

MEET JENNIFER HINCHCLIFFE



I grew up in Deal, on the South-East coast of England.

Deal is a small coastal town with a pebbly beach. It is

close to Dover with the

famous white cliffs. On a clear day you can

stand on Deal sea-front and look across the English Channel to the town of Calais. Deal is about 80 miles from London.



From an early age I wanted to be a teacher. After leaving Dover Grammar School I studied at St. Gabriel's Training College in South East London. These three years were a wonderful time of my life. I lived in a lovely college hostel and during my free time was able to go to lots of plays, concerts and dances. I remember on my first Saturday in London getting a ticket to stand in the theatre to watch Lionel Bart's musical, Oliver, which had just opened in the West End.

After graduation, I taught for four years in elementary schools in the South East of England. I always wanted to travel and thought of moving somewhere else to teach for a couple of years. People from college had travelled all over the world to teach, but all had returned to England, except for those who had moved to Canada. I originally really wanted to go to Vancouver. I was offered interviews

with various school boards in Vancouver but would have had to fly there from England at my own expense, and I just didn't have that kind of money.

Four other school boards in different parts of Canada were



suggested to me. I wrote to them all, and Edmonton Public was the first to offer me a job. So, in 1968 I came out to Edmonton to teach. My original plan was to return



home after two years. My sister followed me the next year and we've both been here ever since.

As a teacher and teacher librarian for thirty years I taught at four different elementary schools, in Delwood, Kildare, Satoo and Centennial. To increase exposure to quality literature I brought in many authors and illustrators of children's books. I was fortunate enough to share my library expertise at the district level and beyond, through organizing workshop presentations, presenting at conferences and teaching university courses. I was also selected by the Canadian Children's Book Centre of Toronto sit on the Our Choice Committee and remember reading 242 books in a hurry in two months.

I've always been interested in fitness and used to be a runner going in for races. The best one was when I ran five miles in forty minutes. I belonged to badminton and tennis clubs. I still play tennis at an Edmonton tennis club;

unfortunately it is not so easy to cover the court any more like I used to be able to do so effortlessly.

After I retired from teaching I wasn't ready to be "retired" so I went to NAIT and took the Personal Fitness Trainer program and had my own private clients for several years. Also for twelve years I taught fitness classes in low-income housing complexes for Alberta Health Services.



I love travelling and am always interested in travelling more! Going away in the winter to somewhere warm is really enticing now, especially if it involves snorkeling. I've been lucky enough to travel to much of Western Europe, the Caribbean, China, Ecuador, Peru, Cuba, Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands in the South Pacific.

Reading has always been important to me – starting with books loaned from Deal Public Library as a child. I can't imagine a life without reading. I now belong to a couple of book clubs. Some favorite books are Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese and All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. I also enjoy walking most days, attend a yoga class and, to my surprise, a really fun aquasize class. I have never liked getting my face wet and remember my mother saying that she could always tell which swimmer I was because I was the one with her neck out of the water!

In acquasize luckily I don't have to get my face wet and the group is upbeat and fun.

By chance when I was visiting a friend in Rochester, New York, I went to her church which happened to be a Unitarian Church. I very much enjoyed the service. Then about six weeks later I went to a Celebration of Life at our church. After these two experiences I decided I could be happy here. I especially enjoy the services and the wide community of people. I joined the Unitarian church in 1997, the year before Brian came. I can't believe it was that long ago. I'm the person who arranges the Fun Jobs, like coffee maker, ushering, and greeting. I'm not enthusiastic about committees but was very skillfully finessed into being on the Church Services Committee.



I've had a very happy, rewarding life, full of adventures such as coming to Canada, teaching English for Pueblo Ingles in Salamanca, Spain, and more recently working on the federal census in Iqaluit last February. During my flight to Iqaluit I had to travel wearing all of my outdoor clothes in case my luggage didn't arrive with me. I was prepared!

I look forward to more adventures and rewarding experiences with friends and extended family.