



Canadian War Brides and Families

Winter 2016

Greetings from President Joan

Greetings from your President and a Happy 2016! Can you believe it is 2016 and in several weeks we will be marking the 70th Anniversary of the year most of us arrived in Canada and back in Halifax, as well! We are getting lots of enthusiasm and help from the people on the ground in Halifax and it seems they really want to welcome us back! Below are further details of what is planned, what money we have raised, and all sorts of good stuff. I was looking through my War Bride memorabilia today, looking for something I did not find (but that is another story) and I came across a Pier 21 newspaper we received when we went there on the train in 2006 for the 60th Anniversary. It refers to 'The Generation Love Built - War Brides in Canada, 1942-1949'.

It talks about us leaving everything behind, coming into the relatively unknown. I remember how well everything was organized, and how generally good people were to us. I refer to all the War Bride ships as 'an Armada of optimism' because we were looking and hoping for the best, ready to make the most of whatever we found. I also found another quote from a War Bride husband who credits our wartime experiences and challenges for giving us the ability to cope with whatever we found! So let's give ourselves a joint pat on the back! We were - and still are - a remarkable bunch - so let's party like a War Bride! Hope to see you all in Halifax!! Joan

Joan Reichardt

Canadian War Brides & Families Website

We are thrilled to report that the *Canadian War Brides & Families* has just launched their own website!! So check us out online at www.canadianwarbridesandfamilies.ca
We would love to hear your feedback and suggestions for other things that could be added to our website.
You can also 'Like Us' on Facebook www.facebook.com/canadianwarbridesandfamilies

Canadian War Brides & Families Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian War Brides and Families will be held on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 10:00 – 11:00 am in the Lunenburg Room at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Meeting is open to all members.
Anyone interested in putting their name forward for an executive position, should email us at canadianwarbrides@netidea.com



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY 2016 to Canada's British War Brides!



MAY 5, 2016 Afternoon Tea and Opening of Bev Tosh's exhibition, PORTRAITS IN SEPIA, STORIES IN SILK: Canada's British War Brides - for Mother's Day, 70 years after most War Brides arrived in Canada.



Opening Schedule of Events

4:00 pm Afternoon Tea with
Tour to follow

6 - 8:00pm Drinks Reception
with Artist's talk
starting at 6:30



WHERE: CANADA HOUSE (Main Lobby), Trafalgar Square, LONDON

This event is the perfect opportunity for War Brides to enjoy the exhibition and tea in their honour in the beautiful lobby of the newly refurbished Canada House.

CONTACT: Bev Tosh at 403-246-5790 or btosh@shaw.ca (deadline is April 15, 2016) if you will be in London on May 5, 2016 and wish to be included on the guest list (developed in conjunction with Canada House) for the tea and opening. The opening events are by invitation only.

DURATION of the Canada's British War Brides exhibition May 5 2016 through June. It may continue through the summer but that is not yet confirmed.

CANADA HOUSE in 2016: Please note this special exhibition is located in the main lobby (not Canada House Gallery) and that security arrangements for this diplomatic facility require that Canada House is **not open** to general visitors. According to the Canada House website all guests must register **in advance** to attend our special tours (spaces are limited).

CANADA HOUSE in Wartime London:

Since Canada House issued the necessary documentation for marriage to Canadian servicemen (and the adjoining Canadian Military Headquarters processed shipping orders) many War Brides visited Canada House on Trafalgar Square.



Canadian War Brides & Families – Reunion 2016 Westin Nova Scotian, Halifax, Nova Scotia

There is still time to register and join in the fun, for our Reunion 2016 which will be held at the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 20, 21, 22, 2016. So far we've had a huge response for the Reunion, with more people registered this far in advance of the Reunion than we had for any of our previous Reunions. There is still time before March 15, 2016 to take advantage of our reduced rate for War Brides (\$75.00) and for members (\$125.00). Latecomer and non-member rates are detailed in the registration form attached to this newsletter.

Those of you requiring hotel accommodation can make a reservation by phoning Westin's toll free number at 1-888-627-8553 and asking for the Canadian War Brides & Families Reunion rate of \$179 CAD plus taxes per night for single/double occupancy. Or you can book online by using this direct link to the Reunion's block of rooms:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1509235706&key=D7FAA71>



Our limited block of rooms has 1 or 2 queen beds and are filling up quickly, so make your room reservation soon to avoid disappointment. The hotel will offer this same room rate for up to 3 nights prior and 3 nights post Reunion week-end.

If you have any questions or need help with your reservations please call War Bride Daughter

Janet @ 250-354-4006 & don't forget to check the time when you call as I'm in British Columbia.

The Reunion Committee has been busy making sure the Reunion weekend will be lots of fun. The committee has also been successful in receiving generous donations from the Scotia Bank, Cunard Cruise Lines and the Nova Scotia Legion which may lead to a pleasant surprise for Reunion attendees! The Nova Scotia Legion is also offering to provide us with some *on the ground* assistance.



Stadacona Band



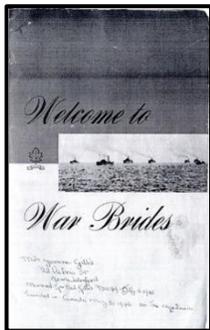
**Let's all
Party like
a War Bride!**

Canadian Wives` Bureau London, England

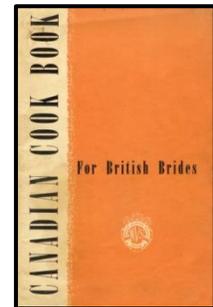
The Canadian Wives` Bureau, housed on the upper floor of a posh London Department store on Regent Street (apparently it was the Galeries Lafayette at 190 Regent Street, which is now the location of *Hamleys Toy store*), was the office responsible for assisting wives and children of Canadian servicemen and to make arrangements for the War Brides and children to join their husbands in Canada. Sitting in the Bureau`s comfortable lounge, the War Brides could learn things about what life would be like in Canada.



Initially the Immigration Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources was responsible for arranging for the War Brides and children to travel to Canada but In August of 1944 that responsibility was moved to the Department of National Defense (DND). The DND set up the Canadian Wives` Bureau in 1944 to organize the travel to Canada by ship and to their husbands` homes by train, for the War Brides and their children. The Canadian Wives` Bureau was a joint effort between Canadian immigration officials, the military and the Canadian Red Cross. In addition to arranging for their travel to and within Canada, the Bureau also arranged for their travel from their homes within the UK to whichever port city their ship would be sailing from. The War Brides stayed overnight in hotels and they were also provided with travel allowances to pay for meals on board the ship.



The Canadian Wives` Bureau also tried to help the War Brides with the transition from one country to the other. It also encouraged the formation of Canadian Wives` Clubs, where War Brides could socialize and learn about what life in Canada would be like. This idea proved to be very successful, since by the end of 1945, there were over thirty `Wives` Clubs` in the United Kingdom. To help the War Brides learn about Canada, the Canadian government provided booklets such as *Welcome to War Brides*, *Canadian Cook Book for British Wives* and *How to Deliver Your Own Bab!!*



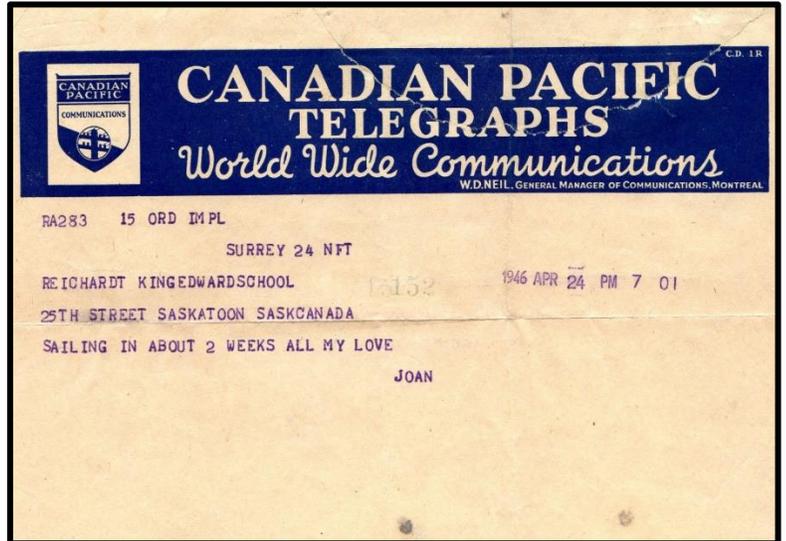
Although discharged soldiers were given priority over War Brides when travelling back to Canada, some War Brides travelled before the soldiers.

If you would like to learn more about the Canadian Wives` Bureau and also listen to a CBC Radio interview from 1946, click the link below:

<http://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/welcome-to-the-canadian-wives-bureau>

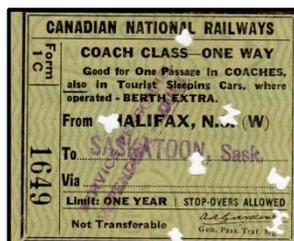
Remember When

Remember when we received that momentous document and we knew we were soon to be on our way? I still have the telegram I sent to my husband - whom I had not seen for nearly 10 months, dated April 24th 1946 saying 'Sailing in about 2 weeks'. I remember that news sent me into a mad dash to get ready to go! I already had my trunk, duly labelled, with a few bits and pieces in it, and then I had to decide what was to go - what was worth taking - and how much! I think I was in a daze half the time!



What an incredible journey we set off on, all arranged for us, telling me what train to catch from Richmond, and that the Canadian RTO would meet me at Waterloo Station - but I got there first! Then off to the hostel overnight, beans on toast for breakfast, another coach to Victoria Station and on the train to Southampton.

There was a rumour we might be on the Queen Mary, but we ended up on the little old Lady Rodney, and off we went, waving goodbye to England and everything we had ever known, into an uncharted future. Now, 70 years later we are getting together, back where we landed, in Halifax. Hope to see you all there in May!



Submitted by Joan Reichardt