

Maureen (Edge) Taylor



Seriously, I somehow have to figure out what has happened in my life over the last half century that someone else might actually think is worth reading? Well, that is going to be more difficult than those dreaded creative writing assignments in school when Judy Cameron always came up with a really cool and original idea and I was about as imaginative as a pile of rocks!

First off, let's talk about what I didn't achieve. That list is a lot easier to complete:

- **Marriage:** I tried it but that didn't work out so well and my second long term relationship didn't stick either but it did last 7 years longer than my marriage so I guess that was an improvement!
- **Kids:** none and, actually, as I never really wanted to be a mother that worked out fine. Of course, that also means there are no grandchildren either. I did, however, own a wonderful Bearded Collie who lived to be 17 ½ and I adored her and I'm pretty sure she liked me.
- **Moving Away:** I always envisioned living in exciting places overseas but no such luck (or maybe it was my lack of courage). I grew up on Lorne Terrace and, except for a one year foray into Fairfield, I've lived on this street all my life but at least I'm in a different house and it is one that I love!
- **A Master's degree:** although I completed all the course work, I never wrote my thesis. Thankfully, my BA from UVic in Psychology and Sociology seemed sufficient for my career aspirations.
- Oh yes, and that final one we all wish for: world peace. I didn't manage to help with that either!

Okay, now that those negativities are out of the way, here is what I celebrate:

- The host of interesting, intelligent and wise friends who surround and support me both here and in various other places in the world. They constantly challenge me to be a better person and continually teach me there is always more in this life to experience and learn.
- My love of travelling. I never found my "soul mate" until I finally figured out it is actually a place and not a person. I unabashedly confess that I am passionately in love with Europe. I've travelled there extensively since my first visit in 1979 and, while I've lost count of the number of trips I've made, I know it is more than 75! I truly love exploring the backroads, rubbing shoulders with locals in off the beaten track places, and driving anywhere and everywhere be it on the German autobahn or the one-track lanes of Devon and Ireland. I started a website called Savvy Abroad to share my experiences and I regularly blog about my travel adventures. The gypsy in my soul propels me to keep going back and I know I will never tire of it.
- My long and varied 34 year career in the BC Public Service where I was a computer programmer, systems analyst, personnel officer, policy analyst and a IT policy manager. I am proud that I wrote the first Standards of Conduct and Sexual Harassment policies for government employees, created a gender neutral job classification system for health care workers and other related professions, chaired the team which created and had enacted BC's electronic transaction legislation, and drafted the government's policies on Internet and email usage. I retired 13 years ago and haven't looked back!
- My life-long love of learning which has motivated me to take varied classes including German, Italian, French, cooking, computers, travel writing, and tap dancing. I continue to study French and German and happily embrace any kind of technological change (guess I have a "geek" side).
- The various volunteer activities I've been involved with including 10 years as a Big Sister back in the 1990s, several different roles with the Commonwealth Games (recruiter, trainer, venue info manager), and participating on a committee which fundraises for the arts as well as for an inner city school's music program.
- Finally, my love of food and wine. I enjoy hosting dinner parties, creating menus, and cooking meals for friends and family. That has been a passion of mine for as long as I can remember.

Well, that's about it. All in all, it has been, and continues to be, a simply wonderful life journey! I am truly blessed and have few, if any, regrets.