



Wayne's Blast from the Past

As I reflect back on this day to the events, people and things that have helped create who and what I am, I sit here with a radiant smile on my face. It was just a few months ago I received an email that simply stated, Wayne, where are you???????

For most of us, we can count on two hands or maybe even a few toes, the people who are true friends in our lives. Today in my blast from the past, I wish to talk about one of those close people that have been a friend for many years.

I have known this person since the days of tie dye shirts, bell bottom jeans and bandanas. Holy cow, I wore those items just yesterday. Oh well, once a hippie, always a hippie. Anyhow, it was back in the later sixties that Michelle came into my life. I had moved to small town Ontario, Canada with my parents and as a teenager this became a brand new adventure. I had always lived in larger cities but never in rural Canada before.

I was used to moving a lot as my father was in the military so I knew that I would make new friends as usual. It was just part of the lifestyle that I was well accustomed to by the early stages of my being. There was a new house, a new school,

new surroundings and the newest adventure of my life just beginning.

It did not take too long to get into the swing of things in this two horse town and within no time I knew just about everyone around. That was really not saying much as it was a small place of under 10 thousand people. Remember this was the late sixties and the effect of being open, promoting peace and love, still infiltrated no where town, Canada.



Anyhow, you get the picture, now back to Michelle. I really for the life of me can not remember the exact moment we got to know each other than it just happened. It is funny how events just happen in our life that changes things forever. I was with people and had a girlfriend, she was with her friends and had a boyfriend and our paths just

crossed. It could have been a party or dance or at the local watering hole. No matter how or what, we ended up speaking and speaking some more and then doing the double date thing and then and then.... We as individuals were just working on the friendship thing. We made a point early in our relation that this is what it would be, friends. Not that we did not try to move past friendship to a male/female relationship. It was just never in the cards for us.

We had hundreds of adventures together or with our group of friends, some over the top astounding, a few heart breaking ones and some literally mind blowing funny. If we had written a book on our fun, it would literally be volumes in length.

Some of those escapades may show up here in the future but this is an article about friendship, and relationships.

To let you guys know how far our friendship evolved, I was asked to be the best man at her wedding. What a treat that was, my best friend, getting married to another best friend at the time. Party, party, party time it was.

As with life, everything in that moment of time seemed to change. They were now married and moving away to another town. I was getting ready to head off to college and as sudden as the past few years started, it seemed to come to a shattering end. Little did I know how wrong I really was? Even though there were hundreds of miles between us, the phone calls continued. We met at home in that same rural Ontario town or visited each other several times a year.

As time progressed, they had a life to create and so did I, so we slowly drifted apart. The visits grew less and so did the phone calls. Deep down I knew that the base of friendship we created through that earlier on, open and honest communication would end up being our strength.

Through our own personal demons and life situations we both incurred a lot of contrast in our lives. What endured, was us touching base with each other, every few years to catch up and to fall right back into what we had originally manifested all those years ago. Every two, three or four years this magical connection would revive itself, with the full knowledge that it may or may not continue in that moment.

Given the total ease by which we created this friendship and having no pre conceived ideas about how or what direction our friendship should take, it has endured almost 40 years.

So, when an email came through a few months ago that simply stated, "Wayne, where are you?" a smile crossed my face. I knew that it was Michelle, my life long friend.

You know how it is when you think of someone and feel really good inside, you know what it feels like to be able to pick up the phone and just speak your mind as if you just spoke to them yesterday or just call and drop by for a coffee without a reason to do so. This is what Michelle is to me, a true friend that accepts me without question, always lets me speak my mind, never judges me and is always there for my morale sanity when and if needed.

What I have really taken away from our friendship is that, I can be who I am with all my bad jokes and stupid life choices and still know that she is always there for me. To me this is what true friendship is all about.

Michelle, I know you will be reading this and let me say this for the whole world to know. I could not have encountered a finer human being in my life. Through all of our long evenings of conversation, through our non communicative times, to all the adventures we have had together, I wish to say a gigantic thank you for being a part of me. I appreciate you more than words could ever speak.

From my heart to yours, feel the love baby.....

Peace and Love
Wayne