



Enjoying lunch and their Christmas reunion at the Coach and Four pub in Bronte recently are from left, Pat (Thorne) McKitterick, Marilyn (Orr) Evershed, Helena (Shields) McDonald, Fern (Eakins) Manners, Fran (Lush) Trowbridge, Joyce 'Jasey' (Matthews) Parkin, and Eileen (Howard) Stewart.

Barrie Erskine • Oakville Beaver

Friends for life

Women became friends in school

By Wilma Blokhuis
 BEAVER FOCUS EDITOR

You could call them Oakville's Group of Seven Ladies.

Most of them have been friends since Grade 1.

All of them were married young. All but one worked outside the home after high school. One went to university and became a teacher.

All of them have remained in this area, mostly in Oakville.

Among them they raised 21 children and too many grandchildren to count. One of them is a great grandmother.

Every year at about this time, they hold a Christmas reunion and lunch. Recently, they met at the Coach and Four pub in Bronte — a departure from previous years

when lunch was held at some one's home.

These friends, now all in their early 70s, decided that nobody should have to cook.

They are Marilyn (Orr) Evershed, Fern (Eakins) Manners, Helena (Shields) McDonald, Pat (Thorne) McKitterick, Joyce 'Jasey' (Matthews) Parkin, Eileen (Howard) Stewart, and Fran (Lush) Trowbridge.

"We met at school," begins Helena. They were classmates.

"Fern and I were neighbours on Reynolds Street," adds Fran. "All of us lived close together except for two who lived on the west side."

Jasey moved to Oakville from Saskatchewan with her family in 1942. "We lived with Fern's family until we got our own place."

(See 'Friends' page B5)



Photo courtesy of Helena McDonald • Special to the Beaver
 Posing in front of the former Savoy Café in downtown Oakville in 1947 are, from left, Elaine Pettersen (deceased), Betty Green (believed to be living in the United States), Pat Thorne, Joyce 'Jasey' Matthews, Fern Eakins, Nancy Smith (who moved to Vancouver Island), Delores Richmond (deceased), Helena Shields, Marilyn Orr, and Muriel 'Shep' Shepherd (who moved to Red Deer, Alberta, and is now deceased). Absent were Fran Lush and Eileen Howard.



presents

An Evening with Chef Michael Smith

host of food tv's Chef at Large



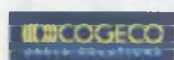
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