

# Elder Profile: Joseph and Susan Couchie

This month, we have another interesting couple: Joseph and Susan Couchie. I'd like to thank Joseph and Susan for participating in the Elder Profile series and sharing their story with us.

Susan's maiden name is Chief. She is one of nine children born to Mary Petrant and Jacob Chief. Her grandparents were Nancy and Jean Chief, and William Petrant. Susan was born on February 11, 1915, in Notre-Dame-du-Nord. Her siblings are Victor, Albert, John, Sherman, George, Claire, Verna, and Mable. Those remaining are Susan, John, Sherman, George, and Claire.

Susan was raised in Notre-Dame-du-Nord. Starting at the age of 6, she went to school off and on, whenever she was able to. Her family worked in lumber camps and did a lot of trapping.

Joseph Couchie was born on April 21, 1904, to John Couchie and Marion Duchesno. He was one of nine children: Catherine, Nancy, Madeline, Ernest, John, Frank, Valentine, Bill, and Joseph - with only Madeline and Joseph remaining. Joseph worked as a guide at the government park from a very young age.

Joseph and Susan met at Bear Island Reserve. They were later married on January 1, 1941, at St. Leonard's Church in Duchesnay by Father L. Porchon.

Joseph joined the army in October of 1941 and was discharged in March of the following year. He worked out of his home as a mechanic - a trade he learned on his own - all his life, working on his boat and car motors. He also worked at seasonal jobs at different lodges in Temagami.

Joseph and Susan built their first home in 1947 on the same lot where they reside today. Their new home was built in 1985.

When asked about his younger days as a child, Joseph told me that his family would farm all summer and store food for the winter. "Life was harder back then," he said. "Today, we live like millionaires."

Susan worked as a housekeeper in the custodian department at St. Joseph's Hospital for 22 years before retiring in 1980.

Joseph and Susan like to keep to themselves. They are very outdoorsy people, travelling to different small lakes in the area with their boat and motor in tow, trying their luck fishing. They also keep busy enjoying gardening and snowmobiling.

