sing in snow, but we did try to uphold the tradition! We belted out Hark the Herald, Away in a Manger, Once in Royal Davids City, While Shepherds Watched, and hoped for generosity! Of course, we dissolved into helpless giggles from time to time, usually when someone started singing the 'funny' version like 'While Shepherds washed their socks' or Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Mrs. Simpson's pinched our King. And when we got home frozen cold and wet, it was time for cocoa and counting the takings!

Remember when tangerines came in shallow boxes and some of the little oranges were wrapped in silver paper? Remember dates on the stem? And chocolate liqueurs? Remember royal icing and little silver dragees on the Christmas cake - those little silver beggars could break your teeth, but the almond paste layer was wonderful! Mince pies were not the dainty little things they are today, but were substantial, and in my home, we were required to force them and a large wedge of cake down for tea on Christmas Day! Oh, the crackers, they were really something, all those different and very fetching hats. The first few years I was in Canada I don't think you could get them, but we always have them now - generating a few funny looks from newly incorporated in-laws and other guests! This year I plan to bring some real English ones home with me. My daughter Lorna and I are off to the UK from December 1st to 12th, and guess what? We will be going to the Carol Service in Westminster Abbey, no less - but to listen, not to sing!

Joan Reichardt



## **Mark Your Calendar for Reunion 2013 – April 12 – 14**

### **FAIRMONT EMPRESS Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia**

We've been busy working on the details for our 2013 Reunion in Victoria, British Columbia. Your accommodation will be in the beautiful Fairmont Empress Hotel located on the Inner Harbour in downtown Victoria. Room rates are \$149 plus taxes per night for single or double occupancy. This rate is offered for dates before & after the week-end as well. We will have our very own Hospitality Suite with comfortable chairs, lovely views, and Yorkshire tea & biscuits.

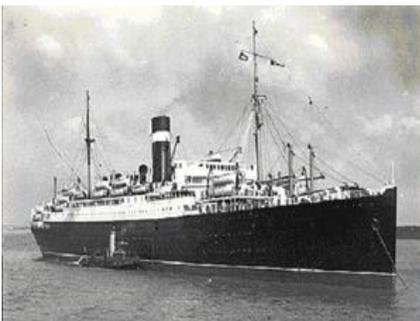


Anyone wishing to make room reservations now, can call 1-250-384-8111 or 1-800-441-1414 (global reservations) and mention you are with the 'Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion or reservations can be made on-line at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/cdnwarbrides>

Your registration form & fee will be provided in our January newsletter. There will be optional tours offered to Butchart Gardens and a City Sightseeing tour of lovely Victoria. These tours will need to be prepaid along with your registration fees. More information on the tours will also be provided in the January 2013 newsletter.

For further information you can contact Janet Leahy at [jgleahy@telus.net](mailto:jgleahy@telus.net) or 1-(250) 354-4006.

## **Condolences to Senator Romeo Dallaire on passing of his mother Catherine Dallaire**



We sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Canadian War Brides and Families to Senator Romeo Dallaire on the recent passing of his mother on September 20, 2012. His mother Catherine, was a Dutch War Bride and his dad a Staff Sergeant. The Senator came to Canada on the Empire Brent (formerly the Letitia), age 6 months, landing on December 13th, 1946. Did any of you come over on the same ship?

**Merry Christmas and Happy  
New Year**

As this is our last newsletter before Christmas,  
on behalf of the executive, we would like to wish you all a  
very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing  
all of you in 2013!



*If you have a story/photos you would like to share in the newsletter, please email to [canadianwarbrides@netidea.com](mailto:canadianwarbrides@netidea.com) or mail to 215 W. Beasley St., Nelson, BC V1L 3K4*

**2012/2013 Membership Application**

If you know someone who would like to join our organization, we have attached a copy of our current Membership Application for you to share.

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**Canadian War Brides & Families  
2012/2013 Membership Application**  
(August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

War Bride  Family Member  Other

Membership Fee: \$10.00 Annually

Make Cheques Payable to:  
Canadian War Brides & Families  
c/o 215 West Beasley Street  
Nelson, BC V1L 3K4