

1945

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My Memories of Niagara Falls

It was the summer of 1945, World War II was almost over. Germany and Italy had surrendered - the struggle with Japan was still raging. The Airforce, Army and Naval bases were going at full strength.

He was a handsome 1st Lt. Sgt. from Calgary, Alberta and I was a working gal in St. Johns, Nfld.

We met at an Airforce base dance, the attraction was strong, we knew almost immediately we were meant for each other.

V.J. Day came and suddenly our lives took on a different meaning. The bases were being dismantled as quickly as possible and Service men & women returning to their homes.

Civie Street, with all its hopes and doubts, was uppermost in everyone's mind. He asked me to marry him and go back to Calgary as his new bride. I didn't have a moment of hesitation, I knew in my heart it would work out.

His folks were probably surprised, he had been in the Service more than 5 years with no talk of a wife until now.

My folks thought I was going half-way around the world, they would never see me again.

We were engaged Valentine's Day, one week later he received his call to be in Halifax for his discharge the first week of March.

Things became hectic so many things to do. We had rationing and icing sugar for the wedding cake was almost impossible to get. I think he bribed the cook at the mess to get enough.

We had a lovely wedding with family and a few friends. Two days later he was flying to Halifax and I was packing to go by train to meet him in Thuro, N.S.

My happiness was complete when he suggested going to Niagara Falls for our honeymoon. I had heard so much and seen so many pictures of the Honeymoon Mecca but never dreamed it would be happening to me. I was on cloud nine.

We travelled by train to Toronto then took a bus to Niagara Falls. It was a chilly Spring day but nothing could dampen the excitement we felt.

We found a lovely room in a beautiful old 'guest house' (Bathroom down the hall) Our first night there

They had lost the key to the room and it had twin beds. We changed rooms the next day!

I shall never forget my first glimpse of 'The Falls'. It was breath-taking, fantastic and beautiful. We strolled the walk-ways in the mist, shopped in the craft stores enjoying every moment.

We celebrated our week's anniversary at The General Brock Hotel. The dining room over looked the city - The lights twinkled like stars as we danced to the strains of Stan Kenton's band. We were young, in love and the world was our oyster.

The music was heavenly as they played our favorites - Stardust, As Time Goes By and The Anniversary Waltz.

Memories are still fresh when we look at our pictures taken with The Falls as a background. Forty seven years have passed, the warm love we had at Niagara Falls is still with us.

We have four children and seven grand children, all beautiful, happy & healthy. They had a good start in the mist from the Falls.

Our eldest son was born in December exactly nine months later. Yes, there is magic in the mist. (Mrs M.E. McAulay)
Alvina McAulay