

Memories of teaching in the 60's in Peel.

I graduated UT in May 60 and got a position mid-May for teaching at Lorne Park Secondary, grades 9-12 Home Ec, for the Fall. I was invited to come in meet the students and clean the files and do whatever I wanted for rest of May and June. (clean the cupboards etc). I had to go to summer school for two summers for crash course which I had not planned. I had not planned a career in teaching but ended up liking it and staying for 29 years, mostly at Lorne Park.

In September I started gun ho with 80 minute periods (double 40 minutes for Labs). Half the class cooked and other half used sewing machines – 22-24 students, all female in those days.

I had a key to school, so I could shop for groceries on weekends or evenings and come and go. I believe we had one spare period per week.

In those days OSSTF published an annual magazine posting all the schools in Ontario, who was teaching where and what salary they got. Home Ec teachers were in demand and they automatically got \$500 above base rate. Many staff felt since all you taught was how to boil water this bonus was outrageous.

The first Commencement reception I had to undertake was in Home Ec room with students preparing and serving refreshments after the Ceremony in that room. Little did I know that many more catering events would be expected in this career.

The students were wonderful. Expectations shape behavior and they never were ill-mannered, used bad language or even contemplated all the other things that I have seen since.

I got married and each class had a bridal shower. When I got pregnant I got my Thank you for being with us letter from John Fraser, Director of Education. I was welcome to apply for a job when I wanted to come back and I was told when I had to leave. No Maternity leave or benefits in those days.

How the world of teaching has changed over the years !!!

Submitted by Pat Lychy for Summer *Peelings* 2018