

Conserving History Through Generations: Building Bridges Over Time



St-Willibrord Elementary School

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"MWCN had a vision of bringing young people and seniors together to share stories and to help build bridges between generations."

*Pauline Wiedow, Executive Director
Montérégie West Community Network*

MWCN has been involved with intergenerational projects and St- Willibrord School for many years. Through this partnership our seniors have been involved with the young students through teaching knitting, the grandparent's lunch time games and also in the reading French program.

It was through this involvement that we thought it would be great to capture the stories of the seniors through interviews given by the young students. This has turned out to be a great learning experience for both the students and the seniors. Breaking isolation for seniors on a wintry day, the school was abuzz with the students and teachers preparing for an exciting exchange of information. Thank you to all involved in this project. Don Rosenbaum, thank you for your initial contact and presentation to the teachers that sowed the seeds of many possibilities of bringing the generations together. Teachers your engagement in this project was invaluable. Thank you for persevering. Gayle Holdaway, thank you for your determination to bring this to fruition and your relentless strategies to keep the dream alive. Sarah, what can we say? you did it!!! 2 books in a month....thank you. You never gave up and provided much encouragement. To all who read this precious collection of personal experiences that were shared with our young people, Enjoy. This experience has truly built bridges across the generations.

**Pauline Wiedow
Executive Director
Montérégie West Community Network**



**Caroline Beaulieu, Principal
St-Willibrord Elementary School**

"We are so proud to have been part of the Inter-Generational Project. Our staff and students loved the experience. Thank you to all who were part of this 1st project at St.Will!"



**Anthony Spadaccino
CLC Administrative Technician**

"As the Community Development Agent, I had the opportunity to connect partners with the school to help this inter-generational project flourish. It was moving to see the excitement in both seniors and students when speaking with one another. Connecting seniors with our schools provides a sense of belonging and life-long learning for not only the seniors but for the students and the staff."



**Don Rosenbaum
M.Ed (Family Life Education
Member - Advisory Committee**

"The 'Conserving History' project was developed with the idea of bringing elders and young people together to capture and share both personal stories and local history. Intergenerational connections like these benefit both the seniors and their young partners, reducing stereotypes, providing an increased sense of worth, self-esteem and self-confidence, and reduced feelings of isolation. Activities like this, which bridge the generation gap not only benefit the participants, but contribute to a more inclusive, cohesive community. We are proud to have been a part of that effort."

Introduction - Building Bridges Over Time

The telling of stories is in many ways what ties communities together. It is these stories, told from one generation to another, that help us develop our sense of belonging. They bring us closer together and tie us to our local and regional history.

As an initiative of the Montérégie West Community Network, this project aimed, among other things, to empower members of the extended St-Willibrord community interested in sharing stories of their upbringing, their experiences and their lives with the young students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Seniors were interviewed by groups of students and the resulting texts were compiled to produce a single story included in this book.

The stories reflect a diversity of histories, many of them reflecting significant changes in technology, from growing up without electricity to remembering the first appearance of a black and white television set in the family living room and the evolution from there to today's high tech gadgets. The students captured exceptional insights and reflections from their partners, and the final product serves as a powerful reminder of the incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that is transferred through the wonder of intergenerational learning and storytelling.





Johnny Blaze Cross with Dylan, Hadashah and Casey

Johnny Blaze Cross

Johnny Blaze Cross is a retired citizen from Kahnawake. In fact, he was raised as one of eight kids. Two of his siblings were not able to walk so he had to carry them. He had to be a responsible brother. His friends call him Blaze for short.

Johnny always wanted to play an instrument; the guitar. He would use a broomstick and pretend he was playing a guitar. Johnny loves to listen to country music – Yee Haw! His favourite country music singer is George Jones. He even went to see him in concert.

Another one of Johnny's favourite things was playing on the ice. One day, he fell through into the freezing cold water. His parents had warned him not to go out on the ice, but he didn't believe his parents. Another day, Johnny and his brother were playing with someone's pellet gun and he accidentally shot himself. Wow! He's lucky he survived.

One thing Johnny wishes he could do is write his own language. Luckily, he knows how to speak Mohawk.



Joyce and Jean Luc Beaudoin with Chi, Noah and Jayson

Joyce and Jean Luc Beaudoin

Joyce Beaudoin got her first car when she was 17, it was a two-toned wine and white Chevy, and she said it was “magnificent.” When she and Jean Luc started a family, they got a 1995 Ford. It was brown. Jean Luc took his 1976 Corvette to the car shows. People would look at their car and they would look at everybody else’s cars as well.

Joyce took a streetcar to school every day, while Jean Luc walked to school. Jean Luc was brought up on a farm. He would cultivate the plants and crops. He rode on the tractor. The tractors were slower and a lot smaller. They had cows on the farm. He worked in the milk shed. People would come pick up the milk in a truck and bring it to a factory to put it in a milk carton and then to the grocery store. He says there were more transport companies way back then.

Down the road from the farm was a lake with a paddle boat and a shack where he and his family would stay. Joyce’s parents had a cottage near a lake where they spent the summer when she was younger. They would eat corn, she would ride her bike and they would stop for ice cream. She enjoyed relaxing by the lake. She would go water skiing as well.

Joyce loves animals. She has had dogs, cats and a horse. Joyce’s first cat was named Toby and her second cat was named Sam. She loves animals so much she read the book “All Creatures Great and Small”. She also watched the movie. Her favourite pet was a dog named Rebel. Joyce is a real animal lover.



Jean Brisebois with Kofi, Alexandre and Samantha

Jean Brisebois

When Jean Brisebois was young, his father owned a garage. He was inspired by his father and he also became a mechanic. He started to work on cars when he was still in high school. He would work on them after he returned home from school. It made for long days, but he enjoyed working with his father. When he grew up, he and his brother bought their father's garage.

He worked on trains for a time, but he went back to working on cars. He is now retired and has sold the garage, but he still enjoys working on his car. He also enjoys travelling to Florida, and has been to China and to Oceania.



Johanne Brisebois with Molly, Ava and Katherine

Johanne Brisebois

Johanne Brisebois is 65-years-old. She is retired and lives in Vaudreuil-Dorion. She has five children. They are all girls. When asked what kinds of games she played outside and inside when she was younger, she answered “well, we used our imagination. We still had the game snakes n ladders, which has existed for a long time. We would also read. It’s not a game, but an activity.” Johanne would also make little plays with her brothers and sisters. Her sister, who was one year older than her, would pretend to be a teacher and teach her siblings things she had learned that day at school.

Johanne’s favourite grade in school was when she was in high school because she enjoyed talking with her friends. She enjoyed studying science, but also math, because they were her favourite subjects. Her school had a winter carnival.



Georges Bujold
with Harmony
and Branden



Georges Bujold
with Reilly, Miley
and Téa

Georges Bujold

He met his wife in Moose-Jaw Saskatchewan in front of a car radiator shop, while he was serving in the military as an airframe technician. She had just come back from Montreal during the Olympics (1976). They were married in 1978. In 1980 he left the military and moved back to Châteauguay. One year later they had their first child, it was a girl. Two years later they had a son. Georges worked at different companies until he finally worked for a major airline in the engine department.

He did not enjoy school. He was held back a grade. "It took me years to realize how important school was, you don't realize how much you need school until afterward, I did find out life is a learning experience and you never stop learning." While at school, Georges liked to play sports like wrestling and sailing, but now he prefers cycling and water sports, like kayaking. His children also played sports. His daughter played softball and his son was a swimmer. He was never able to swim with his son because he does not know how to swim. His daughter is still playing soft ball, but he also does not know how to play. He was more like a taxi driver for them, making sure they arrived at their activities on time. He loves his family and appreciates the quality of life we have today. He is retired now and likes to help his community.

Mr. Georges also talked about health and hospitals. He said when he was young, they had x-rays, heart monitors, and otoscopes. They did not have MRIs or CT Scans. They did have EKGs, but they were not as good as they are now. In fact, most of the tools were made of wood. However, it was very sturdy wood. When you were sick, you never went to the hospital. Your parents had to put boiling mustard on your stomach to make you better. One time, Georges broke his nose and had to go to the hospital for three days. He said the medicine did not taste very good. The only good thing is you got to have a lot of soup.

I love soup, and it was very fun talking with Mr. Georges.



Lynda Friend with Isabella, Charlotte and Rebecca

Lynda Friend

Miss Lynda was born in 1951. She grew up on a farm in Saint-Constant. She and her siblings had to wake up at 5 in the morning to do their chores. She did not have electricity at home until she was nine years old and had to do her homework by an oil lamp in the middle of the table. Her mother would do her hair for her every morning. She also had to change her clothes after working in the barn before going to school. She had three sets of clothes, one for the weekend, a uniform for school and one for the barn. She had to walk almost 2.5 miles to school. She would have to do chores after school as well because the farm animals could not wait to be fed.

She started school in 1957 at six-years-old at Saint Constant Elementary. There were two classrooms, one for grade one through four and the other for grades five to 8. Her school yearbook was called The Banner at Monkland High School and is now a home for seniors. It took Lynda an hour to cross over the Mercier Bridge to get to school.

Miss Lynda had a learning disorder; however, she did not realize this until her daughter was diagnosed with dyslexia. She learned to read in her late teens. When she was younger, the teachers said she was always on the moon.

She was married in 1970, at eighteen-years-old and had three boys. She married again in 1988 and had one son and a daughter. She now has seven grandchildren.



Maria Fiozzi
with Ava and
Jade



Maria Fiozzi
with Myla

Maria Friozzi

Maria Friozzi moved to Châteauguay when she was three-years-old. She went to school at St-Willibrord. Back then the school was Catholic and separated into two sides, one for the boys and the other for the girls. There were winter carnivals and the area that is now the kindergarten area was a skating rink.

She went to high school at Billings, where there were dances every Friday night. She really loved dancing. She went with her friends. She is still friends with her friends from high school. In class they used to pass notes instead of texting. Today she uses technology for everything: texting, calling, banking, shopping and email. In fact, she first started to use computers in 1992 when she started to work at a bank. Before that, everything was handwritten.

When she was young, she remembers they did not have to go out to get very many things from the store. Salesmen would come to the house. The milk and bread would also be delivered. Her family had a radio, a landline, a cassette player and a TV. There were only four channels on the TV, two in French and two in English. Her favourite food was shepherd's pie. She said she liked it because it made her brother mad when they ate it. Her least favourite food was pasta. She is Italian but does not like Italian food. When she was young, she would walk with her mom to get groceries and they would take a taxi home after as the bags were too heavy.



Anne Gibbs with Chana, Cora and Alexa

Anne Gibbs

Anne Gibbs was born in 1950. She came from a big family. She had four siblings, an older brother and sister and a younger brother and sister. Anne's older brother and sister were eighteen months apart from each other, they are so close. Anne's younger sister and brother were four years apart. She got along with some of them more than others. They fought sometimes, they also blamed each other just like me and my siblings do! Anne said, "she was the worst one for that." To this day they still keep in touch.

Anne was six-years-old when her family got their first television. It was black and white. She also remembers when she first got a hair dryer, and much more. She also remembers when she and her family lived in a small town where they had horses and the milk was delivered to their doorstep. There was a skating rink nearby and Anne skated a lot in the winter. In the summer, she would canoe. When Anne was younger, she used to go out on the roof and sneak out. She would stay up there for a little while. Her parents were calm people. They were both in the army in Scotland.

When Anne was a teenager she liked to listen to the Beatles. Now she likes to listen to Jazz. Her favourite song is "Me and Bobby McGee". Her first concert was Engelburt Humperdink. She went to see him perform when she was in her twenties at Place des Arts in Montreal.

Anne first moved to Montreal in the 70s. Her husband came from a big family too. The number of people at their Christmas party was thirty. They stopped this year. They still have family dinners, but not that many people are able to go anymore. Mostly in the summer they eat supper at their cottage.

Anne is going to Ireland sometime this year for a family reunion. Anne is very excited because she has never met some of her family because they live in Ireland. There are about 100 people going. Some of them are from the United States and Australia. Anne is travelling by plane with her sister. Anne says, "it is very important to keep in touch with all of your family because family always comes first."



Gayle Holdaway with Mackenzie, Reilly and Colton

Gayle Holdaway

Gayle Holdaway's father was from England and her mother was Canadian. Just after she was born, the family moved from Canada to her father's homeland. She was so little, she did not mind the move. She was very happy there. Gayle was 13-years-old when she moved back from England to Canada. They left behind a lot of family.

When she started school, they put her in tenth grade because they thought England had a better education system than Canada. She had to go back to grade 9 however, not because the work was too hard, but because it was too hard for her to make friends because they were all so much older. It took a long time for her and her sisters to get used to all of the changes. She wound up having to repeat grade nine because in England, French is optional while in Québec it was very important that she learn to speak French.

There were a lot of strict rules at school: never talk back, be polite and respect the teachers. When people broke the rules, there were very extreme punishments. You could get rapped on your knuckles with a ruler or you could be sent to the front of the class and touch your toes and the teacher would hit you with a yard stick. And, if you were really bad, the teacher could send you to see the headmaster and he could strap you.

Of course, there were also rules at home. These included to shine your shoes, even on the bottom of them because if you went to church, you knelt, and if the bottoms of your shoes were not shined, you would look like a fool. She also had to iron, make her bed, do the dishes and she also had to walk her sister to school every day. You would never get punished like you did at school though. At home, the only real punishment was you didn't get your allowance for the week.



Eudora Hunte with Scarlett, Cooper, Maria and Ryder

Eudora Hunte

Mrs. Eudora Hunte told us all about the music that was popular in the 1950s. Some of the types of music that people enjoyed were jazz, country, and gospel. The person who was at the top of the charts was Elvis Presley. When she was young and still today her favourites were jazz and gospel music because she thought that these two types of music contained an inspiring message through their melody.

Mrs. Eudora Hunte had an interesting opinion on the Christmas song "Baby it's cold outside". She said she listened to it when she was young. We discussed feminism and whether the song was about trying to make the girl have a drink. Mrs. Hunte said there were not many feminists back then. Her opinion was that she disagrees with making the girl drink.

When she was young, she did not have a cell phone or a computer, because they did not exist. People listened to music with radios or CD players. They did not have as much technology as they do today. Mrs. Hunte loves music.



Susanna Langevin with Pauline, Pierce and Hailey

Susanna Langevin

Susanna Langevin always ran away, and she was never on time for anything. She always had a lot of homework to do when she would get home from school. Her favourite memory from when she was younger was when she had a crush on a boy named Leo. In the summer she would always go to her family's farm. Once, her uncle threw mud all over her head. Everyone thought it was funny, but she did not. Her favourite activities were playing with paper dolls and she liked to knit and cork as well.



John MacInnis with Tanner and Kierra

John MacInnis

John MacInnis went to a school called McCormick High. When John went to school the teachers were really strict. John's favourite teacher was Sister George-Marie, he thought she was an amazing teacher. The first time John learned French was in sixth grade. They had a school TV channel and they would talk to the TV. The teachers gave a lot of math homework, just like today. His favourite subject was geography. Math was the most difficult subject for him.

John played hockey with his friends every day. After his chores he would go out to play. He also played at school. He would use hockey to relax after a hard day of work.

It was fun learning about John's past. I guess you would have to say we have it really easy today.



Wilma Mayer with
Kierra and Kiefer



Wilma Mayer with
Oronhiatekha,
Shyla and Jahmari

Wilma Mayer

Wilma Mayer was born in the United States. Her father was born in Pennsylvania and her mother was born in Ohio.

Wilma Mayer first began driving at seventeen-years-old in California. Her first car was a Datsun. It had lap seatbelts, not like today's safer three-point seatbelts. She had to learn to drive in snow when she moved to Canada. She really liked her 1957 Chevy and she still has it today. Back then you did not have electric windows. There were no car starters. In fact, you had to crank up the windows yourself. She said you had to hold your kids on your lap because there were no car seats.

When she was in school, all of the desks were in a row and they all sat in alphabetical order. They had to raise their hands to get out of their seat. There was even a water fountain in the classroom, so they did not have to leave the room to get a drink. Her favourite subject was ELA because she liked to read. Her second favourite subject was math. Her favourite game outside of school was called tether ball. She also competed in track and field.

She has eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.



Joanne Murray with
Shako and Rayan



Joanne Murray
with Zachary

Joanne Murray

When Joanne was younger, she liked to do stuff alone like playing with dolls, riding her bike, roller skating and reading books. She also liked to play house and school. She would pretend to be the teacher. She shares a birthday with her sister. She and her sister would have shared birthday parties. Their father would bring them to buy a dress and always made their birthdays into very special occasions. She and her siblings always had to share their presents as her family did not have a lot of money. Besides, Christmas was more about family back then, not about presents. Her family made their own tree decorations and even sometimes their presents. Her family had to go out to cut down the perfect tree and to set it up, they would put it in a butter box.

At Halloween, she and her family would make their own costumes and have a big costume contest before going trick or treating. Back then it was safe enough to go out by themselves. When they returned home, they would put all their candy into a cardboard box and their parents would make sure it was safe to eat.

Back in Joanne's time, she could get a popsicle for 5 cents, she could get one or two candies for a penny or two and she could get a gumball for a penny. Imagine that!

Back then they had bell bottoms, elephant pants, miniskirts, micro miniskirts which were clothes made for hippies and worn at Woodstock.

Joanne didn't follow a lot of sports when she was younger because it was too cold to be outside and at night you had to be home before dark because there were no lights. She and her family liked horses. Her horses did tricks. She was afraid of falling but she enjoyed watching the horses. She enjoys the fresh air of the country.

She likes watching Titans, a television program with Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson. She also likes the Montreal Canadiens. Her favourite player is Gallagher, number 11.



Diana Newbold with Julia, Jakob and Breena

Diana Newbold

When Diana was in school, nuns were working as teachers. She went to an all-girls school. The nuns in the photo Diana showed us had pointy hats, with a robe that covered the cone shaped hat. Diana said the nuns used to treat her badly; they used to yell at her.

Diana lost her father when she was just 4-years-old. He passed away in 1945. He was a soldier during the war, but he died of pneumonia, while he was in training in Halifax, before he was to leave for Italy. Diana worked at a bank. She worked there for nine years. Then Diana had her first baby and she and her husband agreed that she would be a stay at home Mom. Then she grew old enough so that we could interview her.



Haley Pitts with Madison, Lola and Savannah

Haley Pitts

Today we interviewed Hazel Pitts, but her friends call her Haley. Her dad first started calling her Haley after the comet, because she would run away quickly when she had to do chores.

When Haley was younger, she would watch television with her father. She would hang out with her sister a lot too. She would go fishing with her brother's friends. She would always ride her bike every day and would help clean with her mom. She had to clean her room, do the dishes and fix her bed.

Haley loved the same fashion as her sister. In fact, she wore some of her clothes, without permission and got into a fight. One day, Hayley walked into a store to buy some milk for her mother, and on her way out she fell into a sewer. She broke ribs and had lots of scratches but did not break the bottles of milk.

When Haley was two, she became sick with Tuberculosis. She was in the hospital for three years. When she went home, she was not allowed to play with the other kids. That must have been horrible for Haley, but as time passed, she became stronger.

When she was little, her family did not have a car, so they walked or took the bus. She went to an all-girls school. She and her friends did not eat lunch at school, so they had to walk home. Haley has lots of fond memories from when she was growing up.



Diane Prigent with Frédérique, Isabella and Shane

Diane Prigent

Diane said the place that she most wants to visit is Hawaii. "Every time I see the colour of the water, I just want to go there."

Her favourite trip was to Mexico. She said it was somewhere to discover, that it was very hot and beautiful. When she was younger, she and her family had gone to Wildwood. She and her family would go into the water. She loved spending time with her family.

Diane has seen a lot of changes in technology in her life. Her first television was black and white and there were no video games while she was growing up. She spent her time going on outings with her family and playing games inside and outside. When she had her own children, they liked to play Nintendo. Now Diane is able to communicate with her family through her telephone, iPad and computer.



Don Rosenbaum with Diane and Erica

Don Rosenbaum

Don Rosenbaum has four children named Erika, Jenny, Neepa and David. His wife is named Debbie. I can say that he enjoys travelling. From what I can tell, he has gone bike riding in Spain, picked tomatoes in Israel, and he adopted his daughter in India. He has been to over twenty countries, including England and France. He even travelled to Bhutan one time.

In a photograph Don showed us there was a machine gun. He was wearing a cowboy hat and shorts. He and his wife were picking tomatoes in the desert in Israel while helping a farmer for a week near Jordan. To do so, they covered the rows in plastic, they watered the plants under the plastic, and they grew. In the morning they would head out with a bottle of water, a walkie-talkie and a machine gun. This was in case there was an attack from the other side of the border. They did not really feel like they were in any danger. But it was very dangerous.

Don has been swimming in the ocean. One of his favourite trips was when he went bike riding. He does not like to go on cruises. He prefers trains because they are nice, and airplanes are too crowded. He said before he dies, he would like to travel out west in Canada because he has never been to British Columbia. He would like to drive across the country to get there.



Huguette Seguin with Zonya, Joey and Hailey

Huguette Seguin

Huguette Seguin is 85-years-old. She was born in 1933. She grew up in Lachute with five brothers. Her family travelled to different countries in Europe. She has a strong relationship with her brothers. She had three daughters and a son. Unfortunately, her son passed away. She has a lot of fun memories of raising her daughters and her son. Today, she lives in an apartment in Châteauguay. Her grandchildren visit her very often.

When Huguette was going to school the teachers were nuns. It was a Catholic girls school. She also attended church where the boys and girls sat on opposite sides of the sanctuary. She said she enjoyed being in an all-girls school because, to quote her, “boys were annoying.”

When the students misbehaved, the nuns would rap the students on their knuckles. She says they never had to hit her with the ruler.

When Huguette was young, women's rights were not really on her side. She told herself not to take what guys said too seriously. She and her brothers played sports together. Huguette said she was always the boss when it came to sports. She picked what they were going to play, where they played, etc.



Winston Standup
with Destiny and
Alex



Winston Standup
with Leo, Ronald
and Peyton

Winston Standup

Winston Standup was an iron worker. He worked in many different cities where he built bridges. His father also worked in construction. Winston's father worked to build the Mercier Bridge and he fell off the bridge, but he survived. He also worked in New York, Kahnawake, Québec, and Boston. At the time, the airplane was not a very developed means of transportation. Winston had to take the subway to work in New York and traveled by train on the weekends. This meant that the train was closely related to his life. Winston said at the time there was no high-speed rail and no trains with engines. When he was a child, he always took the steam train.

When the Quebec Bridge disaster happened, and the bridge collapsed, 32 workers from Kahnawake fell and drowned. Many more survived but were badly hurt.

Winston mentioned that the hospital in Kahnawake was a hotel for train tourists 147 years ago and he brought in a picture to show us. He also talked about how the place where we now have the PowWow was under the river before.

When Winston was going to school the boys and girls were separated in different areas of the school. The principal's office was in the middle and the boys were forbidden to go on the girl's side and the girls were forbidden to go on the boy's side. There were even separate entrances. On the wall of the school was a picture of the King of England. The boys all wore button down shirts and ties. The desks were made of wood with the chairs attached with a small hole on top for ink. The chair had a drawer under it so you could store your books. Winston had difficulties learning how to read and write. He has accomplished a lot of things in his life. He is very knowledgeable about the history of the trains and bridges in and around Kahnawake and Châteauguay.



Delmer Tennant with Aijah and Emily

Delmer Tennant

Delmer grew up in a small town in Manitoba called Gilbert Plain. Manitoba is not big like Montreal. There was not a lot to do. There were a lot of farm fields. Gilbert Plain was located between two hills. It was a lot like Ormstown. There were a lot of trees and water. There was about 500-800 people who lived in the town. He walked to school because he lived only three blocks away. But students who lived on farms outside of the town had to come to school by horse drawn carriage in the winter. In grade seven and eight, he started to play curling. He played baseball, but he did not find it to be that much fun, but it was something to do to pass the time.

Delmer's favourite subjects in school were math and geography. He said he liked geography because he enjoyed travelling. After moving to Québec, he became a teacher at Billings High School in Châteauguay and Chateauguay Valley Regional (CVR) High School in Ormstown.



Christine Thompson
with Dylan and
James



Christine Thompson
with Kimberly and
Jahki

Christine Thompson

Christine Thompson was born on Christmas Day in 1934 in Ireland. Her parents wanted to name her Nollaig, but the priest said they were not allowed to because it was not a saint's name. Only some family and friends still call her this. Her parents settled on Christina instead.

She worked in a hospital in England and in Ireland. Christine moved to Canada when she was 21-years-old. She was married to a soldier, her Canadian pen pal, in 1963. She lived in Saskatchewan, where she had two daughters, before moving to Montreal, and here she had two sons. She worked at the old Kateri hospital, as director of nursing, in Kahnawake. It was the in the old hotel. When Christine first went for a job interview it was with Mr. Gerald. After the interview she immediately found out she had the job. The next day she went to work at the hospital and she stayed there for 20 years. "Everyone was nice. We worked well together," said Christine. After a while, the old hospital was taken down and a new one was built. While the new hospital was being built, all the people who worked at the old hospital had to stay in trailers.

Christine's only sibling passed away from cancer when she was eleven years old. After losing her sister, Christine decided she wanted to become a nurse. Before that, she thought she would become a librarian because she liked to read.

Christine enjoys walking and swimming. When she was younger, she enjoyed playing field hockey and rounders, which is a game like baseball but with a smaller bat and a smaller ball. Growing up her favourite food was potatoes and butter.

Christine now lives in Beauharnois. The most beautiful place Christine has visited was Ireland. She was last back 2 years ago and hopes to return to tour Ireland on a leisure vacation in the near future.



Pauline Wiedow with Susanne, Hailey and Pierce

Pauline Wiedow

At school, Pauline never had any problems. She was an incredible student. Her family had an ice box, and blocks of ice were cut from the St Lawrence River and delivered to their house.

Pauline's first ever job was babysitting. The families she babysat for back then were very large. She babysat for three families. Two of them had four kids and the third had five kids including a set of twins! When she was sixteen-years-old she worked as a counsellor at a summer camp. At seventeen, she worked for Simpson's Department Store in the furniture department. At eighteen, she started working for The Royal Bank.

She liked to play outside during the winter – skating and tobogganing. As a teenager she loved to go dancing. She also loved taking the bus. Back then, the nuns used to teach them. They did not have many extra-curricular activities. They played dodgeball and marbles at recess. They went to a movie every Friday night in the church basement. She sang in the choir.

When asked what was the craziest thing she ever did, she answered, "getting married," which seems like a pretty crazy thing to do. That is "Crazy" meaning the most adventurous.



Vicky Yale with
Ocean and Sean



Vicky Yale with
Calista and Kylan

Vicky Yale

Vicky Yale grew up in the 1950s. The only technology Vicky had in her house was a landline phone. Sometimes the landline was connected to more than one home. This meant that Vicky had other people calling her house for other people. She played games with her brother and friends like kick the can, skipping rope and hopscotch. She also played with marbles, board games, trucks and cars, and dolls. There were no electronics. Vicky walked to school 2 miles there and back.

Vicky's favourite hobby when she was young was reading and bowling. Vicky now bowls every Tuesday night. She also liked to sing. She sang in the school choir and had to perform in schools and at churches. While travelling to the churches she would sit on the bus and practice with the other students until they arrived at their destination. She joined the choir because she enjoyed listening to music and singing songs. The choir was also challenging as you had to remember all of the lyrics. Vicky also tap danced at the East End Boys Club.

When she finished her schooling, she still loved to sing. She read to her children every night. She would also sing with her husband just for the fun of it. When the whole family was in the car, she would turn on the radio and they would all sing together. She thought this was a lot of fun spending time with her family while singing. Her children are grown up now, but Vicky is not sad because her children still come to her house for family get togethers.

In 2001 she took her very first vacation. She and her husband went on a cruise to Hawaii. She also likes going to the chalet near a big lake with her family. Her son drives. The chalet is about half an hour past Lachute. It is her favourite place. She says that when she can't sleep, she thinks of the country.

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St-Willibrord Teachers Tracy Dow, Catherine Norrish, Jeannie Whitteron, Manuela Pasinato, Mélanie Prigent, and Tracey Blonder

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"We are all better off - as individuals, families and communities - when there are many opportunities for young people and older adults to come together to interact, educate, support and provide care for one another."

- Don Rosenbaum

Advocate for 'intergenerational connections'

