

Ray Cloutier's Story

since leaving SMC

St. Mary's had a tremendous impact on my life. I was proud to have attended such a fine school which encouraged personal growth and provided me with an excellent foundation. I have always carried cherished memories of St Mary's with me. After graduation I attended the Novitiate in Keswick. I was not completely convinced that the priesthood was my calling but I knew that this was an important step in making that determination. I arrived there prayed, meditated, and made the decision to follow another direction. I was inspired to continue searching for my vocation elsewhere.

After working for a year at Chrysler Canada, in Windsor, Ontario I attended the University of Windsor. I graduated in 1969 with a degree in Psychology. It was there that I met my future wife, Anne, an Australian import. We lived for three years in London, Ontario where I worked in a Psychiatric Hospital and as a counsellor in a Therapeutic Community while Anne began her teaching career..

After several years we decided to travel throughout Europe during 1972 and 73. It was an exciting time which made for wonderful memories. Our photos of that time show two young people dressed in hippy fashion.

Upon our return I worked in Toronto as a Landlord and Tenant Advisor for a short while until offered the opportunity to become a Probation and Parole Officer with the Provincial Government. This meant relocating to Kirkland Lake, Ontario where we lived for four years. It was there that our first child, Andrew, was born in 1976. We made some great friends there and I met my most unforgettable character, "Meyer", a colleague

In 1978 we transferred to Kitchener, Ontario and have brought up our family here. Our daughter, Caroline was born in 1980 and our son, Peter, was also born here 1983. I continued to find much challenge, satisfaction and enjoyment from my work. One of the highlights of our family life was a long planned-for journey around Australia, my wife's homeland. We certainly have some tales to tell about that trip. This summer we will be attending the wedding of our eldest son in the Channel Islands, UK.

I am now retired. The journey is still exciting but different as I become involved in other pursuits. My health is good and I still enjoy tennis, hiking, travel and golf.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.