

I interviewed my mom (Kim) born and raised in Kingston Ontario. Her life growing up, was always changing as her dad was in the air born unit for the Canadian army. Every couple years she would have to move because grandpa was always being re-stationed in other cities of Canada. She went from Ontario to Alberta and then made her way here to British Columbia where he was last stationed in Haida, Gwaii. Her mom did not want to move there so they divorced and moved to Victoria where my mom was able to finish the rest of her high school years. During my interview I found some interesting details of my mom's life that she never mentioned before to me.

Growing up she lived with her two older sisters Kelly and Wendy who never wanted anything to do with her since she was the youngest by 6 years. Kelly ended up moving out at grade 11 and stayed in Ontario. When my mom moved to Alberta her mom bought a farm with pigs, chickens, cows and horses because she wanted a reason to stay longer instead of living on the air base. When they moved to Victoria my mom ended up getting her first job at about thirteen with her best friend whose name was also Kim. Her mother was always looking for a side hustle to make extra money and she decided to own and operate a fruit cart called Apple Annie and it's a cart that was stationed on Government Street in downtown Victoria. There were other carts as well some did ice cream, hotdogs and such and so my mom and her best friend Kim would operate Apple Annie in the summertime, and they would be paid cash from my grandmother. My mom said "It was a great first job we got to meet a lot of tourists because of the cruise ships would come in and I have lots of fun memories". This lead her into her working another job in Dental Laboratories making teeth for most of her teenage years. She realized that there was no future in it and she knew she needed to move elsewhere to find a job so she came to Vancouver.

She found a job working at Yellow Pages in 1997 and this is how she met my father Phil. She worked in the sales department for her first year or so and she really enjoyed it. One Thursday afternoon she was preparing to go on vacation to Hawaii and Two days prior she was to go on vacation she was asked to sit in in another sales department as they had someone leave an account which seemed to be closed. While down there sitting at the supervisor's desk as that was the only desk available this sales representative who was new to the company came up to her and asked if she had any questions that she could ask him, and he would love to be able to help her. As my mom had already been there three years, she just smiled at him and told him that she would be fine because she knew more than he had but she thought it was cute that he offered assistance. When she got back from her trip while at home in her apartment the phone rang and Phil asked if he could come over and maybe they could go watch a movie and since then they have been together for 25 years and have two kids together and are happy and still enjoying each other's company. There was one person she looked up to most through her life though.

She called her "Granny" her grandma from her mom's side. She was the fun granny that would take her outside and let her get dirty in the mud. Granny always had knowledge to share to my mom whether it was school or life or even boys. There's a story my mom told me; my mom was driving and granny was in the passengers seat and they rolled up to a stop light. Up beside them came a nice mustang with three boys inside. My mom looked over and heard the guy rev his engine. She smiled and looked over at granny not knowing what was about to happen. She layed

on the gas a little bit and revved the engine, as soon as the light turned green she dropped the clutch and screeched off the line. For about five seconds they were neck and neck until the mustang zoomed off. My mom laughed as granny was holding onto the handle for dear life. "Granny was the sun in my life, and I will never forget her smile".

Now my mom lives in Coquitlam B.C. with two kids, myself, and my sister Olivia. Her career has changed a bit since she was laid off in 2019 going through construction, safety and now working at home as a collections officer for Work BC. She has taken us to see Granny a few times in Victoria's Cemetery and always likes to share a memory from her past. I met her when I was a baby so I have no memories of her, but I like to imagine what she was like. I feel that through this essay project it has shown what about my moms side of my family was important. My grandpa being a veteran showed that my family comes from a brave background. One with resilience as they were willing enough to travel across Canada, having to move schools and houses every few years. My mom having to adapt to her situation and deciding to move off the island to come to Vancouver for more opportunity. These are just some things that I learned about my mom that makes her who she is today.