

# The Good Old Days

*By Mina McGill*



# Introduction

The good old days compared to now, shows how much everything has changed within quite a short period of time. I interviewed my grandmother Lynn McGill. She is 65 and grew up in New Ross. She has lived in Canada all her life and has experienced every change with it. Now let's take a look!



# Family Life

Families now are a lot smaller than they were in the good old days. My grandmother had 7 siblings, 3 brothers and 4 sisters. A common number of siblings right now is 2 or 3. My nan had to share a room with her sisters, which made it awkward whenever she had a time-out! The pets were also quite different, sometimes my nan would take care of stray dogs or cats that wandered to their door, and had a couple pigs as well. They also kept a snake in their well!



# Holidays

When my grandmother was a child, Christmas and birthdays weren't as big of a deal as they are now. The main reason is the lack of money within the family. For Christmas they had stockings and a tree, but they had to cut the tree themselves.

They also decorated it with real candles! The gifts they received in their stockings were oranges, nuts and tiny candies. For birthdays, they got to choose their favorite type of cake and got to make it and most importantly eat it!



# Jobs

Imagine getting a job and only being paid \$0.25. My grandmother was first hired as a strawberry picker in the valley and was paid \$0.25 a box. This was a seasonable job so she needed something else to do. My grandmother also babysat relatives for a little extra money. Other popular job options were sawmills and loggers. Grocery stores were popular as well. Now a days, there is way more of a variety of jobs to choose from such as dentists and doctors.



# Food

Food in the good old days, was a lot more basic and simple. They made what they could with the ingredients they had. Popular breakfast foods were oatmeal or homemade bread and butter. Today pancakes, waffles and muffins are very popular. Lunch choices were anything that was given to the family like pigs head or sandwiches if they had the ingredients. Kraft dinner or a grilled cheese sandwich are some of my favorite options. Supper was very different. A popular food was onion and liver, but if you were catholic you had to eat fish on Fridays. My grandmother and her siblings also had to stay at the table until they finished all of their meal. Waste not want not!



# Activities

My nana didn't have TV until she was 12. Up until that point she would always be outside or playing some kind of sport. Her favorite games to play outside was kick the can or baseball with her friends. During the winter time, her oldest brother would build them a bobsled and all of her brothers and sisters would pile on top and go down a long steep road. They also sometimes skated on their lake.

Since my nan was catholic her and her family would go to church every Sunday, and if they didn't go the priest would go to their house and ask them why they weren't there.



My grandmothers favorite toy was a meter tall teen doll with a dress she always wanted and a fancy hat that was given to her for her birthday. Also the first shows that my nan remembered watching on her first TV are Don Messer (fiddling show) and The Monkeys (a band show).





# Conclusion

There you have it! Some of the most cherished information of the good old days. Now you know a good chunk out of the endless changes from then to now. Things are still changing constantly but the good old days is where everything began! Hope you learned enough to keep your gears turning. Thank you!

