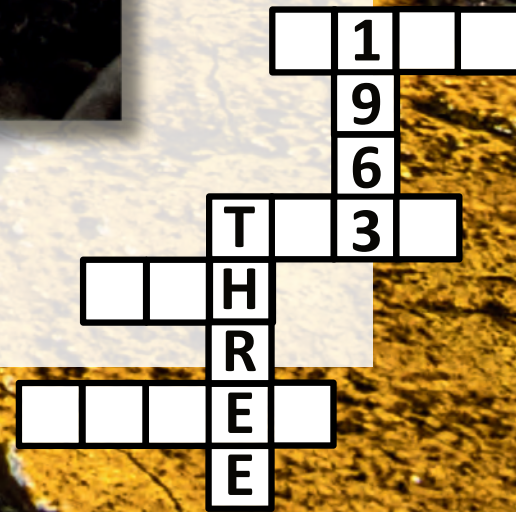




Adrian Edwin Brammer



By the time Adrian was a year old, he had already travelled farther than many people in Ontario have travelled in their entire lifetime! Born on June 11, 1963 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, he would move first to Barrie, Ontario, then to Orillia and finally Warminster. He has no memories of living in Barrie and very few memories of his early years in Orillia – the only one memory being his older sister, Susan, walking him to school to Regent Park where he went to kindergarten.

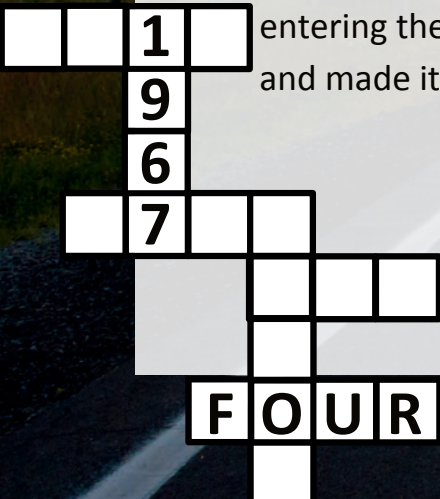




Family 1967

The move to Warminster became a place of adventure for Adrian's childhood. The family enjoyed the quirks of living in a century home. The home was heated by a Franklin fireplace with multiple chimneys to heat individual rooms. Each room that had a chimney, had a filled water bucket and rags to cool the surface of the chimney in the event of a creosote fire – not an unusual event! In addition, there were secret rooms that had been completely closed off by later renovations. These were perfect hiding places for Christmas gifts – something Adrian and his younger brother Ashley discovered one morning while waiting for the school bus. They were able to get into the room but realized that the door swung shut, leaving them with no way out except to remove the plastic covering the window and re-

entering the house. Thankfully, they were successful in hiding their escapade and made it to the school bus on time.



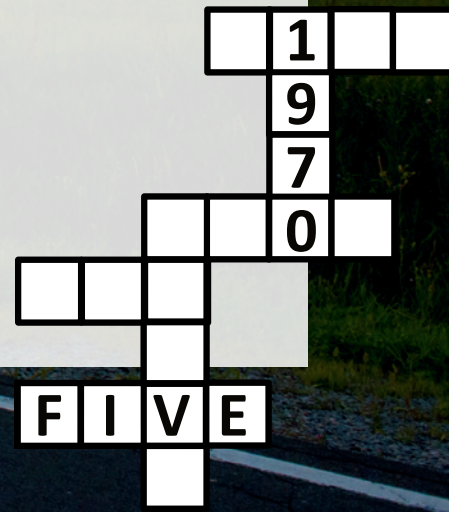
On the farm
1969



Life in Warminster was full of adventure. The family was on a hobby farm, which meant summers full of camping and adventure. Dogs were part of the family and the possibilities for adventure were endless. Winters were more austere with trips to the coal cellar to get coal for the Franklin stove. The cellar was a scary place and young Adrian dreaded his trips to that dank, dark place.



1970 Farmhouse



Adrian's favourite dinner was simple – he loved homemade burgers. He also loved peanut butter and jelly sandwiches!

Adrian's dad came to Canada with four trade certificates. This made him a valuable employee – and eventually, he worked at Dorr-Oliver Long as a supervisor until he was in his early sixties. His mom was a more lenient parent with the children; his father was pragmatic with his perpetual warning that if Adrian couldn't find something to do, he would certainly find something!

Adrian's mom secured a position at Orillia's Soldier's Memorial Hospital as a Lab Technician – a job she was able to grandfather as preparation for this position later required special training. She worked there for 30 years and "retired" to a job in the Nurses' residence attached to the hospital. One of her prized possessions was her Riley car. She was so homesick for England that Adrian's dad found her the car and basically hounded the person until they finally sold it to him.

There were few traditions to Adrian's recollection growing up. Although, he recalled his fondest Christmas memory as a child was finding a stocking at the foot of his bed on Christmas morning. His favourite Christmas present growing up was a Red Rider BB gun, just like in the movie "A Christmas Story," which also is one of his favourite movies.

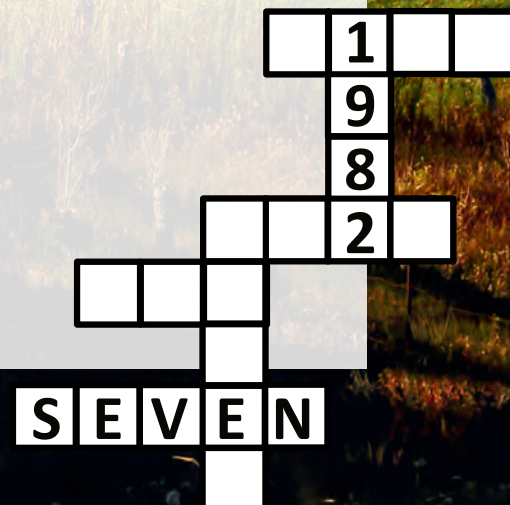
SIX

Adrian completed elementary school at Warminster and went on to Park Street High School. His favourite subjects were Canadian history, automotive shop and woodworking. He especially enjoyed the stories in History class of the early Canadian explorers. He also enjoyed shop class because he loved doing anything where he could work with his hands.

Adrian set his sights on a career in nursing – seeing that this would be a career in which he could advance. Unfortunately, he struggled with Anatomy, Physiology and Biology courses. He dropped out of nursing school and went back to high school to take Biology, Math and Physics. He was later successful in certifying as a Registered Practical Nurse following the program at Georgian College. He then secured a job at Waypoint, where he worked for 32 years. He happily retired in 2021; he was so looking forward to the retired life!



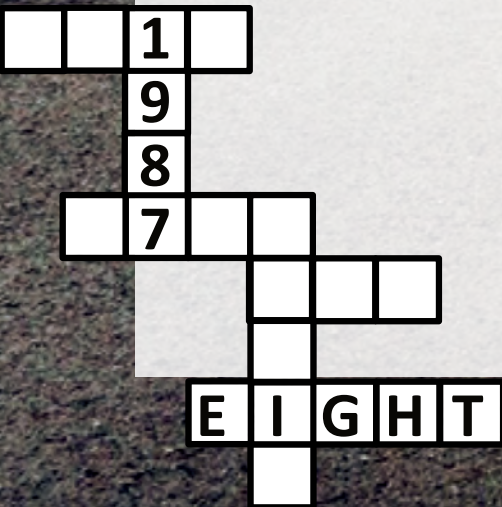
Adrian, 19 years old



With the help of mutual friends, Adrian met his wife Maureen in 1982. Each was told that the other was “interested” in dating the other – which led to a first date, followed by five more years of dating! They were married in 1987 – a marriage that brought them two children and years of happiness together.



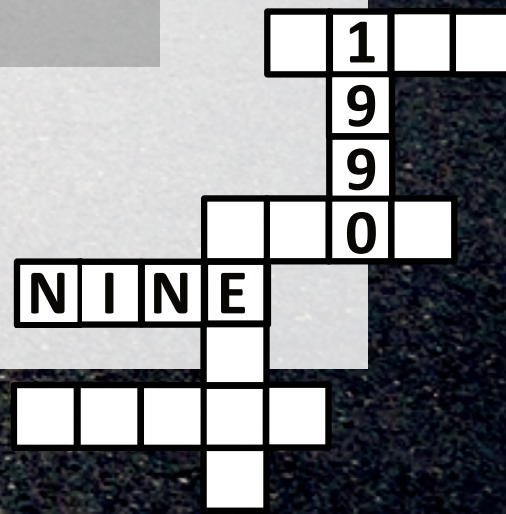
Adrian and Maureen
Married, 1987



Adrian was clear that he has no regrets about his choice of a life partner. Their first born named Andrew was born in 1989, and their second child Katherine followed in 1992. Andrew is now a Master Corporal in the Canadian Military near Angus, Ontario. Katherine is an Office Manager in Ottawa, Ontario.



Adrian and Andrew, 1990





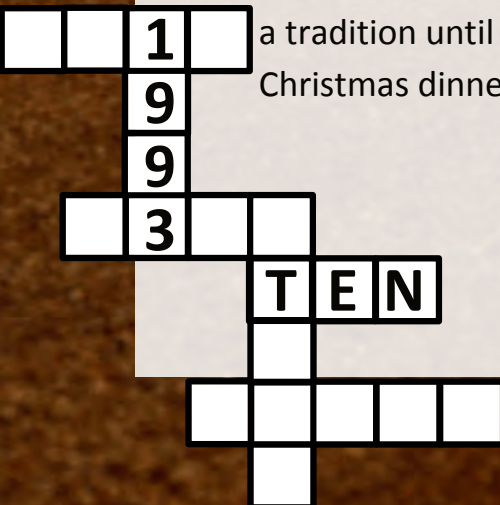
Adrian and Katherine
1993

Adrian's older sister, Susan, had returned to the United Kingdom to live. His brother Ashley lives in Barrie and works as a caretaker for the Presbyterian Church in both Barrie and Orillia.

Adrian's family grew exponentially after marrying Maureen! He had met some of his extended family on a trip back to the United Kingdom in 1970, but neither of his parents had relatives who moved to Canada. While he lived far apart from his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins, Maureen had a large extended family in Canada. There were even many friends in Canada who were called "Auntie" and "Uncle" for many years by Adrian.

Christmas for Adrian and Maureen had many new traditions! Starting with the real Christmas tree. The annual Christmas Tree Hunt concluded with a chili dinner, followed by the commencement of the first in a series of Christmas movies to be watched "in order". A large family Christmas dinner with Maureen's family was

a tradition until COVID-19 changed that. Now the families all do their own Christmas dinners.





Adrian and Maureen
Christmas 2019

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ELEVEN

Vacations for the young Brammer family were all about camping and began in their 1968 camper. It was important, however, that Andrew and Katherine experience world travel while in high school. The family saved enough money to send Andrew to Greece and Turkey for his school trip. Katherine was able to travel to Switzerland, Italy and France. Both have enjoyed travel in their adult lives, as well. The other major trip was to a family reunion in Massachusetts in 2001.



Camping, canoeing, fishing, nature and riding his motorcycle were the hobbies that Adrian enjoyed the most. During his last five-day solo camping trip, he suffered a sprained ankle – after which Maureen put her foot down and

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insisted he would have no more solo camping trips in the future.

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Unfortunately, the buddy with whom he went on his next camping trip also suffered a leg injury. Adrian always knew the risks of wilderness camping, but

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he loved it nonetheless.

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T W E L V E



Camping with Rob
2000



2003

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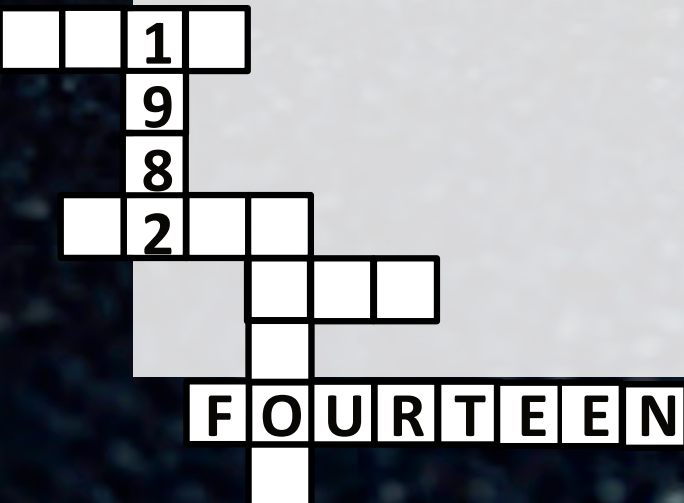
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THIRTEEN



Cars and vehicles would play a big part in Adrian's interest. He bought his first Dodge Challenger at age 18, without having enough money to buy the insurance! Following his first Challenger, he purchased two more for parts to keep his first car on the road. It was always his favourite car.



Many years after this car, and soon after his diagnosis, he found a Dodge Challenger for sale online. The owners agreed to hold it for them to come and see it. The owners were grateful to find a buyer who was so appreciative of their car. Adrian describes them as “wonderful people” and “so understanding.” On their return home from purchasing the Challenger, Adrian and Maureen re-created their first date at McDonald’s in their “new” Challenger!



New Challenger

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FIFTEEN

Adrian owned many motorcycles, ending with a Harley Davidson. When he could no longer ride, he sold it to his cousin, knowing that his cousin would appreciate it as much as he had.

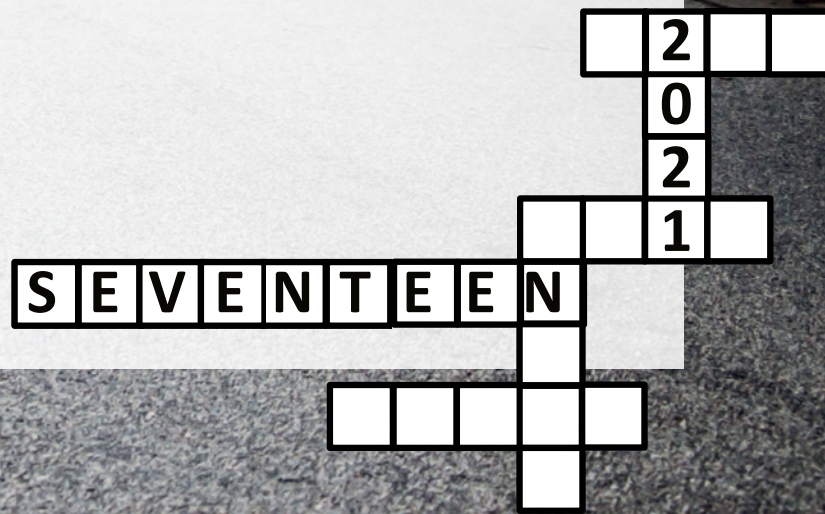


SIXTEEN

In addition to raising children, Adrian's wife Maureen worked at Metro until she retired. She stayed there until Adrian's health deteriorated to a place where she wanted to be with him at home.

Adrian was diagnosed with cancer on July 4, 2021. He had gone to the Emergency Room at OSMH with excruciating back pain the day before. The attending physician offered him pain medication and topical creams which led to no relief. He returned to emerge the next day, on July 4th, where another attending physician ordered many tests which later proved valuable in his cancer diagnosis. This expedited the most appropriate treatment. Adrian had suffered from heart problems for eleven years at this point, but he proceeded to begin an aggressive treatment plan for his cancer. Radiation seemed to be helpful at first, but the second round didn't give the result hoped for. Overall, six rounds of chemotherapy offered little progress. Adrian applied to be enrolled in a clinical trial for treatment but didn't qualify to be a part of it. In the meantime, he suffered a stroke and was not able to continue therapy.

Life today is a celebration of the simple things; drinking coffee and watching chipmunks gather seeds for the winter makes for a good day. Adrian reflects on his life and offers these words: "The most important success in my life is that my children have turned out to be good human beings." He credits teamwork with Maureen to be the secret to that success.





Adrian, Maureen, Andrew,
and Katherine
September, 2023

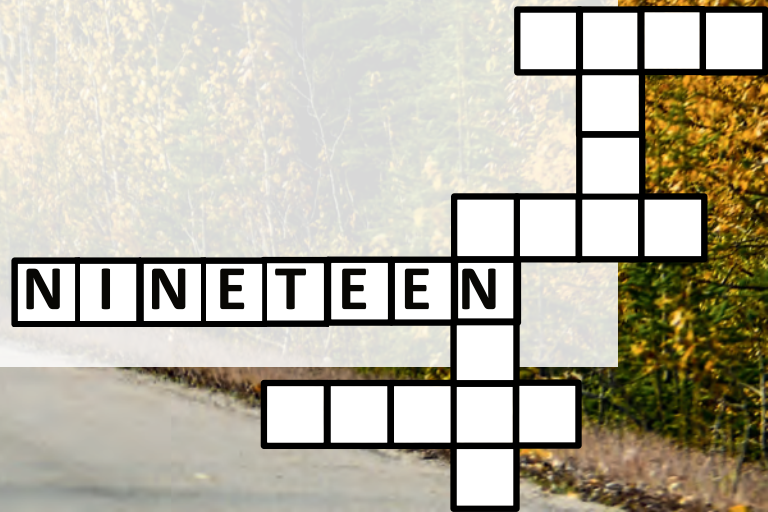


If he could have had a different career, Adrian would have worked outdoors using tools. While he thoroughly enjoyed his nursing career, he also gazes at the road less travelled, somewhat longingly.

The people whose lives he felt he had the most impact on were those he worked with. He is proud of the initiatives he had at Waypoint. He liked the responsibility that nursing offered him. He was part of conferences in both Canada and the United States and felt that he was deeply a part of something that was larger than just his work at Waypoint.

He believes that there is a “Greater Being” that watches over humanity and guides us, but he isn’t a part of a church. He states, “There is always someone worse off than you are. Enjoy life and feel lucky to be alive.”

Finally, when asked if he had the power to change anything in his life, Adrian said, “No more cancer!” Adrian would love to have more years ahead of him, and in the same breath, he acknowledged that he is grateful for his rich and varied life.



It is not often the people who have been married for over forty years are still deeply in love and committed to supporting each other in the difficult times of life's journey. Adrian and Maureen are a wonderful example of this. It was an honour and privilege to meet with them in their home and help them recount parts of Adrian's life journey. Thank you for this rare opportunity.

Let each morn be better than its eve and each morrow richer than its yesterday.
(Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 138)

~ Susan, Hospice Orillia Volunteer



Adrian's story was captured utilizing the Footprints Program at Hospice Orillia.
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