

Highlands Gal

At underwater hockey they used to call me Pizza Pattie,
because I ordered the pizza we enjoyed after our games.

Sometimes I'm Peripatetic Pattie,
with a dozen things to do in a day, many of them simultaneously;

or Pedantic Pattie,
when I'm expounding on a nuance of word use or a fine point of grammar.

Most often, though, I'm Passionate Pattie: passionate about my work as a personal historian,
passionate about my Highlands community, about dog training, local food, dancing, social justice,
an endless list of other interests.

In the coming months, I hope to share some of my passion with you.

I hope to enlist you in my crusade to raise awareness of the value of personal history, the importance of saving the lives and stories of the so-called "ordinary" people who are the foundation of our society — our mothers and grandmothers, our sisters and ourselves (fathers, grandfathers and brothers as well, of course!).

It's the most wonderful experience imaginable to work with someone to reveal the drama, comedy and tragedy that make up a person's life, and make that person's life interesting. It is profoundly moving to know that wide-eyed children, not yet born, will get to know their great-grandma, learn about the world she lived in and discover their own roots, through the stories we preserve today.

I hope to interest you in what's going on in the Highlands, that lovely, progressive, but largely unknown rural municipality that occupies the southwest corner of the Saanich Peninsula — you know, the one with the public washroom made out of cob and



Mary Lake
Courtesy: Mary Lake Conservancy

the campaign to save a little lake surrounded by forest as an addition to our park system (www.savemarylake.com).

The Highlands is home to a community of passionate, informed, interesting (and sometimes eccentric) people, habitat for an amazing variety of wildlife and plantlife, has a fascinating history and is one of the most beautiful places on earth. I look forward to sharing its stories with you.

And I hope to hear from you about your passions, your causes, the things that move your soul and make you feel that there's purpose in your life, and life in your purpose. Please share your stories, your hopes and dreams, your struggles and your triumphs, with us on our website. We will all be the richer for it.

I am an Island Gal, born and raised on the Peninsula. I spent two years in Winnipeg as a grad student, couldn't wait to get back home, and will never leave the Island again (not for long, anyway).

I'm looking forward to this celebration of Island Gals, to learning about the lives and interests of other contributors, and to getting to know you, our readers.

It's going to be an exciting journey!



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awareness