Some things never change

(from polyester pant suits and nursing caps, to jeans and dreadlocks)
I have nothing to disclose and no conflicts of interest
First thoughts:

• My roots are showing! Time to book another dye job.
• What am I going to talk about?
• How will I remember?
You know you're getting old when the clothes you wore as a teenager show up in the Halloween store. :)

someecards user card
In the news.....
Top Songs:

- Tina
- Ghostbusters
- Purple Rain
Cable television expanded:
Notable events:
Blood banking at the IWK Children’s Hospital in the early 80’s

- Two technologists (myself and my manager)
- Nurse manager signed out blood in evening/nights/weekends
- Post office – sending samples to MacKenzie building for testing
- Lots of antigen testing – all leukemics/oncology patients required full antigen testing
- Training of students (IWK took second year students for the full year)
- Began the work to transition to a full service blood bank at the IWK (December 1985)
- Purchased first irradiator (first one in province)
High Tech! 12 QSE’s?

- Sears Kenmore freezer for frozen products

- Blood was delivered in wire racks (delivered by Red Cross drivers or an RCMP relay!)
Grace Maternity
Many changes in products provided
Changes in process

• Leuko-reduction (LPPCs)— performed by spinning unit upside down and draining red cells – for all nephrology patients
• Happy when filters were available – performed at bedside
• Even happier when universal leuko-reduction began in the late ‘90s
Product were manually labelled with coloured stickers - a different colour for each blood type

O?...... O
A?...... A
B?...... B
AB?.... AB

Rh Negative?..... Rh NEGATIVE
The event that drove significant change on the future of the blood supply

Red Cross/Canadian Blood Commission
↓
Canadian Blood Agency
↓
Canadian Blood Services
Neonatal transfusion practice

- Common to give neonates a transfusion prior to heading home (top ups)
- PINT study (Premature Infants in Need of Transfusion) (2001-2005)
Quad Pack

↓

Pedi-Pak

↓

Washed Red Blood Cells

↓

SRCs
1996 showed an increase in requests for ABO types
As I aged – so did the age of blood

- 21 days
- 28 days
- 35 days
- 42 days
- Several different anticoagulants along the way
From slide to tube to gel to gel again

This blood sample is "B positive".
From clots and tea strainers to anticoagulated samples
1 hospital = 4 moves and 3 names
And lots of construction
Keep an open mind and adapt to changes

What we knew then – isn’t always true now

• IgG vs IgM – why does one cross the placenta and the other one doesn’t?
• Room temperature crossmatches for hearts
• As our population changes, so will the antibodies/antigens that we see
• Guidelines for red cell transfusion – now one unit is preferred again. Threshold for transfusion is constantly changing, as well as the requirements for Irradiated and CMV negative products
• Computerization – a constantly changing field
Who would have thought?

- Helicopters would be landing on the roof

- One of the hospital employees would be a clown!
• We would have a robot working in blood collection

• We would have a movie theatre
Some things never change.....

• Trudeau is still prime minister

• Queen Elizabeth II is still in power
• Alex Trebek is still the host of Jeopardy

• Patti still works at IWK
• And........We still don’t give the clotted blood
Special thanks to Andrea Atwell – one of the original blood bank technologists who is celebrating 32 years of transfusion service at the IWK and helped me remember!