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NEIGHBOURS OF

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DUNDARAVE



The Hogarth Family

A Blended Story of Love, Adventure & Connection



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Cover Photo by Larissa Ski from Labella photography

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A Blended Story of Love, Adventure & Connection

Meet the Hogarth Family

◆ By Patricia Barnes | Photos by Larissa Ski from Labella photography

When they blended their families, Sandra and Craig Hogarth didn't just build a household; they built a thriving mini-community all of their own.

The West Vancouver couple founded a lively household that includes five adult children, five grandchildren and countless Sunday dinners, ski weekends and boating adventures. Their story stretches from Ontario cottages and cross-country flights to Whistler holidays and life on the North Shore. And throughout it all, there is one thing at the centre of everything.

Family

"We are a blended family, like The Brady Bunch," Sandra says with a laugh.

Their family includes Craig's three sons, Drew, Robbie and Brent, and Sandra's two daughters, Alysha and Bryanna. These days, their growing crew spans generations, careers and busy schedules, but they still make time to gather often, whether that's around a dinner table or aboard the family boat somewhere along the coast.

Their's is a family decades in the making.

Sandra first met Craig when they were teenagers in London, Ontario.

"Our mothers, Dixie and Bette, were realtors and business partners, way ahead of their times!" says Sandra. "They would host open houses on a Sunday, and then we would all go to each other's homes for dinner. That's how I met Dixie's daughter, Sheila, and we quickly became best friends.

We even shared a horse." It's a friendship that continues today.

"I remember seeing Craig for the first time when I was about 15 years old," Sandra recalls. "We pulled into his mother's driveway, and he was in the garage, just home from a California trip. I definitely noticed him, but then life took us in different directions."

Sandra began her real estate career in London, Ontario, before moving to Oakville. There, she raised her daughters while building a real estate career specializing in relocations. Meanwhile, Craig moved to British Columbia, where, in 1979, he founded OnSide Restoration. Living and working in Vancouver and raising his three sons, Craig built a business that expanded countywide to 36 locations while becoming a leader in his industry.

One family in the East, one family in the West. Each was going about their day-to-day lives with Shiela as the only constant they shared - albeit individually. Then many years later, life did what life has a tendency to do and unexpectedly brought them back together.

"When Craig separated, he decided to spend some time away at their family cottage in Goderich, Ontario," says Sandra with a nostalgic smile. "Sheila and I, along with our kids, rented a friend's cottage one door away. He came to the lake, and we have been together ever since."

However, being together as a couple and being together in the same physical location is not so easy when each of you has children to consider, an established career, and all the commitments and responsibilities that come with an adult life built in one place.

So, for over seven years, Sandra lived in Oakville and Craig lived in Vancouver.

"We actually travelled to see each other every other weekend, and sometimes more," says Sandra. "Lots of fun, lots of trips, and Craig looked at expanding the OnSide Restoration business to Ontario." With this in mind, the couple purchased a house together and renovated it with the plan to spend more time together.

Sandra was now a successful realtor who had spent thirty years building her career in Oakville, "and moving wasn't really an option while trying to raise two daughters on my own," she shares. "Then, after our long courtship, Craig proposed, asked if we would move out west, and I agreed." The couple married the following year in Isla Mujeres, Mexico, where Craig's family had regularly vacationed.

"That was 2014, and the girls and I moved to Vancouver in August 2014 as they were entering Grades 8 and 10. They weren't crazy about the move," says Sandra. "But looking back now, it was absolutely the right decision."

After her decades in real estate, Sandra transitioned into the wellness and aesthetics field, where she now focuses on natural aging and women's health advocacy. She has also worked alongside women's health advocate Maureen McGrath, known as Canada's "#1 Sexpert," helping to raise awareness of menopause, perimenopause, and advocating for open, shame-free discussions about intimate health and relationships.

Now Sandra's reluctant teens are adults, each demonstrating the kind of dedication and drive that made their mom so successful. After earning her Bachelor of Science degree from Capilano University, Alysha now works alongside her mother at Oceanside Medical Aesthetics. At the same time, Bryanna recently returned from Australia's Bond University with a law degree and is now preparing for articling in Canada.

Equally successful are Craig's sons.





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"Drew, the oldest, worked with his dad at Onside Restoration," says Sandra. "He became the top project manager through his own skills and work, and definitely no help from his dad. He married his high school sweetheart, Julie, and they have three children, twins Benjamin and Abigail, and younger daughter Esm . Benjamin is an advanced tennis player with Team BC, while his sisters Abigail and have inherited their mother's love of dance at Vanleena Dance.

"Next, there's Robbie, who has recently returned to Vancouver after completing dental school in Hungary and is now building his practice and career close to home. And last, but by no means least, is Brent, who works as a psychologist specializing in workplace performance and ADHD assessments. He, wife Simer and their young children, Westley and Hartley, live within walking distance of us."

For Sandra and Craig, the most meaningful part of their journey may be watching their children form strong bonds with one another.

"The kids spend time together on their own," Sandra says. "That means everything to us."

Family traditions anchor much of their life together. Magical Christmases in Whistler have become a treasured ritual, complete with skiing, snowy walks and crowded dinners. Summers often unfold on the water, cruising through the Gulf Islands or making the annual trip to Desolation Sound.

Despite busy careers and growing families, the Hogarths still prioritize the same thing they always have: staying connected.

"The fact that all of us are on the North Shore is a bonus that we all treasure," Sandra says. "West Vancouver is a very special place to live. People are friendly, supportive and connected. We've built such a wonderful life here."

And if you happen to spot a large group gathered around a dinner table, heading out for a boating weekend or taking over a corner of the tennis club, chances are you've found the Hogarth family, together, exactly where they want to be.



"We are enthusiastic boaters," says Sandra. "We love the summertime for cruising in our amazing ocean, and a must-do every year is exploring the Gulf islands and especially Desolation Sound. We also do a yearly cruise to Poets Cove, and the kids stay in the resort while we stay on the boat. We have so many great memories there."

At home in West Vancouver, the couple has embraced the rhythm of North Shore life. Sandra plays tennis regularly at the West Vancouver Tennis Club, while Craig has become an enthusiastic pickleball player. Living not far from Whytecliff Park in one direction and the seawall in the other means easy access to many of the places they love most. Sandra is also a member of the West Vancouver Tennis Club, where she plays every week.

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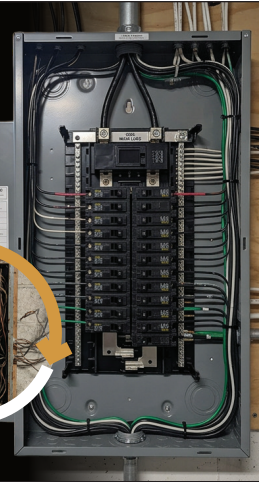
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