



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Elaine and Bob Howell

Submitted by St. Joseph Parish, Wabamun

In September 1993 Bob and I moved from Stony Plain area to Ascot Beach, two miles west of Wabamun. We knew with the change of communities we needed to go where the people would be, so we were delighted when we saw St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The church was old, not very large, but very neat, tidy and inviting.

The following Sunday it was announced the CWL would be having their annual fall supper and were asking for donations. I approached some ladies and said we just moved to Ascot Beach. That same Sunday Adeline came to us and said, "You are new here", we replied "Yes we are." It was so heart-warming. She passed away later on. I shall always remember her. We were beginning to become acquainted with the parishioners.

As we became more comfortable we realized most everyone sat in the same place. We chose a pew near the front as no one likes to sit in front. Three people sat in front of us, Mary, Joe and their son, Peter. Every Sunday we sat in the pew behind Mary, Joe and Peter. A while later Doug and Frances joined us. It became a given that Peter, Mary, and Joe, our family, Doug and Frances behind them, so naturally when the new church was built in 2000, we carried on the tradition!

As time passed we learned of the parish life. I joined the prayer group which met once a week. It was a most spiritual, fulfilling experience that continued for many years.

In 2001 Bob was diagnosed with leukemia. We shall be forever grateful for the prayers and masses that were said. The compassion and thoughtfulness gave us so much strength in our battle. Always I remember Walter coming to me one Sunday and telling me that he prays for Bob every day. I knew then everything would be fine.

Over the years I have been involved with catechism, altar servers and the CWL. I was Eucharistic minister for 19 years. Many of the parishioners we first met when we moved to Wabamun still attend Sunday Mass, and we still sit in the same pew.