

MARIETTE D.

Mariette was born in Brussels, Belgium, in 1935. She was the youngest of 11 children. Her father died when she was one-and-a-half years old. Her mother ran a grocery store. In an attempt to keep the entire family safe, Mariette's mother registered them as Jews at the police station as she had been ordered to do by the occupying German forces. As tensions mounted, the family attempted to flee to Paris, but was turned back as the city was already under siege.

Mariette's brothers first took her to live with a family in a small town, where she attended a Catholic school and church. She was then moved around to many different places in order to escape the Gestapo, who were looking for people in hiding. On her seventh birthday, a woman took her to meet with her mother. Upon arriving at the meeting spot, Mariette saw her mother and brother being forced into a truck by German soldiers. The woman grabbed Mariette and turned her around to walk the other way. This was the last time Mariette saw her mother and brother.

Mariette was placed in a convent, but was denounced by one of the nuns. She continued to be moved to different places throughout the war. While her sister was staying at an orphanage called Le Home des Hirondelles, she discovered that Mariette was at another orphanage nearby. The two sisters were soon reunited, and later found some of their other siblings. After the war, Mariette and her siblings decided to move to Canada together.

Mariette arrived in Canada on November 17, 1947, when she was 12 years old. She was placed with a foster family and separated from her siblings. Mariette had a difficult time adjusting to her new life in Canada and ran away 12 times during her first year. Mariette eventually attended Point Grey High School in Vancouver, where she excelled in sports and music. She later graduated from Magee High School, and then went to business school. Mariette met her husband at the University of British Columbia, had three daughters and worked in the construction business.

SEE THE TESTIMONY RECORDS OF [MARIETTE D., 1984](#) AND [MARIETTE D., 2010](#) IN THE VHEC'S COLLECTIONS FOR RELATED HOLDINGS AND FOR INTERVIEW DETAILS.