

DANS LE CADRE DE LA SEMAINE
QUÉBÉCOISE INTERGÉNÉRATIONNELLE 2022

PORTRAITS D'UNE GÉNÉRATION

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LA JEUNESSE À LA RENCONTRE
DE LA SAGESSE



La jeunesse à la rencontre de la sagesse

Portraits d'une génération...

Chères participantes,

Ce recueil se veut un souvenir de la rencontre entre la jeunesse et la sagesse. Une façon de garder en mémoire le moment partagé sur la vie, le parcours scolaire, mais surtout la rencontre entre deux générations.

Le projet est né lors d'une discussion sur la semaine de la Persévérance Scolaire lors d'une Concertation jeunesse. Nous souhaitons mettre de l'avant l'échange entre les générations ainsi que les différences, parfois similaires, des parcours tant scolaires que ceux de vie entre ces deux générations.

Manquant de temps, au mois de février, mais tenant réellement à mettre ce projet de l'avant, nous avons décidé de présenter cet accomplissement lors de la semaine québécoise intergénérationnelle de mai 2022.

En espérant que vous aurez autant de plaisir à lire ces lignes que nous l'avons eu.

Au plaisir,

Marie-Pier Bernier et Magali Gagnon



Jacqueline Cardin

Le vendredi 6 mars dernier, j'ai eu le plaisir de rencontrer Mme. Jacqueline Cardin pour qu'elle me raconte un peu de sa vie et surtout de son parcours scolaire.

Mme Cardin est née au Plateau Mont-Royal, Montréal. Cependant, elle a vécu toute son enfance à Rosemont avec beaucoup de nécessités parce qu'elle habitait avec sa tante en étant en total sept personnes dans un appartement (deux frères, une sœur, ses parents et sa tante). Son parcours commence à l'école primaire Sainte-Bibiane en faisant jusqu'à la 7ème année. Elle se caractérisait comme une fille responsable, persévérante et qui aimait l'école. Mme Cardin était la sœur la plus aînée de quatre enfants, deux garçons et deux filles, ce qui a fait qu'elle a toujours été autonome et indépendante.

Quand elle a fini son primaire, son père a pu acheter une maison à Ahuntsic, donc elle a continué son parcours scolaire dans une école



religieuse dans ce dernier. Au secondaire, elle présentait des difficultés dans quelques matières car elle a commencé à travailler aussi à l'âge de 13 ans mais avec de l'effort et la motivation elle réussissait ces années. Dans cette étape de sa vie Mme Jacqueline a découvert son amour pour la littérature, le Français et l'histoire. Cependant, les mathématiques n'étaient pas son fort:



« j'ai commencé en science math mais je détestais les math, la 11eme année ils m'ont mis en science lettre » dit-elle en riant. Dans cette école, dans sa dernière année, elle a connu la sœur Monique, une personne qu'elle décrit comme humaine et qui appréciait ses efforts pour passer son année et qui l'a marqué d'une façon positive dans sa vie. Comme il y a des bons souvenirs il y a des mauvais aussi, mais elle les raconte toujours en riant. En 3e année, elle avait triché dans un examen de math puis la sœur s'en est rendu compte, comme conséquence elle a eu 0 dans son bulletin : « je n'ai plus jamais triché » dit-elle avec un gros sourire, « c'est une bonne leçon mais j'ai comme garde un bon souvenir de la personne » affirme-t-elle en rigolant.

Elle voulait devenir infirmière mais après une expérience comme préposée à l'hôpital Sacré-Cœur, elle s'est rendu compte qu'elle n'aimait pas ça. Après une amie lui a offert un travail comme secrétaire comptable (elle a appris par elle-même). Dans cette période, elle a rencontré son mari, puis elle faisait du bénévolat dans les écoles (pastorale scolaire). Dans ce temps, elle a aussi fait des études à l'Université Saint-Paul pour devenir animatrice de pastorale. Plus tard, elle travailla pendant 28 ans comme directrice d'un organisme communautaire, le SAC Anjou. Lorsqu'elle a pris sa retraite elle sait impliquer dans le conseil d'administration du SAC Anjou. Dans son parcours professionnel ce qu'elle regrette le plus c'est de ne pas avoir choisi comme métier l'enseignement. Toutes ces décisions ont été par son propre choix car comme elle l'a dit « personne à contrôlé ma vie... »

Pour mettre fin à notre conversation, on a parlé au sujet de comment la covid a mené à beaucoup de découragement chez les élèves. Je lui ai demandé des conseils et c'est ça qu'elle a dit : « si tu es découragé il faut que tu le dises, il faut que tu le parles. N'importe quoi, même que tu es ou pas âgé, quand tu vis quelque chose il faut vraiment le partager avec quelqu'un de confiance, car au moment que tu le dis ça nous décharge puis des fois ça nous aide à exprimer ce qu'on ressent puis ça nous aide à trouver des solutions, ou des fois la personne est juste là pour t'écouter » « puis c'est ça que les aînées de ma génération n'ont pas appris, à le dire ». La pandémie a causé des répercussions dans notre vie mais c'est à nous de déterminer si on va se laisser tomber ou on va lutter pour sortir de cela. Ce n'est pas mauvais d'avoir des moments faibles dans la vie, on est des humains et les sentiments font partie de nous.

Texte de Juliana Moreno



Dolorès Mc Auley

Where did you grow up?

"I was born in Rosemont East" she said.

Do you have any siblings? Tell me about a typical day at home?

Dolorès' father was alcoholic very giving. "He was so giving all this time, but I didn't see that" she said. Her mother was very loving, nurturing, clean and was always grateful for what she had. "My mother, (...) she was always happy with what she had, she was very clean (...)". She has a brother named Keith who is 4 years younger. During her childhood, Dolorès was a highly active and happy child, who loved dancing and was quite fluent in many forms. "I had a very happy childhood because I was allowed to go out and play" she said as she laughed "I was very lucky because she gave me dance, toe, ballet, tap, and acrobat. And we had to go from Rosemont to park avenue by a horn bike street cart, so that was twice a week every Saturday morning." Her mother considered her



daughter (Dolorès) and son (Keith) to be very important, as she always feared losing them (especially Keith who has several issues and suffered from a heart attack). "(...) Her children were the most important thing in her life, especially my brother because my brother and my mother almost died, she almost died giving birth to my brother, so it was always "Oh I nearly lost them, I'm not gonna lose



them now" so my brother and her were really really attached but I didn't mind" she said. Dolorès Explained that her brother's poor health condition was primarily due to her mother's genetics. "I think I had my father's health, and my brother has my mother's" she reasoned. "He has Meniere's where he gets very dizzy, and he could fall on the floor. He had a heart attack. And he is living on the 13th floor you know?" she elaborated. Her mother always made sure that Dolorès stood in the crowd during her dancing performances. "My costumes because we would have 4-5 dances, like after a while I would have 4 costumes and the studio would make the costumes but my mother, it wasn't good enough for her, she had to have her dress maker make them because he really had to, but if everybody had black tap shoes she would buy me a shimmery gold (...) she was very proud of what I looked like and my ribbons in my tap shoes were always changed for a colour.. but she never bought anything for herself. And I played."

Her father, who worked at the pacific railway, however was an alcoholic, yet despite that he never missed one day of work. He would drink all week but chose to stay sober on Sundays so that he could go to work the next day. Hence, their relationship was strained throughout her entire childhood. "My father for me, he didn't exist, and I think because he was suffering which I realize now that's probably why he drank. He looked mad all the time. Although in a way as being a child, I took that pain that he had, but in his face, I took it that he was angry and he didn't love me so in return I didn't love him, you see? (...)" she explained. "And when I knew like my father really loved me all those years, was, I met the man that worked in my office was um, he was a teacher when he started like my father was an apprentice, and he said "Oh I saw you growing up" he said. "Your father would bring me all your ballet pictures" and I still didn't love my father" she added.

Thankfully, they managed to repair their relationship later and Dolorès ended up forgiving and loving her father in the end. "I only started to love him, I love him to bits now, I am so proud of him, I am proud to be like him you know (...) And he looked after my mother in the 10 last years of her life, they fell in love again (...)" she said. "To make peace with a father that you hated. we wouldn't be in the same place, and I wouldn't even walk down the street with him and now I love him more than anything." she continued. Unfortunately, her mother passed



away in 1999 and her father joined her soon due to a broken heart.

Which school(s) did you attend?

When asked about School, Dolorès was not exactly keen on the topic. Dolorès attended St Brendan's elementary school (a catholic school in Rosemont), followed by Holley names High for her high school education. She learned everything in English. "When I was growing up you needed English, I never pushed to learn French because I didn't need it. But now it's switched over so... it's true what they say you could get a better job if you only spoke English" she said.

What were your favorite and least favorite subjects in school?

When asked about her favourite subject, her answer was typical to that of any child who did not like school, "Recess" she said. When asked about her least favourite subject, it was math and science which was not surprising as most kids struggle with them. Dolorès explained that she was good at anything until it later became so advanced in level that it was difficult to understand and keep up with, that is when she gave up trying and learning. "I was not good at Math, for sure. Anything scientific, I was not good at that." she said. "I was good at French in the beginning but when we started to learn how to write French, I couldn't get past some of the things. Like I was good at everything up to a certain point, and after that point, I could have a tutor, I could do anything, and nothing would go in after that point" she continued.

Are there teachers who impacted you specifically, if yes, was it positive or negative?

Throughout her school years as much as she has received some positive feedbacks, she also received some negative feedbacks which had affected her and her performance. In the 5th grade, a teacher did help her in math to an extent and she managed to score a 75%, however in the 6th grade she received a negative quote that has certainly crushed her spirit and caused her even further aversion to school and studying, hence causing her to perform poorly at school. "The teacher, the first time my mother went to get my report card, she said to my mother "If she doesn't know it now, she will never know it. ." And that was it. The rest of the year I would sit down, and I did nothing hardly. She, do we have a test or something? and I wouldn't even try." She spoke. "My first notes



were 40%, so I failed that year, but it was just because “If she doesn't know it now, she will never know it.” She continued. In the 7th grade however, Dolores decided to up her game and do better especially after a teacher criticized her terrible handwriting, which pleased her teacher who ended up complimenting her handwriting and efforts. When asked about her grades, she said that she had “90% in grammar” and “50% in French” which was significantly better than her 6th grade average.

Did you pursue a higher education after high school? If yes, in what field/program did you study?

Dolorès did not pursue any further studies and learned everything throughout her job. She also explained that back in her days, high school was the highest level of education. “In those days, finish grade, well us, it was grade 11, that was something, it was almost like going like university when you finished grade 11, French was grade 12, I was glad I was English because I hated school” she explained laughing.

Did you receive support and encouragement to persevere in school from your family, friends and loved ones?

Dolorès did not have anyone from her family or friends to influence and motivate her to persevere through school, especially since her mother dropped out in the 3rd grade. Dolorès had a lot of homework and if they were not done there would be detention, which she hated. As a solution, she would fake being sick if it was not done. Luckily, her mother believed her and took her seriously. “My mother couldn't help me at home because she only had grade 3 and we had homework every night(...)” she said “Your homework has to be done because if it wasn't, I would try and fake being sick the next day,” she explained “My mother would never send you out if you were sick.” She elaborated further.

What was your profession during your life?

Her first job was typing envelopes for 6 months at Sunlife's building. Later she worked in teletyping at the Canadian Pacific Railway thanks to her mother's friend and daughter, she then later became a secretary, then a VP for a project that aimed on adding substances to make plants bigger and worked for engineers, which she thoroughly enjoyed. “My first job, they took anybody, was as at the Sunlife building, it used to be the tallest building in Montreal, still there,



it's not the tallest anymore.

And I worked there 6 months just typing envelopes, my typing is not that great because at home we didn't have a typewriter, hardly anybody had one and in school we didn't have any time so what I was learning I wasn't practicing. My first typing envelopes when you do that for 6 months and then I had a chance thank god learning at that time ... It was a \$140/a month. "A friend of my mother's, her daughter worked for the CPR (...) I worked on the teletype and there is where I learned to type fast". She said. Dolores was also paid generously throughout her career, "(...)I mean it was a fantastic salary, imagine I went from \$140 to \$300 a month, it was a man's salary at that time." she said comparatively.

Dolorès explained that it was easy to advance in careers back in those days compared to nowadays. "Those days you could go up in the companies. in the VP you used to start up in the mail room, the man, then they would work in the laboratory and then they would go into the plant, and the plant (...) Now you start in the mailroom, you stay in the mail for the rest of your life."

Unfortunately, she had to quit working due to the societal norms, and her young marriage at 21 years old to husband who was a toxic gambler with some mental issues (which she did not notice until after the divorce as she attributed this due to his diabolical behaviour). She also gave birth to a hyperactive son in 1965 which pressurized her more to quit. "I was afraid to lose him like my mother was afraid to lose my brother", she explained. "After CPR when I got married, and then I stopped working because (...) while I was brought up to, nowadays it doesn't work but a woman never worked, she stayed home, and married somebody who could support you which is a big mistake because if you end up with a husband (...) who gambled and you end up with nothing, in the end I would have had a good pension with the CPR but things are there for a reason, I'm happy now." "I think my husband had a mental condition because if I were to tell you some of the things he did and said that it was a joke, it wasn't a joke" she said. Currently, Dolorès and her husband are divorced, however, her husband is currently not fairing well and has not seen his son in 20 years which is unfortunate.



How did you choose your profession? Were you influenced by someone or was it an independent decision?

Dolorès' profession and career choices were neither influenced by anybody nor were they independent decision as she did not exactly have a choice. She also had to take all the responsibility in the end from her mother due to her father's alcoholism. Thankfully, she had a bunch of helpful people including some family members throughout her life who led her and her brother to the right direction. "I did not choose" she explained "I just went and applied, and life just brought me where I was going, the way today works, I don't think that works because like I said you... you could start in the factory and end up being like Vice president or something". "It was a friend of my mother's to begin with for CPR, and VP, well, it was a friend of mine." She explained further. "Us, we were lucky because had aunts and uncles, mostly uncles who works in big companies, like my brother worked in big companies, like my brother worked his way up at CN (the Canadian national railway" because when he came out, he only had a high school". "I had uncles who had good jobs at McGill so a lot of my cousins with them." She explained further. "I took all the responsibility from my mother in the end (...)" she said " (...)that's when he (her father) realized and he said "I put all the responsibility of my wife on my daughter.""

Was going to school easy for you? What were the obstacles or difficulties that you had to overcome while being in school?

Dolorès did not exactly like school as the nuns were very strict, intimidating, and did not practice what they preached. She also earned herself a lot of detention in school for not doing her homework. Thankfully though, she was never bullied. "I didn't like it" she said, "You have to behave, you couldn't walk, you couldn't move. And the nuns were not very nice, some of them. Strict (...) and they are supposed to be holly, I think some of them are not." She added laughing a bit. "They (the students) were afraid of them, especially me, I was afraid of authority."

Knowing that COVID had a great impact on young student's motivation to persevere in school, what would you tell them to help them stay on track? Do you have any advice for them on how to overcome such adversity?

Dolorès recommends having good and supportive friends, do things together, have fun and get along with everyone. "The only thing that helped was that I



had friends, good friends” she said “We are stupid, we laugh at anything” she continued. “We can laugh at a banana and the story would go on for weeks.” She added. “I would get along with everyone” she said. “I was very, very fortunate.” She added gratefully. She also advises to set and organize a plan and stick to it to achieve it together “Knowing what you are going to do after do after, like to have a plan; like I am gonna work on this, I've gotta do some more exercise, I've gotta work on the special dances. What we're gonna do, like together, and that's what we do really.” She explained.

If you think back about your academic and professional choices, is there anything you would change or do differently?

Dolorès wished that she could have taken further extracurricular activities. “I think I would take more activities like I would learn the piano, I would learn, I still learn dancing, I would be in a play.” She said chuckling.

Texte de Tatyana Haydar



Lyne Raymond

Un parcours incroyable, qui vous inspirera énormément! Je m'appelle Milca-Grâce Vata-wa-vata et je fais partie du projet intergénérationnel. J'ai aimé participer à ce projet, car j'ai appris beaucoup de choses! Je suis convaincue que lorsque tu finiras de lire ce texte, tu seras motivé à continuer ton parcours scolaire et professionnel. Bon, je ne te retiens pas trop longtemps, sautons dans le sujet!

Lyne Raymond est une femme formidable avec de beaux yeux bleus. Elle aime sortir de sa zone de confort et partir à la découverte de nouveaux pays. Lyne a voyagé au Cambodge, aux Philippines, au Sri Lanka, au Mali, en Tunisie, au Chili et plusieurs autres pays. De plus, elle aime faire du vélo, apprendre de nouvelles choses et faire de la marche. Voici les questions que je lui ai posé:

Où avez-vous grandi?

J'ai grandi à Saint-Jérôme. Plus précisément à Mirabel. C'est dans un



milieu agricole !

Avez-vous des frères et sœurs? Comment se passait la vie à la maison?

J'ai une sœur et deux frères. Mon père travaillait dans la construction, ma mère était au foyer. On habitait à la campagne, donc moi et mes frères on prenait le bus pour se rendre à l'école.



Comment était l'ambiance de la maison liée avec les études supérieures?

J'habitais ailleurs avec ma sœur. C'était amusant, car j'étais avec mes amis(es). On travaillait fort et en même temps on s'amusait.

À quelle école êtes-vous allés?

Au Cegep Lionel Groux et à l'UQAM

Avez-vous suivi des études post-secondaires? Si oui en quoi

J'ai étudié en informatique. Dans le domaine que je suis allée, il n'y avait pas beaucoup de femmes... À l'université, j'allais le soir, j'ai fait des cumules de certificats en ressources humaines, en finance et en gestion d'administration

Quel métier avez-vous pratiqué dans votre vie (si plusieurs, les nommer)

J'ai été programmeuse en informatique, ensuite je suis montée en tant qu'analyste afin de connaître les besoins du client. Par la suite, je suis devenue chef de projet et coach de projet.

Est-ce que ce choix de profession était le vôtre ou on vous a incité à choisir ce métier?

Oui! Il faut savoir dans quoi on est bon, c'est quoi nos talents.

Comment avez-vous trouvé ce que vous aimiez ?

J'étais très forte en math et j'aimais ça. Donc, mon professeur de mathématiques au secondaire m'a conseillé d'aller en informatique et je suis allée. De plus, mes patrons voyaient dans quoi j'étais bonne, alors ils me donnaient plus de tâches.

Lyne a rajouté aussi que pour elle s'est important d'être attentif ou être sensible envers son entourage et soi-même. À travers le travail, les cours d'école, car le plus gros défi c'est de choisir, car il y a beaucoup d'opportunités...

Selon vous, avez-vous accompli votre rêve?

Oui j'ai fait tout ce que j'ai aimé!

Est-ce que vous aviez de la facilité à l'école? Quelles étaient les difficultés auxquelles vous deviez faire face dans votre parcours scolaire?

J'ai eu de la facilité à l'école. Je n'ai eu aucune difficulté dans tous les domaines (les professeurs, les cours et les amies)



Quelles étaient vos matières préférées et celles que vous aimiez le moins à l'école?

Pratiquement tous les cours, sauf en histoire, car mon prof était moins intéressant. J'aimais beaucoup l'école!

Quel était le plus grand défi dans votre carrière professionnelle?

C'était difficile de trouver un emploi au début, car je suis une femme. Il n'y avait pas beaucoup de femmes dans le milieu... Souvent les employeurs ne considéraient pas mon curriculum vitae.

Y a-t-il des enseignants qui vous ont marqué d'une quelconque façon, que ce soit de manière positive ou négative?

Mon professeur de mathématiques au secondaire, car il m'a aidé dans mon choix d'étude et mon professeur de calcul intégral, il n'expliquait pas bien le cours...

Est-ce que les gens autour dans votre entourage vous encourageaient dans vos études?

Oui, dans ma famille c'est très important les études.

En repensant à votre parcours de vie au niveau du parcours scolaire et professionnel, y a-t-il des choses que vous feriez différemment?

Non, car j'ai grandi dans chaque étape de ma vie. J'ai pris les opportunités et je suis sorti de ma zone de confort.

Qu'est-ce que vos parents vous a appris comme leçon de vie, ce qui vous a guidé dans la vie.

Il y a toujours une solution et un apprentissage à tout.

Comment étiez-vous dans votre adolescence?

Un peu réservée, pour moi le premier contact était toujours difficile. Pour moi, c'était important d'être avec les amis(es). J'étais à l'aise avec les deux.

Comment faites-vous pour passer à travers des moments difficiles

C'est d'être positif et se dire qu'il y a toujours une solution!



Qui sont tes modèles d'inspiration?

Les gestionnaires que j'ai eu m'ont toujours inspiré. Pour moi, c'était comme des parents!

Sachant que la covid a mené à beaucoup de découragement chez les élèves, que diriez-vous à des jeunes du secondaire qui rencontrent des difficultés à persévérer dans leurs études en ce moment? Avez-vous des conseils?

Ne pas lâchez. Essayez de créer des contacts humains, de travailler en équipe. Lorsque tu vois que tu as de la difficulté dans une matière va voir celui qui est plus fort! Se soutenir aussi est très important.

J'espère que tu as aimé lire le parcours de Lyne. Sache que le plus important c'est que tu te laisses guider par la vie. Rêve ta vie et suis ton cœur comme Lyne Raymond l'a fait! Tout ce qu'elle aime, elle l'a fait! C'est vrai que c'est difficile de savoir ce qu'on aime, mais crois qu'un jour tu le sauras. Fais seulement confiance à la vie, aie une attitude positive. Prend le temps de réfléchir sur qui tu es!

Bon parcours scolaire et professionnel à toi qui lis ces lignes!

Texte de Milca-Grâce Vata-wa-vata



Un grand merci...

Avec la participation de :

Jacqueline Cardin

Dolorès Mc Auley

Lyne Raymond

Juliana Moreno

Milca-Grâce Vata-wa-vata

Tatyana Haydar

Avec le soutien financier :

CJE Anjou/Saint-Justin

Maison de jeunes d'Anjou, le Chemin faisant

Service d'aide communautaire Anjou



Quand la jeunesse part à la rencontre de la sagesse, cela laisse place à des très beaux moments.

Tatyana, Juliana et Milca ont eu la chance d'aller à la rencontre de Jacqueline, Dolorès et Lyne afin d'échanger sur leur parcours. Vous trouverez dans ce recueil leurs histoires.

