

MARGOT GRIFFITHS



Margot Griffiths: Voted least likely to be remembered at her high school reunion—because she didn't graduate from Oak Bay, though the same might apply if she had.

I left Victoria in May of '63, when my father was transferred to Vancouver with the newly formed BC Hydro. What a shock! The city was huge, people locked their cars, buses ran on electric trolleys and it took half an hour to get downtown. There was no Memorial Arena to skate in, no Crystal Pool to swim in, and no Uplands Park to get lost in. I graduated from Sir Winston Churchill, a mammoth school of 3,000. Reunions there feel like being on Mars. What a gift to be invited to Oak Bay's reunion. Victoria will always be the home planet to me. I see Marily Mearns' name is on the list. I think she moved to Vancouver—same time, same reason—so there will be two interlopers, glad of a welcome.

I joined the hordes at UBC for a degree in Kinesiology. During my university years I worked at the YWCA, and after graduating, I moved to Kitchener Ont. to work for the Y as Adult Program Coordinator. After suffering through the coldest winter in 30 years, I returned to the west coast and settled in the small town of Point Roberts, WA, where I've been ever since. I married the boy next door and in due course 3 children arrived. After 10 years, we divorced amicably and have remained friends. The kids outnumbered us; we needed to stick together as parents if not partners.

When my youngest began school, I went back to UBC for a Masters in Psychology. I continued on to work at the university for 25 years as a psychotherapist to students and faculty, though I don't recall faculty ever recognizing the need for therapy. The great part about the university was the sabbaticals, which I spent volunteering in Tanzania, teaching psychology in a small university. I love Africa and the people I was lucky enough to teach. I also worked with street kids orphaned by AIDS, which was pretty much heartbreaking.

I'm retired now, sort of, apart from casual teaching at Vancouver Community College. And I spend a lot of time writing. I freelance for the local newspaper, and have just published a novel, *Angel Hair*. It's about Victoria. Yep, our school days live again—those heady days of the early '60's, when social changes were gearing up to reshape the world, though did we know it? I'm now working on my next novel, a contemporary story this time. I enjoy far-flung travels—South America, Africa, Asia—but it's always good to return to the relative quiet of Point Roberts. It suits me, having grown up on the edge of wild Uplands Park. I live on the ocean now, and when the tide is right, I'm on the sandbars with my little Icelandic horse and my dog. My 4 grandchildren also enjoy the beach, a respite from their lives in Seattle. Seems they like small towns too.

I remember when Victoria was a small town. Though much has changed, much remains the same. I'm looking forward to seeing my old friends, for we will not have changed, will we?

Here are a couple of more recent photos: one of me with my horse and another with Andrea

