

# National Siblings Day

Although National Siblings Day is purported to be an American thing, I am taking it international today, making it a Canadian tradition as well. It seems that large families are a thing of the past. However, when I was young it was much more common. Most of my friends and relatives were members of a large family. This was mine..



In keeping with the times, (but not with the Jones', that was something different) my poor mother had six children within eight years, as many other mothers did then. My siblings were my first friends, teachers, co-conspirators, adversaries, and sometimes even (so we thought at the time) enemies. I cannot imagine being raised in a different dynamic. I am convinced that being raised in such a tight environment turned us all into hard-working, ambitious, successful adults. The fact that money was tight and very frugally spent also had a huge

impact on the adults we have become.



This picture was taken (almost) 24 years ago, the summer our mother was diagnosed with and died of lung cancer. Living far away from each other, this was the last time all six of us siblings have been together. We came the closest last summer when five of six of us got together to celebrate my eldest son's wedding.

This next picture is of our extended families (minus one sister and hers) at my son's wedding.

