

# **The First 50 Years**



**John and Maureen**

**February 2, 1957**

**to**

**February 2, 2007**

## The story of John and Maureen Tidridge

### The Meeting....



Maureen taken at  
Bournemouth, UK. 1956

The story starts with Maureen entering her name in a magazine named "Picturegoer" for a pen-pal who shared her interest in movies. John serving in the army in Germany purchased a copy of said magazine, saw that Maureen Barrett lived a few miles from his home and decided to write...the story unfolds....

Maureen was living at Woodlands, in Pine Drive, Thornhill, near Southampton, Hampshire England. Thornhill was a community some 4-5 miles outside of Southampton. It was very much a country

location. Maureen worked as a secretary for a builder called William Dibben and Sons. She had attended the local schools graduating top of the Commercial class at the end of her schooling. She was a member of Thornhill Baptist church.

John was in the Grenadier Guards, serving in Düsseldorf, Germany where he was a Lance Sergeant, a driving instructor and a member of the Machine Gun platoon. Continuing after World War II (1939-1945) it was required that young men who were not either apprentices or University Students serve for two years in the armed forces. The government, in an attempt to keep more regular soldiers in place, offered better wages for signing-up for a longer period of time. John had signed on for 22 years with the option of resigning every third anniversary.

The first meeting was at Thornhill in late 1955, John traveled from Totton, his home village, to meet Maureen. He wore his uniform and Maureen met him at the bus stop. The first part of the romance was conducted by correspondence because John had to return to Germany after his three weeks leave. The couple learned much about each other during this time...both attended church, Maureen had attended church since she was five years old and was a charter member of Thornhill Baptist Church and John had attended Eling St. Mary's Church of England since he was five years old. At a service where the Rev. Frank Keightley preached John was moved to accept Christ. He was baptized in January 1957; this was but the start to a long life of learning. He readily concedes he has not arrived, yet.

They became engaged on March 7, 1956, one week before John's twenty first birthday and about one and half months before Maureen's eighteenth. John left the army in April 1956 and began work as a truck driver having changed his mind about a career in the



John, taken at Bournemouth,  
UK.1956

Hampshire Police force. Maureen remained a secretary at the same firm of Dibben and Sons.

## Suez Crisis



Map of part of Egypt showing the Suez Canal

The couple was unaware of the turn of events about to change their lives for ever. During the early summer of 1956 the Middle East (Egypt and Israel) began to undergo some political upheaval. Two important things happened, the Egyptians took over the operation of the Suez Canal, an important shipping passage, before the lease ended with the British; Israel and Egypt declared war on each other.



Malta, an island close to Italy, and where St. Paul was shipwrecked.

John was recalled into the army, and within a week he and over 800 Grenadiers were shipped to Malta, an island in the Mediterranean Sea. This was a bit of a shock for the couple, who, although they had set no wedding date, were planning on getting married.



A minesweeper

For John, being on Malta, was quite the experience. He and the other soldiers were in tents on an old airport used during the Second World War; aircraft from this airport were involved in many air fights. He started out in a 'regular' company of men; much training was carried out, marching and practicing fighting tactics. He enjoyed this. Later, he was transferred to the machine gun platoon, which meant he would ride every where!! No complaining here! Malta was an island of extremes, with some very rich and some very poor people. The weather was glorious. There was a requirement that twelve pints of liquid had to be drunk every day!! All exercises were 'make-believe'; then one day, while on another scheme (war games where tactics are practiced), his platoon was called back to camp, and then were driven to the Valletta harbour where 100,000 rounds of live ammunition were loaded onto a minesweeper. It was later discovered that special clamps had been installed on the sides of the ship to secure the machine guns.



Suez Harbour



Cyprus...an island of danger for British troops.

The soldiers had not been on board for long before they and the crew of sailors were called on deck and told by the captain that they were on their way and headed for Egypt. The trip was uneventful except for three minor events; one, John did not take advantage of being offered a trip in a boson's ladder strung between his ship and a supply ship, the minesweeper did exactly that, swept mines prior to entering Port Said harbour, and the ship ran aground as soon as it entered the harbour.

John and Maureen wrote almost every day, but when the Egypt trip took place, followed by the return to Malta and the journey to Cyprus, nearly six weeks had transpired. John had a stack of

letters as high as an elephant's eye!! What John did learn after he had read the letters was that Maureen and her family were headed for the colonies, Canada no less....panic!!!

## The Wedding

To cut a long story short...John eventually arrived home, was released from the army and in a matter of less than two months arranged to marry Maureen and to go to Canada.



**Thornhill Baptist Church:  
Baptisms and marriage!!**

There was a mad rush to complete immigration papers, book passages and etc. but all was done in time. There was almost a mass exodus from England at this time because of the economic situation and the bleak future.

The wedding took place at Thornhill Baptist Church on an overcast day...with even a little drizzle. This did not dampen either the ceremony or the reception afterwards.



**February 2, 1957,  
Thornhill Baptist Church**

## Across the Sea....

The journey on the Scythia was quite an adventure; it was in fact a bit of a honeymoon for John and Maureen. The cabin allotted to them was small but comfort-table; the ship had all the amenities imaginable, but, it was impossible to take advantage of all of them



**The Scythia...her last voyage  
before being scrapped.**

Two items stand out: the food which was awesome, served by a waiter with a selection of numerous courses. The other was the small orchestra that played in the lounge most afternoons...they were quickly dubbed the 'struggling five'! For a couple of days the sea was extremely rough and the open decks were out of bounds. It was exciting to see the bow (sharp end) of the boat rise on the waves and then drop, as the water moved away!! In next to no time Halifax was reached, Pier 21, and they were ready to begin their life in Canada.

This new life was almost cut short when Maureen, leaving the ship via the gang plank, swiftly reached up to prevent her hat from being swept away by the swift breeze, let go of the documents she was carrying and they floated down gently to a ledge, some thirty feet (well, now it seems that high) above ground level. John was able to retrieve same. trip through Customs was uneventful. As the train was leaving Halifax John noticed a large



**Pier 21, from the land!**

parking lot, full of new looking vehicles: Ordinary looking workers were entering these vehicles and driving them away!! Aha, a land of opportunity! Somehow it seems Maureen and John had to change trains in Montréal, here they encountered a pop/candy dispensing machine with all the instructions in French...

It should be mentioned at this point that the journey had not been made alone... Maureen's entire family, Dad, Mum, two brothers and two sisters had accompanied them.

## Across Canada..in a day coach



**Maureen at some long forgotten stop during the train trip!!**

The family now set out for Vancouver!! By train, in a day coach!! Hmm!! Experienced travellers!!

They had no idea what the journey was going to be like, which is probably just as well!! There were several stops along the way, all very forgettable!! They nearly froze in Winnipeg when they decided to walk a block.... It seems appropriate to mention that Canada was described as a land flowing with milk and honey...but no mention was made of the weather conditions! The couple did survive the trip, just... Vancouver was not welcoming...it was raining when they arrived, and overcast for the weekend. It was a family decision to leave and travel back to Edmonton!! The young couple had their first hamburger in New Westminster. Surprised by the 'fixings', they took the lettuce, tomato and pickles out and only ate the meat!!

The welcome was warmer in Edmonton, people-wise. A lady from the Baptist Union met them, how she knew about the couple was never discovered. She led them to the

Immigration Building, where they were 'documented'. Although there was accommodation in the building, the official suggested they would probably prefer lodging elsewhere; he showed them the space available, it was crowded, and undesirable!

## Country Life...

While in the office, the couple was approached by a farmer looking for a man for his farm and a woman to help with the housework. His farm was, according to him, just outside of the city. Were they interested? The interview was brief; they were deemed suitable. There is some remembrance the couple was able to meet with the rest of the family before leaving with the farmer. They had

enough time to buy a winter coat from Eaton's for John and a sewing box for Maureen. They had arrived with twenty dollars, and now were slightly poorer.



**Greenough's farm... there were five homes, plus a suite over a garage on the property, plus many barns....**

longer trip, way out of the city, can be called uneventful. They arrived at the farm, via

The trip to Genesee was uneventful, if an hour or

the North Saskatchewan River, which was fortunately frozen at the time; although it was the site of the Genesee ferry. The couple was to stay in Fred Greenhough's house along with his wife Mary and son Glen; the couple had a bedroom, but were invited to sit with the family in the evenings... The family it turned out was Christian.



**Greenhough's home, it seemed so large but a visit some 48 years later showed it to be of normal size!!**

one needed wood to heat it, John does not remember where the wood came from, but it was his task to fill the reservoir with water, light the fire and hope the water heated while he fed the pigs....



**The hired man's house...old, no running water, heating came from an old stove...**



**Keeping the wolves from the door?**

would have for England; 'Sunday go meeting clothes' were worn. Thorsby was 'rural', no sidewalks, and no-one dressed up, absolutely no-one. They have no idea what the movie was and found popcorn to be 'strange'. After the movie they were taken to a café and then driven home by the nephew of the farm's owner. There was a car load of young people, none of whom were known by the couple. The nephew, it was guessed, wanted to show off to the newcomers. He drove the Buick at

The hired man's house, which was undergoing repairs, was very old; the couple really felt they had gone back a hundred years when they moved in. Although there were electric lights, there was no running water, no toilet. The toilet was discovered at the end of the garden path...the correct name being a comfort station, of which there was very little apparent!! Three rooms, the kitchen, the living/dining room, and the bedroom were on the main floor. There was an upstairs. In the middle of the dining room was a heater with a huge duct running out of the room through into the bedroom. The stove was also very old, of course

Shopping was difficult as the farmer only visited Edmonton about once a month. So they had to fill out an order and he would get the supplies; on one occasion the couple visited the store, it was on 118 Avenue and about 89 Street. Golden wax beans, prune-plums and bologna do not rate high on the couples eating delights. There was also a village store but there was never much need for the farmer to visit it so the 'want' list would sit in the office.

Although the farm couple and their relatives treated them very well the couple quickly realized that farm life was not for them. It took six weeks for the Barrett family to find them and pay a visit. Plans were afoot to leave the rustic splendor of Genesee!! The couple was without a radio until the Barrett family brought one with them.

A trip to Thorsby proved memorable; the couple had been invited to the local movie theatre. They dressed as they



**Hard at work...feeding the family**

90 mph down these awful roads...the couple however, was treated to their first viewing of an oil rig, albeit at 2.30 in the morning. While city life does change remarkably quickly, Thorsby has not, John visited the village in 2002 and found it to be remarkably like it was one day in 1957.

# The Big City

In July 1957 the couple moved to Edmonton and moved in with the Barrett family. This proved interesting!! John has always been impressed by the Barrett family, and now even more so; the already crowded house took on two more persons, or was that three??



## **11330-72 Street, rented by the Barretts.**

at Scott National Fruit Co. 10305-105 Street, as a warehouseman.

Mike, Maureen's oldest brother had discovered the Highlands Baptist Church. The couple began to attend, becoming friends arrived from England in May. Highlands became their church faithfully ever since. The following pastors: Hugh James, Landor Liddell, Gerry Fisher, Duane Berry, David Morrison, Ben and Howard Lawrence have served at the church. The to the Neighbourhood Church (Baptist). The church changed but the building was changed at least twice during the fifty



## **Highlands Baptist Church in 1957**



#### Newly modified 1962



Final configuration 1083

*The family grows...* Elizabeth Maureen was born February 10 1958 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Dave Bassett, a Welshman, living just south of the Barretts, had driven Maureen and John to the hospital. Nurses in ‘Admitting’ seemed interested in only two things: ‘were we married and did we have any insurance’<sup>1</sup>.



11618-70 Street



11639-71 Street



11235-69 Street

It was during this period the couple made the second of several moves: This time a basement suite at 11638-72 Street. The home is now part of the Northlands Exhibition Grounds. While here the first piece of furniture was bought, second-hand, a Winnipeg couch; best not talked about. A bedroom suite purchased was for \$219.00 from Campbell’s Furniture, downtown, and later a dinette suite. They wanted to pay cash, however, they were persuaded by the accountant to ‘take ninety days, at no interest’ and ‘establish their credit’. The advice was taken.



Elizabeth Maureen born February 10, 1958, photo 11638-72 St.



RA Hospital...

Campbell’s became the starting place for many furniture and appliance purchases. The couple moved again, to another basement suite at 11618-70 Street. They did not stay there for long and the next address was 11235-69 Street, a second level suite.

It is suspected the new addition was the reason for John seeking other employment. He had received a couple of promotions at Scott National but in order to get a house a better paying job was necessary. Why not the Police service? An application was completed, accepted and submitted. Unfortunately it was not to be, John flunked the entrance exam, so continued to work at Scott National. Another move occurred at this time and a move to 11639-71 Street took place. Orville and Bertie Sefton rented the ground floor and the Tidridges the basement.

## *A New Career...*

*A New Career...* John tried for the Police service again, and this time was successful, he began what he supposed would be a life long career on September 14, 1959... but things do not always turn out the way we think they will.



Recruit Const.  
Tidridge J.#446

<sup>1</sup> Fred Greenhough had given us some good advice... don’t borrow from a finance company, work for a municipality and get some health insurance. Two out of three is not too bad.



Stephen John, born October 13, 1959, photo taken at 11639-71 Street

## The family grows some more....

The Sefton's treated us royally.

An addition to the

family arrived while they were at Sefton's, this time the drive to the hospital (Royal Alex) was undertaken by Orville. He drove at the speed limit all the way; we arrived in plenty of time.

## The Barretts leave....

Like most immigrant families there was a period of acclimatization, for John and Maureen it was no different. The Barrett family had left to return to England in the period

between the arrival of Elizabeth and Stephen. This left the couple on their own; after much heart searching it was decided that Maureen and her unborn child would return to England with Elizabeth. John would follow later. Plans were made, tickets purchased, their furniture sold to an auction company. The day of departure was very hot, the plane left from what is now the City Centre Airport. Maureen and Elizabeth left, the plane was late, she returned home. She tried again, the plane was late, and it was taken as a sign that perhaps Canada was intended to be their home. The furniture was 're-bought', and they settled down to life in their new home.



The first vehicle: 1950  
Plymouth, grey, standard.  
a finance company.

Things became fairly settled, so a purchase of a vehicle was necessary (?). Orville, who was a salesmen had all kinds of connections and found this delightful little car for them. It was in excellent shape, had 'walnut' paneling, and suited them just fine. The bank was a little difficult about giving them a loan (the car was for sale for \$250.00), they wanted as much money in the bank as the couple wanted to borrow. It was necessary to use

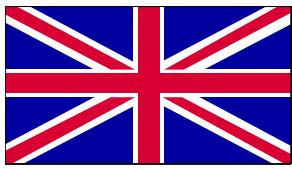


11436-72 Street

Almost the first time out John tried to start the car, it was unfortunately already running, a new starter motor later.... The car would also refuse to start every time

## Ah, a new form of transportation...

a shadow passed in front of the sun. It was however, a real benefit to the family!! By now the couple was anxious to have a house for a home, basement suite living is not the best way to go. Orville found a little bungalow on 72 Street and another move began. This two bed roomed bungalow was like heaven after basement suites.



The good old Union  
Jack...

A trip to Jolly Olde England... The couple, when they left England, had promised to return in five years for a vacation; they were actually able to meet that deadline. The trip was expensive and long; it took seventeen hours. There was a long stopover in Montreal; so long in fact the couple had to use a motel room, provided, it is thought, by the airlines. Strangely enough, although the couple found England small, compared to the wide open spaces of Edmonton, there was still an urge to see what the job market offered. Nothing that appealed was found, most of the jobs required twenty or so hours of overtime. In fact the amount of overtime available was considered a 'perk'. The time in general was spent visiting family and although there were a couple of 'trips', it was a time to see and hear what had transpired in the last five years.

Soon after their return the couple began looking for a home to call their own. They finally settled on one at 11315-60 Street. A visit took place; they were sold on the home and made an offer. No go. A year went by; the home was still on the market. This time the offer was successful; the home was purchased. There was some pretty canny financial deals going on; the down payment was loaned by Jean and Hugh James, a first and second mortgage was secured and the family moved in December 13 or 15<sup>th</sup> 1963.



11315-60 Street December 1963

The couple was sure they were destined to have a family of at least five; however, natural efforts along this line failed to produce results. There was much talk at that time encouraging folk to either adopt or take in, children. They applied to have a child: Apparently they met the criteria, so the wait began.

## Another daughter arrives...

was informed he was a new father, albeit of a temporary guest, but, who according to Maureen was not going back!! So, and now there were five!! The adoption process was started shortly thereafter and completed in short order. It was not long however, before the realization took place that a partner for Trish<sup>2</sup> was needed.

In August 1965 John was at Cub Camp at Skeleton Lake; on his nightly phone call home he



Patricia Jean born July 28, 1965

## Our first visit to Lala Land...

Before this happened however, there was a trip to Vancouver to visit Maureen's sister and her husband, Chris and Gordon...and their family.

<sup>2</sup> Trish or Pat, Pat answers to either!

Chris and Gordon had arrived in Edmonton in the late sixties; quickly found they did not like the weather so moved to New Westminster. The couple was invited to visit. This turned out to be a memorable trip as they took a tent trailer. It was a successful trip; although they did run out of oil outside of Revelstoke, which was a bit of a scare; but several pints of oil later they were on their way.



On the beach in B.C.



On the steps in B.C. of Chris' place



Stanley Park B.C.

*Another daughter arrives....!* Two years after

Patricia's arrival our fourth and final child joined the family by adoption, Sarah Frances.



Sarah Frances born September 16, 1967

## Friends and Neighbours

Throughout the years there were a number of people who were friends and neighbours of the couple. The first ones were the Bassett family; they had come from Wales, and lived a couple of blocks south of the Barretts. They drove the Barretts out to the farm to visit John and Maureen. Dave drove the couple to the hospital for the birth of Elizabeth. They had even offered their home at the time Maureen and Elizabeth were returning to England. Unfortunately the couple lost touch with the Bassetts when they moved to another part of the city. Dave died in 2005. John would occasionally bump into Muriel as

she worked for the provincial government. He also met David their son who ran a landscaping outfit.



Dave, David and Muriel Bassett...Maureen and Elizabeth.

The next friends were the Loosleys, met almost as soon as they began to attend Highlands Church. The Tidridges and the Loosleys have been friends for almost fifty years; both came from England in 1957, both, finally had the same number of children. David, their third son, was tragically killed in an accident. Christmases were spent together; church activities and leadership roles were all shared. Both moved into the Highlands area about the same time, same type of home.

While working at the Scott National Fruit Co. John met Lance Waller. They struck up a friendship although Lance was somewhat older than John: They played crib at work. Maureen later met May, Lance's wife. The Wallers had one daughter, Jean. Lance died quite early in life. Maureen continued her friend ship with May until she died in the late nineties. The Tidridges spent much happy time with May in her home.

Then there were Betty Tomlin and her friend Mary Boylan, Betty was from England and Mary from Scotland. Betty married Scott and moved to Calgary. Mary married but sadly died from cancer. George and Sylvia Traynor have also become very dear friends over the years. There are of course many other people who are considered friends through church and work connections.

*Sixtieth Street.....* The 113 Avenue block of 60<sup>th</sup> has 19 homes; in the fifty years there have been 15 changes!! The Tidridges are now the fourth senior residents on the block. Bruce McLean and his wife Jean have become good friends and the couple is on good terms with several other residents. It has been a block of minimum trouble apart from two boisterous birthday parties. The kids from Highlands Junior High have not been a concern. There have however been several break and enters over the years. The Tidridges had one for sure and a possible 'attempt'. There have been several friends 'across the alley', including the Martins, Voss', Glen, Dan and Massinas, and Nick and his family before that!



60<sup>th</sup> Street looking north...

*and the kids grew....*



Elizabeth



Sarah and Trish...at the Sherwin's cottage.



Stephen

Life went on; there was work, and church, and home making, older kids joined groups, the younger ones just played around.

*Then there was school....*



Mount Royal School



Highlands Junior High School



Eastglen Comp. HS

Fortunately the children of the couple were able to attend school in the neighbourhood.



1950 Plymouth



1956 Chevrolet



1963 Pontiac



1965 Pontiac Wagon



1976 Chev wagon



1976 Nova



1981 Monte Carlo



1998 Olds



1997 Olds



1998 Mercury Marquis

Over the years different cars<sup>3</sup> were purchased. Most lived up to their expectations, with the exception of a 1965 Pontiac Station wagon. Overall the motor vehicle has been kind to the family....

Cars and yet more cars...is there no end!!!



Hmmm...who dat!!



A stray?

Keeping pets....not the couples forte

Pet keeping one of the things the couple did not excel at....

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<sup>3</sup> Not all the cars shown are the originals!!

~~Mum and Dad Tidridge....~~ In 1970 or 71 Grandparents Tidridge paid a visit. There was a trip to the mountains, the zoo, both in Edmonton and Calgary and lots of time spent with the grand children. Too bad it did not happen more often.....



Mum and Dad T



New tribe in the making?

~~Another trip to the UK.....~~ Here we go again



Stonehenge-cold and windy



Stonehenge...a mystery!!



Party time.....



And again.....

Some get-away's  
Juniper Lodge  
Drumheller...'



1972? Maureen on our first weekend away by ourselves. At Juniper Lodge just north of Red Deer.



Where's Mum? Well, somebody had to take the picture...

Sherwins cottage....lots of happy hours spent here



Macho man or was the water just too cold!!



Hard to say how many miles or kilometers were traveled in this tire.....



Hmm, once they leave the city, who knows what they got up to!!



So, how do I hit the ball!!



OK, who is next!!



Jackfish today...tomorrow...  
Moby Dick



No, no don't push me in...I will jump in myself!!

*Childhood contretemps (look it up!!).....*



Forearm.....



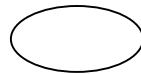
Arms.....

It's in the genes



Heels....

**Oh, then there were knees, (two)  
forehead used for house moving,  
kidneys (two), bee stings, a broken  
back, motor vehicle accidents, bike  
accidents, coughs, colds etc. etc.  
etc!!**



*My, we have grown some!!!!*



All grownup and now the fun begins.....  
What a good looking group!!

## *And now for something entirely different....*

As Maureen and John talked about this story they found it difficult to ‘interrupt’ **your** life stories...however, they have decided to tell a little more about themselves at this point. Although they would not have changed too much, life was pretty hectic. Maureen was a stay at home Mum, dealing with a situation where John was almost entirely on shift work. While in Patrol and Traffic this meant most shifts were either afternoons or nights. It meant she had most of the responsibility for raising the children.

They were both involved in church work, Maureen in charge of the Nursery, John, sometimes all at the same time, a deacon, cub leader and Sunday school superintendent. In retrospect too much involved!! But this was the norm ‘back then’, the Mums stayed at home the men did the church work as well as their regular work.



Chief cook....etc,  
etc.

Like most families there was careful budgeting and although there was not an abundance of money, most years saw the family on vacation somewhere, Sherwins cottage, Jasper and/or Banff.



Sgt. after 13 years....

John spent time in the Patrol, Traffic and Personnel Departments before being promoted to a sergeant in 1972. Being promoted meant given up a job of 'days' with weekends off and vacation when you wanted it...so much for progress!!

There was a big change for John in 1978, after eighteen years with the Police department he was growing tired of shift work. He applied for and was accepted as the Security Officer at Edmonton Transit. This was a big change... and, it did mean day shifts.

all things work for good.....

Maureen and John were united as they dealt with 'the problems of a growing family' .... A lot of time was spent in prayer, with later much good results.



Looking forward to the trip

In the early eighties the couple was able to spend a vacation in Hawaii, it was a glorious holiday; the weather was fantastic; Museums, bird sanctuaries and ocean playgrounds and Pearl Harbour were visited.

Many police officers from Edmonton were noted to be on the island!! There was attendance at an Easter Service at a local hotel, and a visit to a show of Hawaiian dances.



Hawaiians?



and, the Beast ....

Over the years the couple has spent time in Banff, Cold Lake, Jasper and Victoria. The holidays are a time of renewal and rest.



Beauty.....



Pearl Harbour...spectacular and thought provoking



Becker's at Jasper



Athabasca Falls-Jasper



Empress Hotel-Victoria



Cold Lake



Cold Lake



Lake Louise



Maureen-patting a bear at Jasper



White Rock



Maureen and the Royal Scott



John-Beacon Hill Park

~~darkling shadows, days of sunshine...with some clouds...~~ One cannot live or be married for fifty years without there being some moments of both sadness and gladness and wondering....

## ***In Memorium***



**Dad Barrett**

In this period of time Maureen's Dad died at the ripe old age of 87 years...as did John's parents... two years apart, but both 85 years of age...



**Dad Tidridge**



**Mum Tidridge**

**But, still going strong at 92.....**



**92 and counting...  
Nana Barrett**

I now declare you man and wife.....



Liz & Tuppy



Steve & Michelle

Throughout the period of time children left home and returned, married and divorced and married. This has been to say, at the very least, interesting. At this particular time the couple is extremely satisfied the way things have turned out, that is not to say there were not sleepless nights or wondering how everything would turn out....



Pat and Ted



Sarah and Ken

O Canada!!!



Maureen receiving her papers...2000



Canada's newest citizen with Judge Gurcharan Singh Bhatia and court Sec.

John became a Canadian citizen in 1972 when all that was required was to tell the government you wanted citizenship. It was entirely different when Maureen followed that path

in 2000. There were dozens of questions she had to know the answers to and she had to appear at a Citizenship ceremony complete with a man in robes, Judge Gurcharan Singh Bhatia!



1964 Front



1964 Back



2006 Front



2006 Back

## The house that Maureen and John built...well, not built but built into and onto!!

There is more to a home than bricks, mortar, wood and stucco, as the case may be; a lot of changes have gone into the home at 11315-60 St. For instance: starting at the front, the fir tree has long gone to be replaced by Steve's grade one tree. (the trees of Liz, Pat and Sarah have also gone, due to bad planning on the couples part.) A large birch tree now stands on the south side of the property: This huge tree was a mere sapling when planted. The window shades disappeared shortly after moving in; the steps were replaced at least three times before they were covered with vinyl and a top notch set of railings installed. Although the front lawn has remained the same, a garden was planted down the south side and two other trees also removed. Both chimneys were removed, the front for keeps and the back replaced with one for the newer furnaces (two) installed over the years.

Apart from gardening cosmetics the front yard is much the same. In the back yard, the wooden sidewalk as been replaced by paving blocks; the garage, single replaced by a double. The picket fence long gone, replaced by a cotoneaster hedge. More lawn was put down and many changes occurred to the back garden. Two greenhouses have at one time or another occupied space in the back yard. A patio was also installed.

Inside the home, the main floor remains pretty much the same except for new cupboards in the kitchen, a fireplace removed from the living room, various paintings, new bathroom fixtures, and most of the windows replaced (all by the time you read this). Upstairs, a bathroom was added, all new windows. The basement, two rooms added, the TV room was completely redecorated, paneling placed up the stairs.

And there were some more changes.... John stayed with the Transit Department for five years and then received another promotion and moved to the Bylaw Services area...this proved a very interesting job....

## Natural disasters...not in Edmonton?



The sky...tornado 1987



Clareview...1987

In July 1987 the skies over Edmonton darkened and a torn-ado struck, coming in from the southeast part of the province, coming over Sherwood Park and then finally over Clare-view.

Twenty-seven people were killed, many injured: A trailer park was wrecked, homes shattered and destroyed. John was able to help out putting some protection on the roof of Dr. Wong's parents' home. There were also many world-wide disasters including famine in Africa, the tsunami in the Far East, the hurricane in the USA...just to mention a few.

## England, again and again.....



1987-Maureen in the garden of the hotel...a rose among roses, as usual....



1987 John in the garden...bad food, bad weather, bad back? Only he knows!!

1987 saw another trip to England. It was always good to meet the family; Maureen's were all present, John's pretty spread out to get together. A good time was had by all.

The trip was just a little sad as it was realized this would be the last time that some of the parents would be seen again: this turned out to be true as Maureen's Dad, and John's Mum and Dad both passed away before another visit.



Pat, Mike, Maureen, Kelvin, and Chris



Just too many to list...

special because John's brother, Ivan, with his wife Phyl, had also made the trip. Ivan and John played golf, not memorable enough to show photos!! Ivan won but he used the Australian scoring method!!



**Visitors to Canada...** Over the years there were several visitors from other places....

John and Maureen returned to England in 2000, their main base was at Pat and Brian's; they were well cared for. The trip was also



2000 John and

Maureen in England



Mum and Dad Tidridge arrived first, in the late sixties,



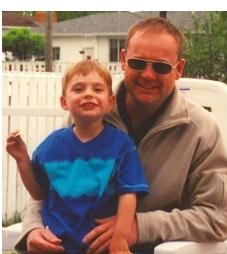
Chris Maureen's sister



Jean, John's sister



Maureen's sister  
Pat



Chris's son and  
grandson



Chris's daughter in law and grand  
daughter



Ivan and Phyl and the couple.

## **Grandchildren....a blessing**

From the get-go grandchildren have proven to be a blessing to the couple; from Stephanie the first right through to Koen the last. It would be impossible to cover all years so it was decided to stick with 2005 and 2006 for pictures; and with the wedding of Stephanie and David there has been an addition to the grandchildren....



**Stephanie and David-2006**



**Andrea, Sarah, Rachael, Stephanie and Isaac**



**Trevor**



**Kayla**



**David**



**Megan**

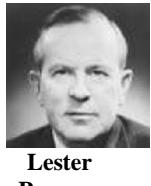


**Emily**



**Koen**

## Prime Ministers...



Lester Pearson



John Diefenbaker



Pierre Trudeau



Joe Clarke



John Turner



Brian Mulroney



Kim Campbell



Jean Chrétien



Paul Martin



Stephen Harper



Her Majesty...we were able to get within twenty-five feet...

OK, you count them, ten prime ministers since the couple came to Canada, only two parties involved, the Liberals and Conservatives. All left their mark for their particular time in office; none had any devastating effects on the couple. All made promises they knew they couldn't or wouldn't keep! But there is only one Queen



The Queen

When the Queen came to Edmonton in 2005 the couple visited the Legislature Grounds and had a good view of the Queen and her entourage. The visit was very well planned the Queen was well received.

## Christmas....



Always a tree...



Nativity Scene...

for gift giving in the early Tidridge festivities; however a stocking was always prepared and ‘hung’ in a prominent place for ‘first thing in the morning’ opening.

Breakfast followed then the opening of the main gifts. In the early years it was a very much rushed affair...there was meal preparation if the meal was to be held at the Tidridges, then getting ready for the Christmas morning service. Saner heads prevailed later in the church life and other services were



Early family picture



Families....

Police had very flexible rules for lunch and dinner times!

As the family grew and had families of their own traditions, obviously things had to change; for some there were Christmas Eve services and spouse family

get-togethers, for others other family members; the couple easily adapted to these changes, and even though the numbers were smaller<sup>4</sup> (?) and it took longer for the family to meet Mum and Dad this was accomplished due, in part, to the good planning of the wives.



The aftermath of gift opening...

Christmas has always been a special time for the couple; many happy times were spent at home and with the Loosleys: At the church for special services and Sunday school concerts.

Over the years traditions were built, Christmas Eve was not recognized as a time



You guess who they are!!

arranged at more sensible times to celebrate the birth of Christ.

John, even though on shift work, was home for most Christmases and on those he worked the



Oh, Mr. Grinch



Elizabeth and Steve

<sup>4</sup> There is never a small gathering of the Tidridge tribe...

While the meal was the usual Christmas fare, i.e. turkey, roast potatoes, salad (Canadian tradition not English), two or three veg. (with lessurbs!!), and ham, new foods were introduced by family members....different kinds of salads, cabbage rolls and peroghy. Liquor was kept to a glass of red and white wine for a toast to the cook and the season.

## World Vision...



A girl....

Over the years the couple has developed an

interest in supporting ‘children from overseas’; to date about twelve children have received support and letters have been sent on a regular basis. Maureen now has the delightful task of ‘keeping in touch’ with ten girls<sup>5</sup>.



Another girl...

In addition to this Maureen has a ‘list’ of seniors she calls on a regular basis. She finds both these activities to be very satisfying.

During the time Trevor was recovering from his accident Maureen was inspired to write a poem called ‘*The Aspen*’. Unbeknownst to Maureen, daughter Pat had submitted it to the ‘Poetry Institute of Canada’. It appears Maureen’s poem is one to be published in a “anthology of verse”, a copy of which will be in the National Library in Ottawa.

Here is the poem:

### The Aspen



The Aspen stands clothed in burnished gold,  
Her Autumn gown a sight to behold.  
The South wind gently rustles her gown,  
And pieces softly fall to the ground.

The deer in the forest look up with a start,  
As the South wind without warning suddenly departs.

The sky starts to darken and a chill descends,  
As the cruel North wind signals Autumn’s end.

The Aspen is tossed to and fro in distress,  
As her Autumn gown is ripped into shreds.

The North wind howls and shrieks with delight,  
At the havoc he’s causing on this winter’s night

The stately Evergreen, the forest King,  
Bends down to the Aspen his lovely Queen.

<sup>5</sup> It is recognized that there will never be a male majority in the Tidridge tribe.

Lean closer dear Aspen, the wind will not harm you,  
My arms will protect you, let nothing alarm you.

As the North wind suddenly blows away,  
A hush falls upon the forest glade.

Shivering in the moonlight and in distress,  
Aspen longs for her winter dress.

And then towards morning the snow starts falling.  
The Aspen and Evergreen await the dawning.

The Aspen and Evergreen stand in embrace,  
The Queen, lovely Aspen is dressed in white lace.

Sparkling and shimmering in the sun,  
a winter gown of snowflakes spun.

King Evergreen bows to his lovely Queen,  
His glistening white robe fit for a King.

The forest is carpeted in a Mantle of white,  
And they all rejoice at this wondrous sight.

*Lunch-time at Nana's* There has been a steady flow of grandchildren visiting Nana's 'Friday Noon-time snack diner'. From Stephanie, Rachel, Andrea, Sarah, Isaac, David, Megan and Emily the grandchildren have enjoyed Nana's super deluxe Kraft Dinners, fruit and desserts....drinks and company!!!



*Back to School...for John* In the early part of the year two thousand or so, John began volunteering at Mount Royal School; he spends two and one half hours with them mornings having several children read to him. The children are in Grades 1-5. Some read well, some, just struggle; John is not sure how the children feel about him, but he gets a big kick out of this activity.

*Seriously though....*



Genesee...missed the ferry but still happy...



Genesee...gathering the wild and wonderful flowers...for?



Better not ask...but there was this sombrero...



The price of fame... is performing in public before the crowds...

The couple would hate to think that anyone would believe there was not some hilarity in their lives...

## *Final Retirement?*

After leaving the City of Edmonton in 1994 John stayed around the 'homestead' long enough to realize he was too young to be put out to pasture. Based on some information provided by daughter Sarah, he applied for and was accepted to provide bylaw services to the County of Leduc. This proved to be a unique and rewarding experience. He stayed with the County for seven years before retiring again...in 2002. In 2006 some overtures were made to have John return to the County; nothing so far has materialized.



**The garden...** The story of the garden: John has always liked gardening; even to the point of developing a garden at the farm property (the ground was prepared but a garden never materialized), and at the Seftons. This continued at the house on 72 Street; the garden had not been cultivated for years.



First efforts....



More effort....



Vegetables...



Swings.....



Arbors.....

Moving to 60 Street the urge to garden was fulfilled; some times on paper, sometimes in actual gardening!! Gardens here included vegetables and lots of disasters as new techniques in a ‘foreign’ land were discovered: Maureen’s love of gardening developed later.

The couple was particularly concerned the garden would be at its best for a July 2006 wedding; however, lighting required limited the location to ‘just inside’ the side gate, this did not seem too bad a spot after all. Much effort has been put into the garden...so much so the couple is bound and deter-mined to remain at 11315-60 Street as long as they are able; the neighbours are good, the dogs for the most part are quiet!!

Many a meal has been enjoyed in the backyard; well attended at all times. While the fare has been mostly simple, the ambience has been great. A police officer, visiting the garden, found it ‘peaceful’; several other people have made the same type of comment.



Stephanie and David



Fountain, bird baths flowers, roses, annuals and trees.

# THE END.....

Of the first 50 years; who knows what the next years will bring. God has been good!!



**Maureen and John**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
His loves endures forever.

Psa. 107.1