

Out of the mouths of Babes.  
Stories of my Grandchildren.

We had gone on a trip to Frankermonth my daughter Kay's family and I. We stopped at Zanders for their famous chicken dinner. We had ordered our dinner and while waiting for it the waitress brought us rolls. They were very fresh and the butter was very cold. Kay struggled to butter the roll with the hard butter but it came out pretty lumpy. Danielle, 4, took one look at the roll and said, "Mom is that the best you could do?" It broke us all up.

I was visiting one weekend in London when granddaughter Julie was going to pre school at the University. Lynda said often the children took visitors to their classes but Julie had never taken a visitor so we decided one day I would go with her as her visitor. We went happily to the University, up in the elevator and into her classroom. Julie raced in to the room and over to her teacher and said, "There's someone special here you know." I felt pretty special that day.

Grandson Scott was visiting us one Easter Holiday when he was five. It was the height of the perch run so Grandpa decided to take him fishing in the <sup>Detroit</sup> river in front of our house. They fished and had very good luck it kept Grandpa busy putting the worm on Scott's hook and taking off the fish. He caught six fish and was so excited while catching them that he cried. He and Grandpa came home with the fish and cleaned them and of

course I cooked them for supper.  
Scott said, "Grandma those are  
the most delicious fish I ever ate"  
He has been a confirmed fisherman  
ever since.

Another fishing incident happened  
at our cabin one summer. It was  
on the Muskoka river and Grandpa,  
Ross, Jim & Eric had gone fishing.  
They caught enough fish for supper  
so Grandpa took some paper out on  
the river bank and proceeded to  
scale and clean the fish. Little Eric  
was 4 and squatted down and watched  
through this whole procedure. I thought  
to myself there is one little fellow who  
won't have any fish for supper because  
he was a picky little eater at times.

Well he fooled me. When the  
platter of fish was passed at supper time  
he enjoyed them just as much as  
the rest of us. The fish were so good  
there freshly cooked.

Petite Shelley had a harrowing  
experience in an outdoor john. She slipped  
while sitting on the hole and had to be  
rescued by her grandma. The family always  
enjoyed going camping but as soon as they  
would get to the camp ground little Shelley

would run to check out the washrooms.  
At some campgrounds she would run  
back calling, "Pit toilets, Mom, pit toilets".

I remember an incident at our  
cabin on the Muskoka river one summer.  
Grandson Jim and family were vacationing  
with us there. Jim was to start Kindergarten  
in the fall. He started one afternoon asking  
Grandma questions like what is  $37 \times 4$   
and after I would tell him the answer  
he would wait awhile then ask me another.  
This was a good game so it went on for  
quite awhile but the questions were  
getting a little harder and Janet could  
see I was struggling a bit with them  
trying to do them in my head. Finally  
she said "Oh Mom don't try to figure it  
out just tell him anything". Well the  
next question he asked that's what I did  
just gave him any answer. He knew it  
was wrong and never asked me another  
question. I always felt sorry that I  
hadn't continued to play the game right.

Jim was also visiting us at home that summer.  
Grandpa walked with him over to the beach on the  
Detroit River. On a tree at the beach was a sign  
"Residents Only". Jim read the sign out loud and  
said "What does that mean Grandpa?"

When our children were young we vacationed at our summer cabin on the Muskoka River. It was a one room cabin<sup>so</sup> our sleeping arrangements were close. A double bed and 2 pull out beds. One night the children felt talkative and were discussing the days activities. Then finally came the 'good nights'. They started feeling a little silly so started many rounds of god nights. Then A w e e d e r g a n e, then A w e e d e r c h e e, then B o x s a w e r. Dad said, "I'm going to swear if you kids don't be quiet and go to sleep. A few giggles then quiet.

When Cathy was four her brothers Jim and Eric used to take turns to come and stay a week with Grandma and Grandpa. She said to her Mother "I'm big enough now" to go and visit Grandma & Grandpa. Mother wasn't sure but she let her come and she was "big enough". While she was visiting I was showing her something I had made. She said, "That's very nice machine sewing Grandma.

Her Grandma Randall was a very fine seamstress so she learned early from her.

Danielle was visiting one day when she was five. We were just sitting chatting and she was telling me about her friends who came over to play with her and she would go and play at their house. One little girl she said just came over to play with her toys not with her. She said to me, "She is just a 'user' grandma." I thought what insight for such a small girl.

Scott loved to do jigsaw puzzles when he was very young. One time when they were visiting we were putting a puzzle together on the floor he & I. After about an hour we had it all finished and were sitting admiring it. He took a hand on each side of it and lifted it in the air at which point it broke all into pieces and he said with a big grin, "Let's do it again grandma!"

One day Grandpa & I had been shopping in Windsor then had supper. On our way home we decided to stop in and say hello to Kay, Joe & family. They were just having supper so Grandpa & I pulled up chairs and visited with them while they were eating. This was at the

time when Kay & Joe raised chickens and the kids also had their own pet chickens to raise.

I think Renee was about 12 years old. They were having chicken for supper.

During supper I noticed that one chicken frame was large and one very small. Usually I don't comment on food but I asked Joe if the small one was a pheasant. He said "No that happens to be — (their pet chicken)"

Renee was just about to take a bite and when she heard that she dropped the piece of chicken and couldn't eat any more supper.

I was so sorry I had made that comment.

When Scott was in 1st grade he made a calendar and gave it to Grandpa & I as a present. I hung it up on the wall between the utility room and kitchen so I could see it as we passed through. When Scott and his family were visiting us in the summer time, he noticed his calendar on the wall. I told him yes I put it up where we could see it all the time. He said, "Oh Grandma that makes my heart glad."

One time at Lynda & Bob's the family was having a picnic so Julie, about twelve said I'll make the potato salad. Mom said great and went off able to do something else. Dinner time came along and the salad was passed around. Someone said, "my these potatoes are crunchy". Julie said well no one told me you were supposed to cook the potatoes first!

When Julie was five Lynda signed her up for swimming lessons at one of the Recreation Centers. This was an outdoor pool, unheated. For most of the lessons the weather was cool so Julie sat huddled under her towel not wanting to go into the cold water. It so happened that Grandpa and I were down visiting on the last day of the lessons when they were to do the testing. Lynda said would you like to come with us Grandpa? She told me the weather had been cold so Julie hadn't been participating much so she would be in the same class next year. Well I was happy to go along it was a beautiful sunny morning. When we got to the pool the instructor was putting the little ones through their tests. Julie jumped into the pool and did all her tests perfectly and passed up into the next class. Lynda said, "I just don't believe this."

When Cathy was in Grade 8 her science lesson was on magnets. Ross had a nice magnet at home so when Grandpa & I came visiting Cathy got a kick out of checking map earrings with her magnet. The Cheepies got a good reaction!

When Barb was 1 yr. old Shirley & Bill would come visiting. We lived on St. Arnaud St at the time and the weather would be hot. We put a couple of inches of water in the clothes basket and that was Barb's swimming pool. Fun

When Grandpa was on the midnight shift at Ford's he would come in in the morning and he liked a bowl of warm soup before he went to bed. Barb liked to come and have soup with him in the morning. Good breakfast!

David was a great hockey player when he was little from 2 to 5 yrs. He was always playing hockey and anything handy was good for a stick or a puck. I remember the Christmas he was 4 Grandpa & I got him a little suit with a wine coat & grey pants. His Dads Mom had got him a hockey sweat shirt and outfit. The hockey outfit got all the wear he would & I even try on the suit. That was alright though he wore it to Kay & Joe's wedding.



When the grandchildren came to visit when they were not yet in their teens they liked to go outside in the evening and play hide and seek. One night when they were playing Kenie came running in and she said Grandpa have you see "Jilly Willy"? Grandpa was just getting up from a nap and he says "There's no Willy here".

Grandpa and I were visiting Kay's Joe one Sunday. I was wearing a suit with a thin blouse underneath. I got too warm so took off my suit coat. Cherie says "Oh! Grandpa you are wearing a brassiere!" chuckle chuckle she was only 4.

One afternoon Grandpa & I were visiting Kay and Joe. Danielle had been playing with a little friend she was 4 or 5 at the time. The little girl went home and Danielle & I were talking. I said its pretty nice to have your friend over to play with you. Danielle said, "She's not really my friend she just comes over to play with my toys."

When Joey was eight he got a pattern for a scooter and with some help from his Dad, he built one. It was a very fine scooter but when he found he had to

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in it. I think that led to skate  
boarding. His Dad built him  
a huge ramp in the garage and  
he and his friends had a great  
time on that.