

The Dream Girls – Janice Hunter's first novel

Looking Back

Lyle Carter



An interesting conversation touched on writing, novels and dreams during a visit to the Upper Stewiacke home of Rick and Janice Hunter.

"I probably always thought about writing a book," Janice said. "In looking back to when I was around 10 years of age, this was on my mind even then."

After living in Upper Stewiacke until age two, Janice, the daughter of Eldon and Jessie Geddes, experienced family moves to Dean Settlement and then Dartmouth.

Following school at Dartmouth High, she attended Dartmouth Vocational School to take secretarial courses.

"I've written in a way all my life," she said. "Back in those days when in school I loved it anytime that we were assigned to write a composition. I recall as a teenager climbing trees with my notebook and writing short stories."

"But life takes over and a person has to get a real job and make a living. The first book that I wrote took 17 years to write because of other

commitments in my life. I titled it *New Beginnings*. It was never published."

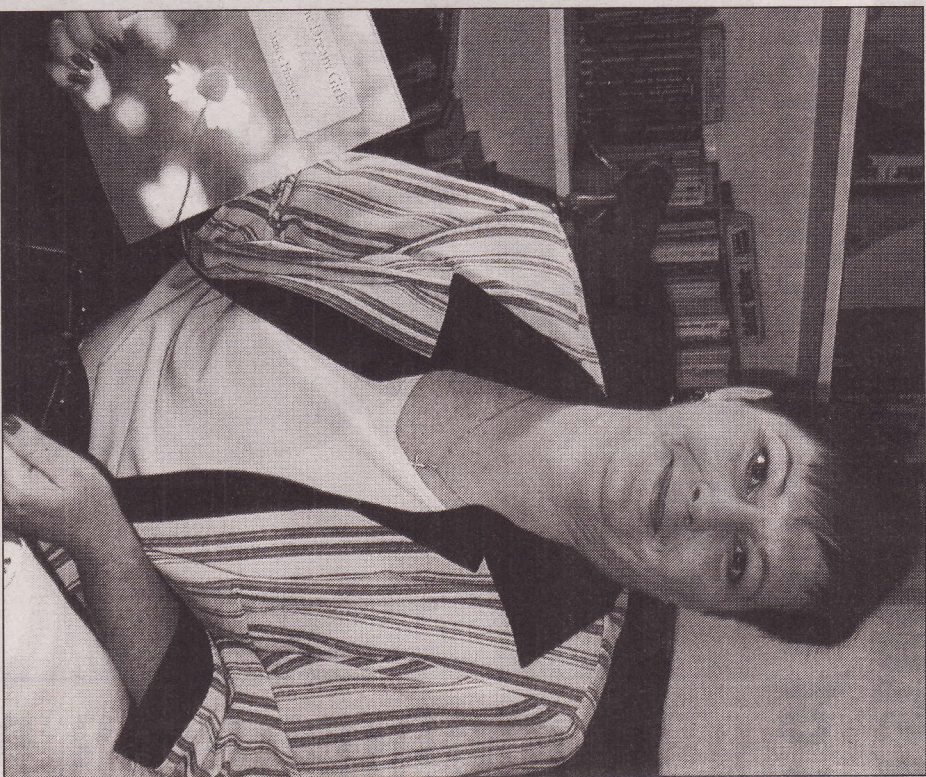
Janice and Rick have lived in Upper Stewiacke for the past 22 years and their grown daughter Rebecca lives in Toronto where she is employed in the hotel business.

"It was during the last year that my husband and I decided it was now or never for me to have a book published," said Janice. "I began concentrating on writing and within several months I completed *The Dream Girls*. Next would come another several months researching agents and publishers. In sending out inquiry letters I found out that it was not that easy to have a book published."

Finally, Janice's determination paid off and *I Universe*, located in Nebraska, became the publishers of *The Dream Girls*.

"Looking back to writing the book and the many hours involved, thanks to my imagination, the scenes came to me easily, especially when I was relaxing or getting ready at nights to go to sleep."

"The story takes place in Nova Scotia and it's the story of five women, each facing a personal crisis, using the messages from their dreams to help them in their daily lives. It's a story about the importance of friendship. Every page is real life stuff. All the characters are real life people. I think that anyone who reads this book will be able to relate



Janice Hunter of Upper Stewiacke holds her first published novel, *The Dream Girls*.

to at least one of the characters." Upon *The Dream Girls* being published and coming out in early

July, Janice's mother purchased the first copy. In being very impressed with her daughter's first book pub-

lished she has continually offered positive vocal support.

Janice said she dedicated the book to Rick and close friends Marilyn Mackay and Angela Jeffries.

"Everyone has been so supportive, which I appreciate," she said. "Things seem to be happening fast and I'm contracting as many bookstores as I can offering to do book-signing events if they will carry the book."

Leafing through a copy of the Upper Stewiacke resident's first novel, I learned the five main characters (ages 24 to 52) were an unlikely group to be brought together. Meeting at a conference on dream interpretation, they discovered that they lived within a few minutes drive from each other.

Yes, the novel is definitely real-life stuff and Janice's writing is both interesting and attention grabbing.

An upcoming reading, with refreshments being served, will take place at Deer Country Hideaway in Upper Stewiacke on Sunday, Aug. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Besides the enjoyment of promoting her first book *The Dream Girls*, Janice is managing to spend some time gardening and wood-working during this warm summer. And, as one might suspect, she is also taking time to work on two other books.

Lyle Carter is a freelance columnist who lives in Brookfield