

## **RANDOM REFLECTIONS:Old Friends Return!**

**by: Kathryn Wishlow**

When it comes to friendships and relationships, it has been a very interesting last few years for me. I am not sure if I am alone, or is this happening to other folks too? Maybe, COVID provided some people with more time to let past relationships, and fond memories pop into their less occupied minds? Recently, several friends that I had lost touch with, came back into my life.

Just this last week, I had an email from someone that I had not heard from in about nine years. It was a very short enquiry. "Hey Kath, are you still there?" I about fell off my chair. I had heard through the grapevine years ago, that they had sold their house in Waterloo and moved. But after several messages left on an answering machine that were never returned, I just gave up. I had no choice but to wait for them to contact me someday. They finally did!

I emailed back a quick hello, "Yes, I am still here!" added my landline number that has been the same for over 22 years, plus the best time to call. Two days later he called. Funny thing about reconnecting with someone you have been close to ... on and off ... for over fifty years. After catching up on the news of both of our family members and children, weddings, divorces, deaths, job changes, and moves, we realized something.

With our past history, and despite the lengthy passage of time, our closeness and appreciation for each other had not changed a bit. We still laughed at the same things, loved music, were impressed by each other's accomplishments, and now complained about our ailments from aging. Like several times before in our lives, many sudden and major changes had occupied our lives completely and caused us to lose touch. But, we were still friends!

I have been blessed with many amazing friendships over the years. My best friend from grade four until grade eight, disappeared from my life due to several moves by our families. Marriage caused a last name change, making it even harder to be located. But over ten years later, we accidentally met on a streetcar in Toronto, and discovered we lived only two blocks away from each other in Mimico. Despite moves to other countries and provinces, we vowed to never lose each other again. To this day, we are still close!

Another dear friend from when I was fifteen until I was in my late twenties, relocated to Washington, her parents died, I moved north, and we lost contact completely. In those days, phone books were your best hope to find people. Every time I went anywhere new, I looked in the phone book, but with no luck. Imagine my complete shock when 40 years later, I hear her voice on the phone asking, "...if I remembered her?" A series of amazing coincidences had led her to finding me. That was last year. She is right back in my life now, big time!

Some people do FaceBook searches and find lost friends. It does take some effort on both sides, to maintain a relationship. All I can say is "Friends are the chocolate chips in the cookies of your life." The precious history they shared with you is irreplaceable. As I mentioned earlier, for me, old friends have a way of returning to me ... like boomerangs. I consider myself very fortunate.

*(Kathryn Wishlow belongs to White Pine Writers Inc., a local group of like minded authors who encourage and support all facets of writing, editing and publishing literary efforts. Follow them on Facebook or [www.whitepinewriters.ca](http://www.whitepinewriters.ca))*

