

“Oh the places you’ll go.”

Dr Seuss



“*I love to Travel*” says **Marilyn Upton**, NBSRT Saint John Branch member. Although born in Montreal, I grew up in Saint John. Both my parents were from the city and so following my father's death, my mother and I returned in 1955. After graduation from St FX (BSc in Home Economics) and from Mount St Vincent (BEd), I began my teaching career at Moncton High in 1973. Four years later, I returned to my hometown to teach Home Economics at Barnhill Memorial School. After receiving my MEd from UNB in 1987, my career continued as a Guidance Counsellor, then Vice-Principal at St Vincent's High School and later at St Malachy's Memorial High School.

At the age of six months I took my first train trip, and it has often been said that I have never stopped travelling. At an early age I told one of my uncles that I wanted to see the whole world. Although I travelled during March breaks and summer holidays, retirement in 2005 provided

me with a chance to pick up the pace. I have been extremely fortunate to find friends who also enjoy travelling, as well as meeting Jim Myles with his amazing array of travel opportunities. From Egypt to Antarctica, from Machu Picchu to Alaska, from Africa to Asia, Jim's trips certainly fed my wanderlust. There were other travel adventures with *Nancy's Tours* as well as *GoAhead Travel* which included a special trip to France in 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.



While on a deferred leave in 2000, a mentor, Gerry Mabey, suggested I apply to *Aquila Tours* as a tour guide for the cruise ship passengers coming into the Port City. This opened up another aspect of the travel industry for me. In 2019, I received my 20-year pin. After further training, I became a tour manager for *Aquila Tours* around the Maritimes and in 2018, I joined *Collins Tours*. As a *Collins* tour-manager, I escorted groups to Australia, Bermuda, the Magdalen Islands and the Caribbean as well as a Christmas tour to the *Big Apple*.

With the arrival of Covid, most travel has been suspended and other interests have surfaced. Having always loved sewing, quilting became a more important endeavour. Since starting to quilt in 1994, I created a huge pile of UFO's (unfinished objects). Many have now been completed since March 2020.





While travelling I became interested in geocaching. As a part of an NBSRT Wellness Class, a short introductory lesson from Scouter Bill aka Bill Mahaffy started me on this new hobby. It is fun to try and find a variety of caches in many of the places I have visited.

The pandemic allowed me the opportunity to start playing golf last year. I joined a club and try to get in a game at least three times a week with friends. Just like geocaching, it gives me a chance to walk and get some fresh air. Enough said about my golfing abilities!



I will end with a favourite quote from Mark Twain: “*Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness.*”

If you have an idea for a *SPOT Light Feature*, contact Larry Farrell: farell@rogers.com