

Marjorie MacKinnon
Immigrant from
Newfoundland
June 20, 1938



When I applied for my passport, dated May 10, 1955, I found for the first time that my status was that of a Landed Immigrant arriving third class in Halifax on June 20, 1938. On the immigration card, I am listed as Marjorie Dee, although my birth certificate shows my name Margaret Joseph Dee. I was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, on March 19, 1928. For some reason, through the years I became known as Marjorie. Although I was only 10 years old when we immigrated to Canada, I can remember many of the circumstances that led to our move from Newfoundland. My father, John Leo Dee, was born in St. John's on November 21, 1893. During the First World War he fought in France with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He was wounded and sent back to a hospital in England to recover. After returning to St. John's, he joined the Imperial Oil Company and worked with them until his retirement in 1958, from their Halifax office. It was for economic and educational reasons that the family decided to move to Canada (Newfoundland was not part of Canada at that time).

My mother, Kathleen May O'Connell, was born in Halifax on April 13, 1896 to William J. O'Connell, of Halifax, and Mary Slattery, who was from St. John's. My mother as a young woman went to St. John's to visit relatives and it was there that she met my father. They were married in the Cathedral on October 15 in 1925 by Father R.M.D. Murphy.

Due to the potato famine, both my father and mother's ancestors came from County Cork in Ireland around 1850. Immigrants from Ireland at that time settled in many parts of North America such as Newfoundland, Eastern Canada and the USA.

My mother passed away on January 31, 1967 and my father on November 22, 1986. In our family, there were four children, Marie Teresa was born on March 30, 1927. A music graduate of Dalhousie University, she was not married and died of breast cancer in May 1990. Kathleen Gladys, born on June 27, 1932. After graduation from Mount St. Vincent she worked at the CBC in Halifax where she met Paul Fellows, also an employee. They were married in 1952. They now live in Toronto. Their three children, John, Steve and Suzanne were brought up in Halifax and Toronto. Joan Frances was born on July 28, 1936. After

graduation from Mount St. Vincent in Secretarial Science she worked for Price Waterhouse. In 1958 she married Michael Casserly, a British submariner officer. They now reside in England. They have three children, Mark, Jamie and Jane. All are married, Mark and Jane live in England and Jamie in Finland.

I was born on March 19, 1928. I graduated from Mount St. Vincent in 1950, entered the social work program at the Maritime School of Social Work and graduated with a Masters degree, granted by St. F.X. University, in 1952. Following graduation I worked with the Catholic Children Aid in Toronto until 1955. I then resigned to spend 5 months traveling throughout Europe "Hippie Style". It was during this period that I acquired an appreciation of the reason and circumstance for immigrants wanting to leave Europe and come to Canada and the USA. Pier 21 was the main entry port to Canada over the years before and after World War II. In February of 1956, I went to work at the Montreal Children's Hospital where I worked until 1958. In October of that year I returned to Halifax and married Myles D. MacKinnon, a native of Margaree Harbour, NS, [and] an engineer at Hermes in Dartmouth. Since that time I have held various social work positions with the Maritime School of Social Work and the Dartmouth School Board until 1988.

Myles and I have four offspring and four granddaughters. Son Myles Barry was born on October 4, 1959 and is married to Vicky Dziuria. Her mother came through Pier 21 from Italy on October 4, 1956. Vicky's father had arrived from Poland at an earlier date. Barry and Vicky have two children, Catharine and Sarah, two years and six months. Barry is employed at Bombardier in Toronto. Son Neil John was born on July 27, 1961. He worked as an accountant in the Halifax area before moving to Toronto. In August 1998 he married Aileen Su. Her family had emigrated from Taiwan. Neil also works at Bombardier. Daughter Sheila was born on August 31, 1963. She is single and has worked for the last 10 years at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto in different departments over the years. Son Peter Daniel was born on May 1, 1965 and is married to Cindy Bower of Halifax. They have two daughters, Emily and Julia, 8 and 6 years of age. The family presently lives in Derry, New Hampshire where Peter works for a software company by the name of Iona with its headquarters in Dublin, Ireland. All our children are graduates of Dalhousie University with Barry and Peter having an additional degree from other universities.

Myles and I love to travel and after his retirement from National Research Council we were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Australia, New Zealand and Fiji in 1996 and since then various countries in Europe and the Baltic region where we had the opportunity for a short visit with my

nephew and his family in Helsinki. The above is a brief sketch of my family and its background.