



Canadian War Brides and Families

Summer 2015

Greetings from President Jean

This is my final message as your President, as my first vice President Joan Reichardt will take over on August 1 2015; I wish her well and trust she will do a good job.

Now, to give a little information on our Calgary gathering, which was superb; we definitely seem to get better each year and everything was very well organized. Joan Beaton and Lynn Martin did a great job raising money to assist the event. Well done. Some of the donations went towards a play that was put on by a group from west Calgary; this was very well liked. The play was called "The Warbrides are Coming". Two of our sponsors were the ANAVETS and a local Legion at Calgary, for which we were very grateful.

Now it's onwards and upwards as we look forward to our gathering in Halifax next May- details of which will be coming in the next few newsletters.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for the nice clock which was presented to me and especially for the standing ovation at the banquet which brought a few tears to my eyes. I have enjoyed all the reunions and people I have met over the past years. I will continue to help wherever I can and I am looking forward to our meeting in Halifax.

Sincerely,

Jean Fells

I offer my gratitude and thanks to everyone. It was good to work with you.

Our New Executive

As decided at our Annual General meeting held in Calgary on May 30, 2015, our new executive as of August 1, 2015, is as follows:

Joan Reichardt, <i>War Bride</i>	President
Audrey Waddy, <i>War Bride</i>	Vice-President
Lorna Staten, <i>War Bride Daughter</i>	Secretary
Janet Leahy, <i>War Bride Daughter</i>	Treasurer
Grace Shewan, <i>War Bride</i>	Director
Sandi Jeffs, <i>War Bride Daughter</i>	Director
Jean Fells, <i>War Bride</i>	Past-President

Reunion 2015 – Calgary, Alberta

Reunion 2015 held at the Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre in Calgary, Alberta on May 29 – 31, 2015 was a huge success! Special thanks to War Bride Daughter, Lynn Martin and Joan Beaton for all their work organizing the event.



Our Lovely War Brides



'Here come the War Brides' Cast



Enjoying the Sing-Along!



Dancing to the music of the Royal Canadian Artillery Jazz Task Force

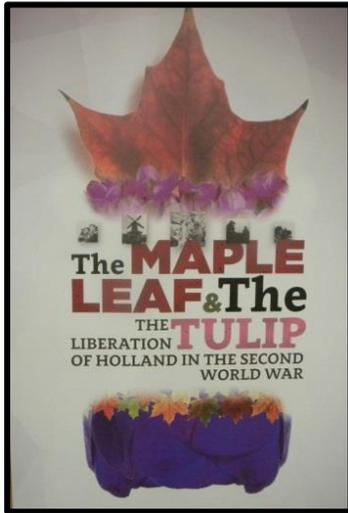
Approximately 100 attended the reunion, with 57 of those registering for the weekend with the rest, attending individual events.

There was lots of fun had by all with lots of visiting, singing, enjoying some great meals and entertainment and of course lots of laughter!

We'll Meet Again!

In Halifax, Nova Scotia

Calgary Military Museum Tour Saturday, May 30, 2015



Lindsey Sharman, on behalf of the Military Museums in Calgary, provided free round-trip transportation to the Military Museums for any of our Canadian War Brides and Family members attending the reunion. Approximately 40 people attended from the reunion. Artist and War Bride Daughter, Bev Tosh's exhibition *'Trees Heeft een Canadees or Teresa has a Canadian'* was on display. The exhibition consisted of 23 wedding portraits and stories of Dutch women meeting their Canadian soldiers, all researched by Bev Tosh. The exhibition also included an original wedding dress made from a parachute, and documents, photos and films showing stories of the deep connections between Canadian soldiers and the people of Holland.



The 'Little Coat' which had been given to a 10 year old Dutch girl who befriended some Canadian soldiers in 1944, was also on display. For more information go to www.thelittlecoat.com.



Photo on left is of Dutch War Bride, Maria McNair and Artist Bev Tosh, holding the wedding portrait she painted of Maria.. Photo on right is showing Maria and her proud family with her portrait. This was the first time Maria, who lives in Saskatoon, had seen her portrait.

REUNION 2016

Halifax, Nova Scotia – Westin Nova Scotian Hotel

May 20, 21, 22, 2016



Mark your calendars!!! Reunion 2016 is set for May 20 – 22, 2016 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Westin Nova Scotian Hotel is secured with War Bride Reunion room rates of \$179 plus taxes per night based on single/double occupancy. The staff at Pier 21 is very excited to welcome us on Saturday afternoon and we are hoping to have some very special guests too. The Stadacona Band is busy enhancing their musical repertoire with all of your favourites and the Chairmen for Cunard Cruise Lines & the Cunard Steamship Society are both anxious to determine where they can fit in to our festivities too.



The Registration forms for Reunion 2016 will be included in our Fall newsletter and we ask that everyone submit their completed forms early and secure your hotel rooms at the same time. If your plans change and you're not able to join us in Halifax, we are always able to refund your Registration fees.



Hope to see you all in Halifax in May 2016!!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year again when we need to renew our Canadian War Brides & Families membership, which goes from August 1, 2015 – July 31, 2016. Many of you have already renewed your membership either at the reunion or by Canada Post. A copy of the 2015-2016 Membership Renewal form is included with this newsletter, for those of you still needing to renew. Annual Membership Fees are \$10.00.

OPERATION VALENTINE

It's World War II. An island is occupied by Allied soldiers to ward off the Nazis. While waiting, Allied soldiers and local ladies get to know each other, result: **War Brides**. Sound familiar? Well it didn't to me. It's the Faroe Islands, and the Allied soldiers were mostly Scottish. And most of the husbands stayed in the Faroes.



Stamp celebrating the Friendly Occupation Biscuit Tin in Faroese Museum photo: Eileen Sanada

After Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, Winston Churchill, immediately occupied the Faroes. They commanded the British north flank, the fishing fleet supplied food and, in a pre-satellite era, that's where weather forecasts came from.

In April 1940, 250 Royal Marines arrived. Although nominal protests were made by local government, in practice, cordial relations were maintained. In May, soldiers of the Lovat Scouts replaced the Marines, relieved in 1942 by the Cameronians. These 8000 Scottish troops had an affinity for their 28,000 northern neighbours. About 170 wartime marriages took place between British soldiers and Faroese women. Even the British Consul, Frederick Mason, married a local woman, Karen Rorholm of Hobro.



Mason-Rorholm wedding



Faroese woman & British Soldier



Mrs Thompson today

On the BBC programme *Coast*, Mrs Ragna Thompson recalled her British fiancé who died at D-Day. 50 years on, in 1990, Sir Frederick Mason aboard *HMS Brilliant* with the Royal Marines Band attended *British Week* to celebrate the friendly occupation.

To this day the British and Faroese maintain an excellent relationship. Faroese people can attend any Scottish university for free and vice versa.

-Terry Lyster

Remember When

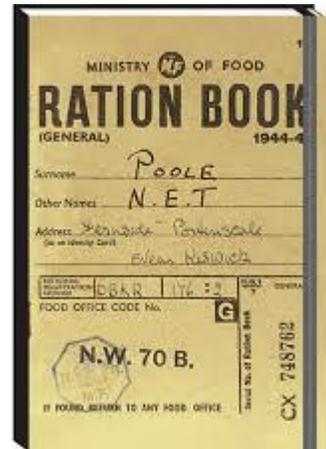
Remember when we first came to Canada? Remember all the changes, all the differences we had to deal with? All the new people, both family and others, who we met? How hard it was to sort out who was who, and sometimes a bit of a language barrier? Sometimes we could not be sure if we were being welcomed or evaluated! I was Church of England, my mother in law (despite being from Holland) went to the Presbyterian Church, and the minister came to visit. He had a very heavy Scottish accent which I found hard to understand, and he was very forceful in his manner. Unfortunately, he had the most enormous shaggy eyebrows, which seemed to have a life of their own, I was so fixated on this activity I was on the verge of the giggles, had to excuse myself to go to the kitchen, at one point. And, no, he did not make a convert!

Then there were the people who thought we should probably know their cousin Henry, who lived in England somewhere, and the ones who asked "How do you Like Canada?" 2 days after we arrived! And the huge spaces, the distances, the wide open, relatively treeless prairies, or the massive mountains, so different from little compact Britain. We also had to adjust to being housewives, cooking and cleaning for a young man we did not know that well, in terms of likes and dislikes.

Shopping for food was a challenge, I remember the butcher being so fascinated with my accent when I asked for 'half a pound of calves liver' he called the rest of the staff to hear me say it again. Or when I requested 'a quarter of tea' and the puzzled assistant told me she did not think they stocked that brand!

On the other hand, the masses of goods available were both a shock and a delight! In England anything that was not rationed was unobtainable, we literally had to make do and mend everything! Now the choices were over whelming.

Housing was another issue. We had a tiny 2 room apartment in the upstairs of a small house, we shared the bathroom, which was also upstairs, and my cooker was a hotplate! The landlady was very kind, she taught me how to make dill pickles and how to can peaches, an amazing achievement for me!



The funniest incident while we were there occurred one afternoon when I was alone and there was a knock at the front door. Down I went, to find a young First Nations (we called them Indians then) boy, selling Saskatoon berries, which I had never seen before. I gave him 25cent for a bowlful and then had to decide what to do with them. Upon examination I determined they looked like a small black gooseberry, so I proceeded to top and tail each blooming berry, stew them and make custard! I still don't like Saskatoons!



Despite everything and I know the girls that went to remote farms had even more challenges, we stuck it out and here we are - 70 years later, still hanging in!

Submitted by Joan Reichardt

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