

Pauline Syred
Hunter
English War Bride
Aquitania
June 28, 1946



My husband Gerald

Hunter and I met on the Southampton Ferry during the War. He was a sergeant in the 'North' Nova Scotia Highlanders and I a Wren Dispatch Rider. He kindly helped me start my bike which had stalled due to a long trip in the rain. A few days later, we met again on bikes this time at gasport where the "boys" had water-proofed vehicles in preparation for the invasion.

It was May 1945 when we became engaged and July 2nd was our wedding day - the wedding was supposed to be June 26th, everything pertaining to flowers, guests, reception etc. had to be postponed due to his superior having to go on compassionate leave while they were in France. There were tears and a few frantic cancellations to be made - but all's well that ends well. On June 23rd 1946, I set sail from Southampton on the Aquitania, was very fortunate to have a cabin with another War bride certainly made for a better trip, one was lucky to have known a senior official of the Southampton dockyard.

My arrival at Pier 21 in Halifax on July 1st 1946 was a hot one (90 degrees F) instead of expecting to see Cowboys and Indians on the land only saw lots of people in shorts and sun dresses. My husband and three relatives of his met me and drove up to Amherst, when the car stopped at his house, he said "we are home". On looking around I said "but I thought you lived in a town". "We are in a town", was the reply mainly because at that time the roads were not paved and they lived next to a big pond.

The first year in Canada was the hardest adjusting to his family and the terrible homesickness. After our first baby was born in 1947, times became easier and adjustments had been made but it would be 13 years before I saw my Mother again. Life in Canada has been good for us and consider it home now. After 50 years would not want to live anywhere else.

I belong to a War Brides Club and we meet quite often - like twice a year and it's always held in a different place in Nova Scotia. Yes, life in Canada has been a real experience - would not have missed it for anything.