

LINDA BUCKINGHAM CLASS OF '65

Following high school graduation I headed to Acadia University in Nova Scotia. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and worked for a short time in biochemistry and cytogenetics before returning to B. C. to study special education at UBC. After UBC I headed back to the Maritimes and taught for a few years before co-founding Brocklin Toys with my husband at the time. The business flourished but the marriage did not.

I hit the high seas with my second husband, lobstering and long-lining for a living. In the mid '80s we cashed in our chips, bought a sailboat and with kids in tow (my two from my first marriage), spent four years cruising the east coast of the U. S., the Gulf of Mexico and the northern Caribbean. If you have read "Mosquito Coast" you know the rest of that story.

My children and I washed up on B. C.'s Sunshine Coast facing a new beginning. I went back to teaching to support us, but having been bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, was soon back to being self-employed, first as a business owner (Paws to Remember), then later as co-owner (Buckingham Stencils), co-author and author.

My career path looks as though I could never hold a job, but I prefer to regard myself as someone who embraces change. Some might argue I suffer from attention deficit disorder.

Today, my husband (yes, third, if you are counting) and I live on the Sunshine Coast. My happiest times are when we are beach combing, spending time with the grandchildren, or playing in the workshop (if you see anything with a "Stick and Stones" tag on it, it's mine).

Memories of high school:

- My favourite teacher was Mr. Bennett, my Latin teacher and the sponsor teacher for the Book Store Committee. If I wanted to skip a class, all I had to do was ask Mr. Bennett for a permission slip to work in the book storage room and I always came away with what I called my "Get Out of Jail Card". I still remember Miss Nichols (she was on to me) fuming every time I handed her one of these slips.

- At lunch time my friends and I would sneak up into the attic and go through photos and student records that went back to NVHS's first graduating class. I remember looking up the file of a prominent politician at the time and none of us were impressed with his IQ score.
- Sports. I signed up for any team that would take me and I loved the thrill of the game and the sisterhood of my teammates.