

Marian Blundell – Biography

Marian was born in Ormstown, Quebec in 1947, a little town on the outskirts of Montreal, on the edge of the Eastern Townships, and soon moved into Montreal where she was raised and finished school at Trafalgar School for Girls and then on to Sir George Williams College, now Concordia University, for business courses.

She was raised in an ancient home with the old barn in the back yard (which came with many wonderful stories of horses and carriages, all of this tucked in old Montreal West suburbia), surrounded by antique furniture much of which had been built by her great uncle in true English Quebec style. Antiques were just the way of life for her. By the time she was about 7 years old, her mother decided it was time to start refinishing some of these pieces, and so together they proceeded to strip down and refinish their first heavily painted arrow back chair together (and their last heavily painted arrow back chair together!!) From then on everything did go out to the ‘professional’ refinishers – stripping furniture is a very tough job – especially if just a kid – who no doubt complained and quizzically chuckled over this strange procedure.

Who would know many years later in her late teens Marian would meet an eccentric Englishman just off the plane from Liverpool, ready for new adventures, and already a mad art and antiques hound.

In a few years time, Peter and Marian moved to Schomberg, Ontario to open an antiques shop after totally running out of room in their former Toronto home and with too many flea markets and shows – it was time to go into business full time. Before long, Marian had her own refinishing shop at the back of the store, giving evening courses on the subject, raising her children on how to refinish - the wonderful use of chains for really antiquing up a 1900 piece of maple, for about 15 years. (And her son actually did go on to refinish an old side table in his teen years which his parents are the proud owners of today. (And he will inherit it back some day!)

And over the years Marian has been heavily involved with heritage matters including president, treasurer for Vernon and District Heritage Society, president of the Canadian Club of Vernon.

The antiques business – an amazingly tough business what you need to learn, what you do, the travelling – the hunt, the reading, the knowledge one gains, and maybe the profit that can be found at the end of the day.

Today Marian helps Peter do his appraisals with her photography, her typing and business skills. It is a very good combination.