

Elder Profile: Joseph Stevens

Joe Stevens was born to Joseph Stevens and Mary Louise Green on July 27, 1914, at their home near Garden Village (known as Stevensville). His maternal grandparents are Joseph and Sophie Green, and his paternal grandparents are Joseph Stevens & Harrier LeClaire.

Joe was one of 13 children in his family. Four children died as infants: Frederick was 2 days old, Alusia was 4 years old, Doreen was 1 month old, and Thomas was 2 years old. Four other brothers and sisters died as adults: Doris, at 18 years; John, at 38 years; Philius, at 18 years; and Exilia, at 54 years of age.

Those remaining are Mary Blaker, Joe, Martha Clemens, Gilbert Stevens, and Alexina Roy.

As most families did in those days, Joe's family travelled a lot between Smooth Rock Falls, Dokis, and the French River.

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Because of the family travelling, Joe was only able to attend school for 2 weeks.

Joe later married Yvonne Larivierre in Dokis Bay. Joe and Yvonne lived in Dokis Bay, at Wigwam Point, at Lunge Lodge in the summer, at Hardy Bay, and Sand Bay. Joe and Yvonne had one daughter, Jane (now Dechene) of Sturgeon Falls, and separated early in their marriage.

Joe has worked at Keystone Lodge for 36 years and worked as a guide for most of his life.

Today, Joe has three grandchildren. His hobbies when he was younger were hunting, hockey, baseball, and making snowshoes and axe handles. He now enjoys travelling and has been on tours to Holy Lands (Jerusalem) in 1988 and 1989, and is planning to go again in October of this year.

Thanks a lot, Joe, for sharing your story.

