

Vicki Simmons



I'll try to keep this brief, but life has many facets. So by the decades:

In the 1960s, I graduated, after being president of Future Teachers Club so on to UVic for two years plus summer schools for a teaching certificate, landing my first teaching job in the Sooke School District in 1968. Two years teaching PE (go figure!) then back to university to complete a BEd and, inspired by UVic's Dr. Vance Peavy's experiential learning classes, on to UBC for an MA in Counselling Psychology.

We're already in the 1970s, when I did the obligatory back-pack tour of Europe, returning to Canada, to Kingston Ontario, where I started my second career, working in the federal government at what was then called Manpower. Back to Vancouver, join the Job Creation Branch with a promotion to management taking me to Prince George for two years which is where I met my husband-to-be. A promotion to a great job as Staff Training Consultant for BC/Yukon Region took me back to Vancouver for another couple of years.

In the 1980s, I married Ian, moved to Campbell River, had two babies, and continued my staff training job until 1987 when the marriage ended, the job was downsized, and my back gave out. So the end of the '80 was a bit lumpy but combining distance-learning instruction for the Open Learning Agency, off-campus instruction for UVic's School of Social Work and the Faculty of Education, plus a part-time publicity role, including hosting a weekly cable TV show for the Women's Centre, I pieced together enough contacts and experience to again look at teaching.

In September 1991, I was back to teaching, this time Elementary level, before being recruited for a perfect job for me, managing the school district's computer-based Continuing Education program for adult learners.

By the 2000s, I was administrator of that program plus the distributed learning program for school-aged learners. I met my 'gentleman friend' Walter about this time, who introduced

me to golf (a mixed blessing?) and to winter warm vacations. I retired in 2006, and since then Walter and I have headed south each winter for three months in warmer climes.

In 2007, my son Andrew married Peytra, now parents of 3 year old Lillian and 1 month old Marcus. My daughter Alison who was in Victoria for a few years has landed a great job with a national company based in Campbell River so she and the grand-dog have moved back. I volunteer, golf, walk with women friends, cook creatively for Walter, read, and stay connected to Natalya (Littleton) and my two sisters, down Island. I haven't travelled as widely as many of you, but have been a few places no one else has mentioned, such as Pelly Crossing and Borrego Springs. I'm healthy and life is good.