



Adelaide with eldest son



Adelaide-2015



Map showing St. Lucia location and its blue waters

Adelaide Jean-Pierre is brimming with enthusiasm and energy and never stops moving for a second. She is a self-described workaholic, but still finds time for volunteering, exercising, travelling, and attending Zumba classes. She was a “December baby” and she mentioned to me several times that she is a Sagittarius. The Sagittarius woman is vivacious, funny, self-assured, and loves to travel—all of which describes Adelaide to a T. She was born at home to a mother (who conveniently was a mid-wife so knew what to expect!). Her father was an accountant and her parents’ professions may have influenced Adelaide’s life choices. She immensely dislikes anything to do with numbers. As a child Adelaide accompanied her mother to home births; perhaps this is what inspired her to become a nurse when she grew up?

Adelaide is the eldest of twelve children and was followed by seven sisters and four brothers. Her birth country is the gorgeous small island of St Lucia and the island’s lovely lilt is still in her speech. St Lucia is only two hundred and fifty square miles. The French were the island's first European settlers. But with all the European wars, the island’s government changed back and forth between Britain and France many times. In 1979 St Lucia became an independent state, still associated with the United Kingdom. It is also a member of the Francophonie. The island’s main industry is tourism and Adelaide’s family have run a Bed and Breakfast hotel for years. One sister lives in Toronto but the rest of her family still live on the island.

Adelaide originally came to Canada in 1972, at first on a study visa to Algonquin College, and then to immigrate and study Nursing. At first she found the huge differences in culture difficult. However, her innate friendliness helped her adjust and she eventually became resigned to our long cold winters. (St Lucia is pretty well a constant temperature of 30C.)

Most of Adelaide's career was spent at the Convent of Sisters of Charity, Old General Hospital, and she loved every minute of it. After twenty-five years full-time, she decided to work part time as a palliative care community health nurse. She mostly confines her hours to mornings and this gives her time for many other interests. She joined GSAC several years ago. She volunteers for our November bazaar and often works in the kitchen on Thursdays. She loves cooking, especially soups. She travels the world—to many of the other Caribbean islands but also has been to Britain and France several times.

Along life's journey Adelaide married and had two sons. Tragically, her husband died when the boys were only teenagers. She suddenly was the family's sole supporter. Her boys are adults now and live in Ottawa. Between them and their spouses they have provided her with seven adorable grandchildren. Her eldest son and daughter-in-law seem to have "inherited" Adelaide's unique efficiency; they managed to produce boy and girl twins (a younger daughter came along later), thus managing to produce three children with only two pregnancies!

Adelaide is especially excited about her upcoming trip in December, back to St Lucia to celebrate her mother's ninetieth birthday. It will be a grand reunion of her large extended family. We hope GSAC will benefit from her vim and vigour and huge talents for many years to come. She extends a special invitation to all GSAC members to visit her lovely country on vacation.

Although the song "Santa Lucia" is an Italian Neapolitan song, the beauty of the song is appreciated by all the "Lucias". For those of you reading this profile on a computer (Website: storm.ca/~gsac/), you can hear a beautiful rendition by Mario Lanza. Click on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iU8cPuj-UHY>

And here it is sung by Enrico Caruso (amazingly recorded in 1916, but the electrical recording was recreated in 1934):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ebrnxY0Fuw>