



# Canadian War Brides and Families

July 2012

## Summer Greetings from President Jean

Hello to everyone. Yes here we are again all set to welcome all of you to Saskatoon and our beautiful Hotel Bessborough, our castle on the river. Our program for the reunion is just about complete and we certainly are looking forward to hosting you here in Saskatoon.

We are almost up to the final number of registrations we had at the reunion in 2011 and I am confident we will surpass last year's numbers. For your information and convenience, there is a Tim Hortons located at #410 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and a Mulberries Restaurant at 124 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North. Both of these are located just a short distance from the hotel and would provide reasonably priced meals.

Just a reminder, if you haven't already done so, please get your hotel booking done by **July 31<sup>st</sup>** in order to get our special *Reunion Rate*.

*Take care, as ever Jean*

### **Queen's Jubilee Tea Party in the Queen City of the Kootenays – Nelson, British Columbia**

Ever since the 'Year of the War Bride' was announced in 2006, a group of British Columbia War Brides have enjoyed a June garden party organized by several local War Bride daughters.

This year's get-together had a Queen's Jubilee theme and included a beautifully decorated Queen's Jubilee cake. Our War Brides were also served tea, coffee, delicious finger sandwiches, lemon loaf, Welsh cakes, date squares, and brownies. The usual sing song of Wartime tunes sounded great and as we all sang "We'll Meet Again" our War Brides were each given a lovely collection of Queen's Jubilee pin, flag, tea, Scottish shortbread, and Dutch speculaas all packaged in a Queen's Jubilee cup.

We're still not sure who enjoys this annual event more – our War Brides – or the daughters that are already looking forward to June 2013!!!



## War Brides toast Queen on Diamond Jubilee Year



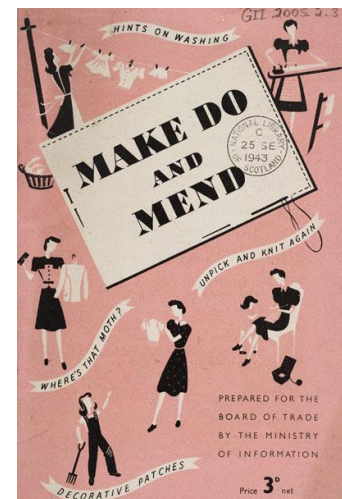
A tea was held the home of Dolores Hatch in London, Ontario, where 15 War Brides, family and friends gathered to raise their glasses to wish the Queen a wonderful Diamond Jubilee year. The tea was attended by Grace Shewan, Ruby Fletcher, Patt Malek, Mary Lippold, Sheila Gerber, Joyce Brazeau, Edna Simpson, Betty Simpson, Ina Nelms, Gertrude McColl, Helen Hnatyk, Pat Czar, John Kerkomp and Elsie Mills and of course Dolores Hatch as the hostess. Dolores had decorated her home for the occasion starting with a Union Jack on the front door and lots of memorabilia was scattered throughout her home. Guests were served sandwiches, pickles and plenty of goodies and squares, as well as lemonade, coffee and tea.

## Most Excellent Citizens by Eswyn Lyster

Eswyn Lyster's son Terry will provide a perspective on Canadian War Brides and their families at the reunion in Saskatoon next month. Using research for her book *Most Excellent Citizens*, he will cover: Pre-war Profiles, Service, Meetings & Marriages, Tensions & Transport, Homecomings, and the Continuing Story. Eswyn's family continues to gather information about "the largest dedicated immigration of women" to our country and look forward to gathering more information at the Event.

## Remember When . . . .

. . . . . we all had to 'Make do and Mend'? Remember darning holes in the toes and patiently mending ladders in our stockings? I was given a green dress (no coupons) that was worn under the arms, so I cut out the sleeves, patched the worn bits and knitted new sleeves. When I started work my school uniform tunic was turned into a skirt, and I made a blue and white striped blouse from a man's shirt. Of course, we all knitted, and I well remember Mrs. Woodley - the family shared our air raid shelter - constantly knitting - when she wasn't unpicking. She always wore knitted dresses and skirts and tops and she would unpick a dress which then reappeared as a cardigan. The leftover wool might become a pair of socks for her husband or perhaps some woolly gloves! Second hand clothes did not require clothing coupons, and I reluctantly, bought a plain black dress and then made different coloured collars for it - very classy! I worked with a girl who used little scraps of wool to crochet tiny woolly flowers which she put together in a little bunch with a safety pin on the back - and lo and behold - a brooch. If you could get hold of buttons with a shank on the back, and if you had long earlobes (like mine) with a hairpin and bit of bending you could create earrings! When I was trying to gather a few bits to bring to Canada, I had a strange windfall. An elderly gentleman, who lived across from my girl friend's family, appeared one evening to play cards. He carried a small brown paper parcel, tied up with string, which he handed to me. We all knew that his late wife had been a dressmaker but I was really surprised to find several lengths of fabric, one of pale pink silk chiffon, one white 'jap' silk and the other black silk lace!! From these I created 3 cami-knickers! Quite exotic! Do you remember the shoes with suede uppers and hinged wooden soles? They were fewer coupons than regular, but made a lot of noise! Those were the days of no waste, and recycling was a way of life - not a choice!



## Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion 2012

With the reunion just a few weeks away, the finishing touches are being put on our reunion 2012. For those of you that have not yet registered, the registration form is attached. The cost for the Registration is \$75.00 per person. If you are bringing guests with you that may not want to attend all of the events, we are offering individual pricing. The details regarding individual pricing is on the registration form. As the registration form is only going out to current members, please feel free to make copies for other War Brides and family members who would also like to attend the reunion. ***The last date to register for the reunion is August 10, 2012, although we will try not to turn anyone away after this date, as long as we are able to increase our catering numbers at the hotel.***

The festivities will begin at the Bessborough Hotel on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup> with registration from 2:00 – 4:00 pm in the Battleford Foyer, followed by dinner at 6:00 pm in the Battleford Ballroom.

Saturday's events will include our Annual General Meeting 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in the Salon Batoche and our banquet and dance starting at 6:00 pm in the William Pascoe room. There will be a Church Service on Sunday morning 9:00 – 10:00 am in the Salon Batoche followed by our wind-up Sunday Brunch at 10:00 am in the Battleford Ballroom. When you register at the reunion on Friday, you will be provided with a reunion program which will provide the complete details of all of the events.

### Hotel Information

Hotel rates have been confirmed at the Delta Bessborough  
602 Spadina Crescent, Saskatoon  
for \$149.00/night based on single or double occupancy. A block of rooms  
are being held for our group until July 31<sup>st</sup> and you can make your  
reservation by calling the  
Delta Bessborough at  
1-306-244-5521 and ask to make a reservation for the Canadian War Brides  
Reunion in the guest room block

If you are planning on attending and require accommodation at the gorgeous Delta Bessborough Hotel you need to get your registration form submitted and phone the hotel to reserve your room. We have a block of rooms that are being held for our Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion up until the end of this month – July 31<sup>st</sup>. ***In order to secure your hotel room at our group rate you must make your reservation NOW!!!*** We don't want anyone to be disappointed or have to pay a higher rate at the Bessborough so please make your reservation right now. Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone in Saskatoon soon.

## 1x1 Documentary

Filmmaker Jorge Ignacio Castillo will be covering the war brides reunion in Saskatoon. Footage will be included in the documentary "War Brides: Most Excellent Citizens."

"Inspired by the book by Eswyn Lyster, "***Most Excellent Citizens***" documents the war bride experience, in the brides' own words. From the Battle of Britain to their landing in Canada, the film aims to cover the romantic aspect of their remarkable story as well as the harsh realities they had to deal with. Ultimately, the documentary hopes to ensure future generations get to know these amazing women, and their role in Canada's development and identity".

Jorge will be in attendance at the reunion and there will be ample opportunities for the War Brides to be interviewed and filmed for the documentary. *Come on all you would be film stars!*

*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**

As our group was officially formed in August 2011, our membership year will be from August 1, 2012 – July 31, 2013. Those of you attending the Reunion will have the opportunity to complete your application and pay your membership fees then. If you aren't attending the reunion, you can complete the membership application below and mail it in.

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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