

LAUREEN (MAIN) EVANS

How on earth can 25 years pass so quickly, and what on earth did I do during the time between our 25th and 50th high school graduation reunions? Where to start?



Laureen, Helen and Dan at Stanley Park

Some aspects of life have remained constant. I'm still married to my husband of 46 years, Dan Evans, and we continue to live in the View Royal house newly licensed real estate agent Bob Murphy helped us buy in 1972. Our sons, Chris and Mike, are both married now and we're the grandparents of a lively granddaughter, Helen, aged 20 months, who has brought us more joy and love than I thought possible. I'm delighted with

my daughters-in-law, Rachael and Erin, who reinforce the female perspective in the family. All the kids live in Vancouver and, as a result we've become "frequent fliers" on the BC Ferries, travelling back and forth with our car fully loaded with household belongings, food, toys, furniture, and baby clothes.

Dan and I are both retired now, Dan as an economist in the Ministry of Forests and me from teaching for the Greater Victoria School District. My last and favourite school was Cloverdale Elementary, the school I and my father both attended as kids.



2013, in Sarajevo with Dr. Mersiha 1

Prior to retiring we became host parents for LB Pearson College of the Pacific, hosting close to 70 international students over 20 years. Fortunately we've been able to travel and visit many of those students in their home countries - Costa Rica, Bahamas, Panama, Nigeria, Kenya, Bosnia,



Dan and me in Siena, Italy - 2015

and Namibia to list a few. Since I retired 5 years ago we've travelled to other places as well - Peru, Turkey, eastern/central Europe, and last month,

Italy. With each trip I cross one place off the bucket list and add several more countries we want to explore. We're trying to decide if it should be India or Southeast Asia next, or an entirely different place that suddenly sparks our interest.



In Cusco, Peru, 2012, having a guinea pig dinner

Dan and I volunteered with the 1994 Commonwealth Games here in Victoria and that precipitated some major excitement and change for me, and a chance to fulfill a long held dream of living and teaching in Africa. After finally graduating from UVIC in 1996 I taught in a predominantly Muslim school in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria from 1996-1998. I learned more about myself and the reality of cultural differences in that two year period than I have in the rest of my life combined. Thanks to today's technology, I am able to stay in contact with several of my students, their parents and former colleagues from the safety and comfort of my Canadian home, a luxury they can only dream of, considering the state of Nigeria today.



At this point, I'm still deciding what to do with my remaining years in addition to travelling, helping with our granddaughter, gardening, and volunteering at the Times Colonist book sale. Perhaps I'll help plan a 55th reunion for the Oak Bay High class of 1965!