

ANURADHA HANNAH

My parents are Wes Hannah and Olive Simpson. Mom was the oldest child of Harold and Flo Simpson. I was adopted in Dec 1950 when Mom and Dad were living in Wolsely, Sask. My brother Rob was adopted in 1953. We think we are the luckiest “kids” to have such great parents and the Simpson and Hannah families as our own!!

We moved to Prince Albert for a few years while Dad trained in the funeral business. He and Mom bought their own business in Indian Head in 1959. It was the best place we could imagine to grow up, a beautiful small Prairie town, a great community and a cottage at the lake. I loved sports, music, band, dance, and being out in nature. We had great teachers and so many friends. A perfect childhood really.

I graduated from High School in 1968 and went to Regina Campus to receive my teaching certificate. I then taught Primary Education in Fort Qu’Appelle Sask. for a couple years. I wanted to be a singer and a dancer but thought I would at least teach for a year since I had my certificate. I really loved the kids, seeing how excited they were to learn, finding new and fun ways for them to do that. It was a learning experience for us all. After two years I took a sabbatical and came to Vancouver.

I came to the Coast in 1973 and stayed with Dorothy Goresky and cousin Soma (Brenda) for 10 months. It was a great time. I studied Yoga, became vegetarian, loved the mountains and ocean, had some trips to Read Island with Soma and decided the Coast was the place to be. I taught up north of Fort St. John the following year. Beautiful country and I even went on a horse round-up, bringing them in for the winter.

I returned to the Coast and married Frank Ens in 1975. We had a wood working shop and business. We moved to Salt Spring Island in 1982 to help in the creation of a residential Yoga Centre. That became my life until 2008. I left the Island and moved to the Mainland, closer to Mom and her increased need for care. Mom and I live together and I am looking after Mom full time now.

About times with Grandpa and Grandma Simpson. We had some visits when they came to see us in Saskatchewan and on a couple of trips we came out on the train. Rob and I would spend all our time in the dome car. It was not so easy to get together when we lived so far apart. One Christmas, the grandparents were over at Dorothy and Walter's for Christmas. We surprised them when we came in to wake them up that morning. I also remember Grandma quietly taking her pill case out and taking a pill at some family gatherings. I know now that was a pill for angina. She didn't make any fuss or ask for attention. Other memories are walking hand in hand with Grandpa to go and feed "Pierre" the Canada Goose he knew so well. Also Grandpa never missed a chance to tease us. At times, we'd be on the floor watching a scary TV show, Grandpa proceeded to scare us even more by surprise attacks at strategic times in the show. We'd jump and scream and he'd laugh and laugh.

By the way, Uncle Cliff truly inherited Grandpa's sense of humour and delivery!! I saw more of Grandpa and Grandma when I moved out to the Coast. I enjoyed one weekend working with Grandma on some of her bead creations from Lynne's House of Orange beads. My main memories of Grandpa and Grandma are always of Grandpa's humour and Grandma's little legs that could move so fast when we went shopping. It was always fun and easy to be with them.