



## Everyone has a Story to tell.

I grew up in the prairies, in peaceful Spalding, Saskatchewan. I really enjoyed going to my school there, even though I'll never forget what it felt like to cross-country ski there and back in -40 degree temperatures during those bitterly cold winters. Life with my family on our farm was good.

Then the Second World War began and everything changed. I was 16 when my Mother and I moved out to Burnaby. My father, a World War I veteran, was serving in the Veteran Reserves down there, and my older brother was in that area too. He was in the Navy and would soon be serving in the Atlantic.

I went to work at Pacific Veneer and I stayed there until the war was over. Remember, that was when we women had to leave many of our jobs to make room for the returning men.

Knowing my interests in nursing, a friend of my mother's, who was a nurses' aide, steered me to Essondale, near Coquitlam, where I trained as a Psychiatric Nurse at the Mental Hospital. I graduated in 1947 and soon married my husband, Frank, who had been in Italy during the war. We had one son, Garnet. Eventually, I went back to work and spent about ten years at the Hollywood Sam Hospital in New Westminster, which was a hospital for alcoholics. As a nurse, I worked long gruelling hours, but there were many times that were rewarding and satisfying to me.

Then everything changed again! We owned a house in beautiful McCleese Lake and Frank was eager to move up there and start a business. We worked hard to build the Oasis Motel, Garage, and Pub. Shortly after the pub opened, though, it mysteriously burnt to the ground. Not to be defeated, we rebuilt that pub right away. We were proud to have the first licensed neighbourhood pub in B.C. The business was sold in 1991 after my husband passed away, but there is still a plaque hanging on the wall up there with our names on it.

I moved back down to Burnaby. Frank and I had always shared a passion for dancing and a family friend became my new partner. For several years my friend and I enjoyed going dancing together.

In 2009, I decided to move back up to the Cariboo to be closer to my son and his family. I moved into the Williams Lake Seniors Village and am very happy here. The Village is beautiful and the food is excellent. We take lots of trip in our bus, regular trips to town for shopping, but also out to the beautiful lakes in our area. My new passion is cribbage and a few of us play every night.

*Top inset photo: Graduating from Nursing School.*

*Bottom: Oasis Pub and Kitchen*