



## Suzanne “Sue” Nicholson

(1955 - )

Suzanne Nicholson was born January 23, 1955 in Marathon, Ontario, the youngest of four siblings. Her parents set an example of being “always the most kind and caring people; they cared about others and they would go out of their way helping anybody that they could.”

She decided to quit school after grade 10 to marry a boy she met while acting in one of these plays. He was helping with the lighting. She says that she “just somehow knew that he was the right person for me and I knew that if I let him walk out of my life, he’d be gone forever, so...I took the chance.” Although her teachers thought she was foolish and her family generally didn’t support the idea, Sue and Barry were wed in 1971. The relationship changed Sue completely, and she feels that she would not be where she is today without Barry.

Two children joined the nest – Shanna in 1977 and Rhett in 1980. “Motherhood matured me beyond comprehension. When you have children, you have to give up *everything* for them and it has benefitted me in every way.” She wanted her children to be curious about life, so from a very young age she tried to stimulate them and give them as many learning experiences as possible; she taught them to be kind to people, have compassion for others and not to be selfish. In fact, she feels that her biggest accomplishment to date is “raising two children to be productive members of society; to be their own special and unique people.” She is now a grandmother, and has a very special relationship with them that is mutually enjoyable.

Sue went to work for Kings Press in 1989, but the business was sold to Mission Printing and she stayed on as Front End Manager until they closed down. She then started thinking about self-employment – something that would allow her to be near her children. She knew the printing business except for running the presses, but she figured she could operate photocopiers, so in 1996 she established Sue’s Place, borrowing \$2000 from her parents to finance the start up. Her motto was: *give people good service, at a good price, as fast as possible.*

As a business owner who handles all aspects of management now assisted by her son Rhett, Sue has little time to be out in the community as a visible volunteer. Instead, she generously contributes by donating her time and design expertise to non-profits, sometimes charging little or nothing for their printing. Sue believes in helping others as much as possible, to pay life forward. She recognizes the fact that she has been well looked after and loved all her life, “so I just want to pass it on...”

In 2011 Sue’s Copy Place received a Business Excellence Award for “Their compassion and passion to build a strong community” by balancing profit with exceptional customer service and recognizing that building others business is vital to the community.<sup>1</sup> If you visit Sue’s Copy Place website <http://suescopy.com/index.html>, you can read “Love Notes” from her customers – a testimony to just how special Sue is.

<sup>1</sup>. *Mission City Record*, November 3, 2011

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