

# Matti and Leena's story



# Matti's background...

- Matti Nykyri was born in Juuka in 1933
- When the Winter War started evacuees came to live with them
- They lived in the house with strangers. The children of the evacuees were about same age as Matti and they had fun playing together. It was easy because they understood the Finnish language.
- Matti's family life didn't change so much because their lifestyles were quite similar.
- One day two boys of the evacuees disappeared and came back when the war was over. Matti and the others never found out where they were.
- When the war ended the evacuees left back to their own homes.
- Matti has met the same evacuees many times over the years.



# Leena's background...

- Leena Nykyri was born in Rääkkylä in 1934. The evacuees went to live to Leena's relatives.
- Leena lived in the area where Russian fighter planes flew over their homes. They had to stay hidden behind the sauna in snow blanket. Russians shot Finnish people on the ice of lake.
- Leena got along with the evacuees but sometimes they called each other names.
- When the war ended the evacuees left.
- After the Continuation War they had a lot of things to do. They lived in the same place where they lived during the Winter War.
- Leena had 5 kilometers to school. She had to ski to school. Later they had skiing competitions.
- When she got pneumonia she had to stop skiing. She felt very sick and finally ended to go to the doctor.





# Nowadays...

- Now Matti and Leena are living together and they are married.
- They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren.
- They haven't told very much about the Wars to their children.
- Their siblings still share memories together.

