

Teaching in the 60's

In 1967, at age 17, I started teacher training. My parents received my "baby bonus" until I reached 18. A shortage of teachers in the late 60's prompted colleges to host "hiring days". School boards would visit to entice candidates to join their staffs. At Stratford Teachers' College in March 1968 I was struck by a car and hospitalized. On "hiring day" I signed a contract from my hospital bed—no interview--with Scarborough. I was so young, so inexperienced and had no university degree. My injuries prevented me from starting that fall but the board honoured the contract and I was finally able to start in November 1969. The starting salary was \$5200.

Trudeaumania marked the political scene. Class sizes were over 30; phonics was a teaching focus. I recall such pupil skill application in words like maycup(makeup) and zookeenee(zucchini). Each day started with the Lord's Prayer and a daily Bible story. University extension courses enabled upgraded qualifications so that over a 12 year period I earned a B.A. and M.ED. Having started my career early I was able to retire early. Today I continue to do a few days of occasional teaching each year to try to get it right! I am the proud parent of a Peel teacher who started with a B.Ed.!

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