



Canadian War Brides and Families

Summer 2017

Greetings from President Joan

This year's reunion is behind us! We were a smaller group this year, but I know we all had a good time - the singalong leaders were marvellous! This is my last message to you all as your president. I took over from Jean in Calgary, and she is a hard act to follow - without her there would be no Canadian War Brides and Families! As our War Bride numbers diminish it is more important than ever for the family members to take over, and I am delighted to see that the incoming executive is just that - a 'takeover'. I wish the new executive all the best!

Cheers!

Joan

Election of Officers

At the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian War Brides and Families held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 in Ottawa, an election of officers was held as per our Bylaws.

The new Executive for the year August 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018 is as follows:

President – Lynn Martin
1st Vice-President – Elaine Heney
2nd Vice – President – Sharon Clayton
Secretary – Anna-Lynn Sanche
Treasurer – Sherr Wadson
Director – June Draude
Director – Pauline Cohen
Past-President – Joan Reichardt

Save the Date

Reunion 2018
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan
June 22, 23, 24, 2018

Partying Like A War Bride in Ottawa!!!

Reunion 2017 in Ottawa was a great success and enjoyed by one & all! On Friday night we were welcomed to the city by Deputy Mayor Mark Taylor, entertained by Garth Hampson & Evelyn Greenberg, and served a delicious meal! Saturday morning was a very successful AGM with a brand new Executive elected for the August 1st, 2017 to July 31st, 2018 term. The afternoon was spent at the Canadian War Museum with transportation provided by OC Transpo in a wonderful double decker bus! Saturday's Gala Banquet was well attended with special guests including Dutch Ambassador Henk Van der Zwan, Ontario Legion President Brian Weaver, and Joel VanSnick, Commander, Royal Canadian Legion Zone G-5`. Another delicious dinner was served and we were then entertained by the Canadian Forces, Central Band Jazz Combo. Many were up dancing to the old tunes and everyone had a wonderful evening. After the church service Sunday morning, we were offered a delicious buffet breakfast before our final singsong with Garth & Evelyn leading the way. Our Grand Finale included joining hands and singing "We'll Meet Again". Thank you to everyone for making Reunion 2017 such a wonderful week-end of celebrating our War Bride Mums.



Our lovely War Brides!



Displaying the Canada 150 Quilt, donated by `Sweet Dreams Quilters`, which was won by Jean Fells



OC Transpo Double Decker Bus



Canadian War Museum

Our Trip to Reunion 2017 in Ottawa

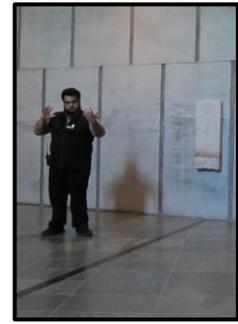
James and I left London on Mother's Day and drove to Toronto so we could have dinner and spend a few evenings with our teacher/daughter Elizabeth. On Wednesday we drove to Gatineau (it used to be Hull), now part of the National Capitol Region, because we wanted to tour the Canadian Museum of History (formerly the National Museum of Civilization). We learned a lot about hockey (sigh - the Ottawa Senators lost). We also saw a million tulips - Ottawa's Tulip Festival was in full bloom. A sea of Canada 150 tulips can be seen in the first photo.



From Thursday to Tuesday we stayed at the excellent Ottawa Westin Hotel near the Parliament Buildings and enjoyed being a part of the seventh War Brides and Families Reunion. In the second photo, I'm with Sandi Jeffs - we met last year in Halifax and discovered we came as infants to Canada at the same time (July 23 1946) on the Queen Mary. Nice to see her again! And of course Janet Leahy, Joan Reichardt (President), Jean Fells (former President - she won the beautiful Maple Leaf quilt made by a group of Quebec quilters whose mothers were war brides), and Sharon Clayton (new 2nd VP) with her amazing book of her father's letters to her mother who was a war bride from Jamaica. From London ON came Carol and Roy Small, Dolores Hatch and Elsie Mills, and Betty Tharratt with her family - Elsie and Betty are both war brides. Betty Tharratt can still do the Lambeth Walk! Betty Robertson, also a war bride, drove herself from Sarnia to London, then flew to Ottawa, where she was joined by her granddaughter who teaches in Burlington.



One of our side trips was to the new Canadian War Museum. Felix, our guide, stressed the peaceful nature of the building - the architect was Raymond Moriyama (89) who was interned in BC during WWII. Moriyama also designed Museum London and the Visual Arts Centre at Western University in London, Ontario. You can see Felix beside the gravestone of the unknown soldier.



In the last photo, I'm standing beside the statue on Parliament Hill of Louise McKinney, one of the Famous Five who in 1929 got Ottawa to declare that WOMEN were indeed PERSONS and could be appointed to the Senate. (She was finally made an honorary senator in 2009 - she died in 1931.)



James and I met some fine PERSONS on this trip. Next year the reunion will take place in Moose Jaw, SK. We won't be attending, but we look forward to photos in our Summer 2018 newsletter (which will be written by our new Secretary, Anna-Lynn Sanche). (Anna-Lynn has compiled a book of the stories of many Alberta War Brides - her mother came from France and eventually earned her MA in Alberta.)

This was our third reunion. The Cdn Forces Central Band Jazz Combo provided romantic dance music on Saturday night. On Friday and again on Sunday after brunch, Garth Hampson with his lovely big voice led us in the old familiar songs, accompanied by accomplished pianist Evelyn Greenberg. These performances were arranged by Margaret Ann Amoroso who did her best to make the Ottawa reunion a success, and it was. Garth had such a good time, he wants to sing at next year's reunion in Moose Jaw - it's his home town.

Thanks to all of you hard-working organizers of the 2017 Reunion!
Submitted by Susan Wallace and James Reaney

My mother, Edith Metcalfe Wallace (1922-2010), was born in Rotherham, Yorkshire where I also was born. We reunited with my father in July 1946 in Port Arthur, now Thunder Bay.)

WAR BRIDE STORIES

Our website includes a page for `War Bride Stories` and anyone wishing to submit their story or their War Bride Mum`s story may do so at any time. We know there are many more amazing War Bride stories to be told and if you would like to share your story and help keep the War Bride`s story alive, you can submit your story anytime by mailing it to Canadian War Brides and Families, c/o 215 West Beasley Street, Nelson, BC V1L 3K4. You can also download the form from our website: (www.canadianwarbridesandfamilies.ca).

To check out the stories already posted to our website go to:
<http://www.canadianwarbridesandfamilies.ca/war-bride-stories/>

Remember When

Remember when we first met those young Canadian servicemen so long ago? Remember suddenly seeing them everywhere? Starting in late 1939 they were the first to arrive from "the Empire", come to help fight a war against a tyrant! To us they were just these young fellows, uniforms very similar to our British boys, who we met at a dance, through a friend or relative or when they asked the way to the station - they used that one a lot, as I recall!



As we got to know each other, and became more than friends I do not recall my tall redhead saying "how about coming to Canada and helping build a nation" Do you? But that, in fact, is just what we did! We left everything familiar, everything we had ever known and travelled thousands of miles to the unfamiliar, to the unknown. We brought our history, our customs, our experience, our survival from war, and we put down new roots! We brought 22,000 children with us - and that was only the down payment! Now our descendants number more than a million, we have been Canadians for almost half of the life of this country! We came to all parts of Canada, city and rural, north, south, east and west, we settled, we became part of the community and we did a damned good job of building a country! So let us give ourselves a congratulatory pat on the back for a job well done!



Submitted by Joan Reichardt

If you have a story/photos you would like to share in the newsletter, please email to annalynn951@gmail.com
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Our Website: www.canadianwarbridesandfamilies.ca
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