

## EARLY MEMORIES OF A FIRSTBORN CULLEN

### *St. Patrick St. and Electric St.*

Vague memories of Grandpa's engine  
My first wagon being stolen  
Learning to tie shoelaces the Cullen way  
Folding the toilet paper before use  
Playing with Cookie.

### *Columbus Street*

Mrs. Chartrand  
Living beside the tracks and watching the trains  
Short pants  
Seeing War of the Worlds at the Eastview Theatre  
Walking down the tracks to school  
Too shy to talk in Grade 1  
Eileen Bones - first kiss  
Miss Dillon  
Cookies and milk at Granny Cullen's  
Glenn McSweeney and his brothers  
Larry's 4th birthday party when Liz was born  
Uncle Denny's wedding  
The Rideau River floods.

### *Living at Grandpa Turner's*

Grandma's hair braids and bun  
The stairway to upstairs  
The old kitchen stove  
The wooden garden swing and the poplars  
Grandpa kicking me.

### *Courtice Street*

The Green's, Black's, White's and Brown's  
Gloria Boyce, her boy's bob and her ugly boxer  
The Fuoco's; Mary Lynn Turner  
Walking down Kilborn Ave in the mud  
The tar roads  
Whitehill Glade  
The pink stucco house  
The blackberry bushes behind the house  
Helping at Heron's farm  
Watching the water tower being built  
Playing hockey at Alta Vista School  
Shit Creek

The Strand and Mayfair Theatres  
Reading the newspaper and dictionary  
Eating bread, soda crackers and honey sandwiches  
My first wallet with \$1.35 in it  
Dad riding home on my first bicycle  
Falling off the bike and gashing my knee  
Taking piano lessons from Sister \_\_\_\_\_.

*The Finnerty's- Mary, John Joseph, Christopher  
and Catherine*

Mrs. Finnerty playing the harmonica at school on St.  
Patrick's Day  
Being beat up by Catherine  
Christopher going to Mass and communion every  
day - then stealing lunch at Gagnon's  
Kneeling on the rocks to say the rosary outside their  
tar paper shack.

*Our vacation at Trout Lake*

The big wood stove; the big pines  
Losing Dad's fishing rod in the lake  
Trolling for the rod - back and forth.

*Grandpa and Granny Cullen*

Sunday afternoon drives  
Knowing every street east of Bank Street  
Double dips at Mutual Dairy for 5 cents  
Sunday picnics with Grandpa and Granny Cullen  
Uncle Joe's farm  
Grandpa's cookie and candy samples.

Watching six hand euchre with Granny and Grandpa  
and the Dolman's  
Granny accusing Jack Dolman of cheating  
Jack Dolman cheating  
Aunt Mae; Bill and Helena;  
Uncle Jack's horse barn in the city; his '51 Meteor  
Mother's love for Granny

The Queen Mary Rd. house  
The old living and dining room furniture  
The ice box and the ice man delivering  
Driving to Uncle Pat's in Cowansville  
Grandpa's death when Dad was away fishing  
Living with Granny - a long six months!  
All Bran for breakfast  
The MacNabs  
Donnie MacNab dying from a blood clot.

*Lennox Street*

Dad as project manager  
Moving to the big house  
Dad working on Saturday mornings  
Mother digging in the clay  
Mother complaining of the clay!  
Mother's peonies and hydrangeas  
The automatic humidifier  
Building the rec room  
Liz's bedroom wall drawings.

The Sullivan's and their old car  
Mother's love for Keith Sullivan  
Watching TV at Uncle Nelson's  
The birth of Nelson's first boy.

Our first hi-fi - Cookie's Buddy Knox LP  
LP's, 78's, 45's  
John playing Happy Birthday Baby - over & over  
Elvis Presley, Ricky Nelson, Buddy Holly  
The new TV - Ed Sullivan and Bonanza.

The Grierson's, Watson's, Mitchell's, Chaput's  
Stanton Mulvihill, Lynne Claremont, Carol Gromoll  
Lesley Thompson  
The Archambault's, the Jennings'  
The Hart's.

Our home made kitchen table  
Sunday pot roast  
Spaghetti with butter  
Making doughnuts  
Mother's lemon meringue pie  
Toasted bacon sandwiches.

Mother's sewing prowess  
Painting the dining room furniture  
Dad's poker nights  
Dad & mom's parties  
Smokey playing the piano.

Practicing the piano at 6:30am  
Larry and John playing the guitar  
Cookie washing dishes, me drying.

Mother's love for kittens and puppies  
Marcus Aurelius and Marco Polo  
Buying mother Jungle Fire perfume.

First golf game at 12 at Gatineau with dad, uncle  
Jack and Peter Hart - shot 135  
First cigarette while babysitting at Mitchell's - got  
sick, had to go home  
Skiing at Rockliffe - Dad to the rescue of the rich  
lady  
Dad's jump stop-turns  
The old wood skis.

The new church  
Altar boy at Immaculate Heart  
Friday night CYO  
The play Julius Caesar.

Pitching baseball at Alta Vista & Cunningham  
Pat Murphy, Bob Landon, Terry McCoy  
Judy Costello and Donna  
My first party - at Terry McCoy's - dancing in the  
dark to Love is a Many Splendored Thing  
Jiving at Alta Vista Rec.

Terry's christening - Teresa Deborah  
Julie's birth - the girls in the class thought she was mine  
Taking care of the Mutt!

***St. Pat's***

Father Gus trying to get us to his room to "talk us into becoming priests"  
Brother Megannety cracking me with his knuckles  
Hank Conway and Father Cavanagh  
Getting the strap for no reason  
Watching the football team  
My essay on the football season  
Mr. Mulroney and Latin class  
Leaving St. Pat's to go to Glebe.

***Glebe***

Going to school with girls  
Liked the school so much it took 2 years to do grade 13  
Gary Chalmers and his red & white Pontiac convertible  
Gene Ross, Janet Williams, the Ballantyne twins  
Elected class president  
Mr Anabel and math class  
Biology - dissecting the cat  
Mr. Whittle - failing English 7 of 8 times.

Jean Touhey being raffled off by the boys  
Marnie Corbett and her father's big Dodge  
Scratching the Dodge at the AutoSky  
Our graduation party at Rideau Lake - food poisoned.  
Cookie's boyfriends - Gary Chalmers & Ronnie Byrnes  
Watching Ronnie Byrnes score 50 points  
The pep rallies after school  
First beer - at 16 - the Bytown Inn with John Goodwin  
The Commerce girls - Ughh!

### ***Jobs***

Lugging six quarts of milk for Neil Sheffield  
Doing a 360 in the milk truck on Alta Vista Drive in  
winter

#### **Babysitting**

Paper route down Russell Road - 25 papers for  
\$5/week

Packing inserts at the Journal after school.

Working at the Hunt Club - learning to play golf and  
dealing with people

Don Renaud, Gerry MacPhail, Harry McPhee

First golf clubs - Spalding Top Flites

Asst. Pro card - free golf at the Royal Ottawa

Deciding golf would not be a good career -

One of the best decisions I ever made

Linda Draper and her mother

Dad loved her mother's car

Ken Clarke - my only cheap boss ever

Quitting the Hunt Club over \$10 per week.

Joining the Met for the summer

Slow flow at the Government Tourist Bureau

Selling socks at Kritsch's and Freiman's.

### ***The '59 Ford***

Going to Toronto to buy Dad's first car

Dad teaching me to drive - took two 60-day permits

First night in the car dragging down Carling Ave.

Watching the submarine races at Champlain Bridge

First accident - not my fault, but I was not where I  
was supposed to be.

### ***Lac Cayamant***

The dusty drive in to the lake

Kazabazua - the longest bar in the Gatineau

The polyethylene tent - watching the stars

Building the cottages

Dad's love for roughing it

Mother's love for roughing it

Steve and John fishing in the lake

Steve's bee sting swollen eyes

All the relatives at the lake.

### ***Off to University***

**Dave Preston, Jim Kealey, Glen McSweeney,  
Richard Pharand and the boys from Sudbury  
Peter Devine**

**Playing hearts for 1 cent a point progressive  
Broomball, golf team, social times**

**Going to the Ottawa House**

**Three fast years**

**Graduation Day at the Capital**

**Graduation party with the boys**

**It snowed on May 11**

**Playboy centrefolds left for mother**

**Doing 50mph down the cottage road in Glen's '48  
Chev**

**The Cayamant church and the girls.**

### ***Lessons Learned***

**There is strength in numbers**

**Patience is definitely a virtue**

**Reputation is an important long term asset.**

**Develop relationships with people of top character**

**Treat everyone fairly**

**Be loyal to those who count**

**Give something back if you are able.**

**Sometimes one look is worth a thousand words**

**Listening is often more beneficial than talking**

**A slow yes is better than a fast no**

**Always look forward - yesterday's news is old news**

**Sleep on big decisions; spend little time on others**

**Never second guess decisions**

**Big problems are often small ones in reality.**

**Hard work, perseverance and good timing usually  
pay off in the long run.**

### ***Epilogue***

**Good memories, good upbringing and lessons  
learned -- good start for the real world.**

***June 1996***