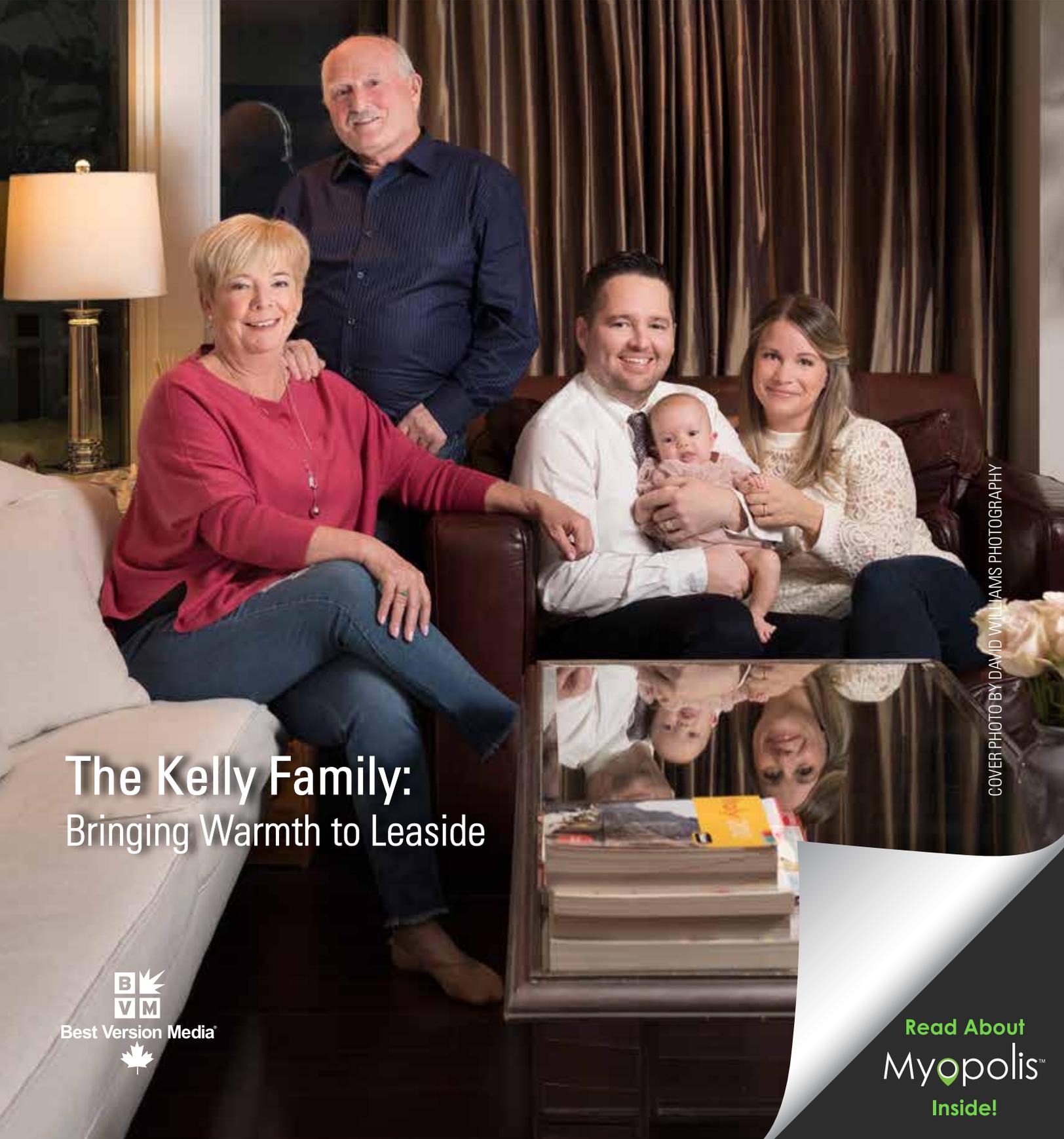


Neighbours Of

FEBRUARY 2018 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

LEASIDE & BENNINGTON

Heights



COVER PHOTO BY DAVID WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY

The Kelly Family: Bringing Warmth to Leaside



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THE KELLY FAMILY: Bringing Warmth to Leaside

BY RICHARD S. TODD
PHOTOS BY DAVID WILLIAMS PHOTOGRAPHY



DANA RYCKMAN, LONDON, & NEIL KELLY



JOE & NEIL KELLY IN FRONT OF THE OLD CHURCH HOUSE - 1397 BAYVIEW AVENUE

Leaving one's home country for another takes courage, conviction, and dedication, even when coming to a welcoming country such as Canada. Millions of people have moved here to pursue their dreams, and their success stories add to the rich history and cultural fabric of our great nation.

Leaside residents Joe and Marion Kelly are one such couple with an amazing story of hard work, commitment to family, and community involvement that will continue to give

back to our area for generations.

Their story starts between Donegal Bay and the Blue Stack Mountains in the historic picturesque town of Donegal, located in Ulster, Ireland. It was here that Joe and Marion met, became high school sweethearts, and began their journey through life together.

"Joe and I met at a local dance," says Marion. "Joe had his hair cut in a very trendy Beatles style. After a few years of dating, we made plans to get married, but both of us had ambitions to leave Donegal for greener pastures. Joe found the perfect place for us here in Canada."

Acting upon the advice of his brother, Joe sought housing and work here in Toronto so he and Marion had a firm foundation to start their life together. In 1973, after one year away, he returned to Ireland to marry her.

"We had a small ceremony in Donegal," Marion says. "And then we packed up and moved to Toronto the very next day!"

Joe and Marion purchased their first house on Soudan Avenue. Seeing real estate as a great way to provide for the present and build their future in their new country, Joe began buying houses, digging out basements and renovating the upstairs for tenancy while working at his day job. The hours were long, but Joe was known throughout the community as always being cheery and having a positive outlook.

He was also well supported by Marion, who stayed home

to raise their four children: Helen, Sharon, Neil, and Joy. The children all attended local schools and went on to attend McMaster, Western, York, and Western Universities, respectively. The Kelly family has now grown to include seven grandchildren: Myah, Hannah, Cooper, Jules, London, Mason, and Kelly.

In 1981, Joe launched his own business, Kelly's Heating and Air Conditioning, in Leaside. The idea to enter the trades came from his father, Niall Kelly, who recognized Joe's skills early on.

"Joe has always shown an interest and aptitude in mechanical work," Marion says. "His skills were so profound that his father suggested he attend trade school in Ireland."

In the beginning, he worked completely on his own, personally taking phone calls, writing up invoices, and performing all the installation, service, and maintenance work himself. But through determined effort, and with the help of his son Neil, what was once a one-man operation grew over the years into a full-service team of nine employees.

Neil is now the company vice president, running its daily operations. He started working with his father on weekends during his high school years, and then went on to obtain his gas fitters license and bachelor of administrative studies in 2006. Counting his father as his biggest inspiration, Neil con-

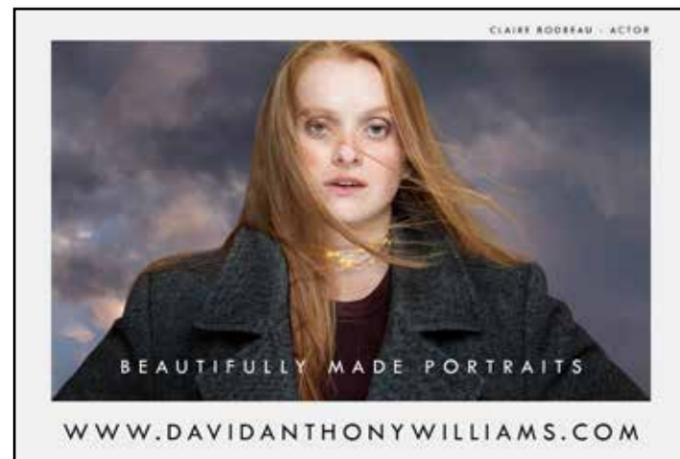
tinues to provide the honest work, quality craftsmanship, and trusted advice that Joe built the company's reputation on.

In 1985, the family settled in the old church house beside St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church on Bayview Avenue. This home has since been converted into offices that house both Kelly's Heating and Air Conditioning and The Bayview Natural Health Clinic, which is owned by their daughter, Sharon, who's now a doctor of naturopathic medicine.

The other two Kelly children are also in the field of health care. Helen earned her degree in nursing and currently works at North York General Hospital. Joy graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a degree in sociology of health and aging, and is currently on maternity leave.

Despite commitment to their various careers, the Kelly family, now numbering 17 in total, makes sure to get together at Joe and Marion's house for pizza night every Friday. They also travel as a group, having made annual visits to Aruba for the past 20 years. Joe and Marion now spend their winters there, but are never alone for long as their children and grandchildren all come to visit throughout the winter months.

Following local sports such as the Toronto Blue Jays and Toronto Maple Leafs is another favourite pastime, as is sponsoring local baseball and hockey teams. The family also co-sponsors the Bessborough Drive Elementary and Middle





School Fun Fair each year. It's these acts of working together and giving back that have integrated the Kellys into our community, a spirit that Joe sums up quite nicely. "We have always loved this neighbourhood," he says. "Community has always been important to us, and we've always supported local business and in turn have been supported as well. Leaside has a real sense of peace, community, and security, and all with a small town feel. The small boutiques, wide choice of restaurants, and truly caring people make this a great neighbourhood to live in!"

Do you know a neighbour who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbour to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at ceby@bestversionmedia.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 2
Laugh out Loud in Leaside
 @ The William Lea Room, Leaside Memorial Gardens
 Join us for an evening of adult comedy, music, food and friends benefiting the non-profit charity Moorelands. Since 1912, Moorelands has been helping bridge the opportunity gap for unprivileged kids. Their wilderness camp and city programs teach life lessons. Featuring an oyster bar, gourmet appetizers, silent/live auction, sweet treats and so much more!
 Time: 6:30 pm
 Tickets: \$90 per person
 To purchase tickets or tables, visit buytickets.at/Leasidelol9 or contact Charlene at charlene@charlenekalia.com.

MON. FEB 5 – WED. FEB. 7
Toronto Fashion Week
 @ Yorkville Village
 Toronto Fashion Week returns to Toronto's recently renovated and premier luxury retail



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destination, Yorkville Village this winter. The sophisticated neighbourhood continues to undergo massive changes in retail, luxury hospitality and real estate and provides the ultimate backdrop to spotlight fashion, art and culture. Shining a spotlight on fashion, art and culture with a global twist, the reimagined bi-annual celebration will include a speaker series with internationally renowned designers and industry experts, runway shows and special presentations. www.torontofashionweek.to

SAT. FEB. 10
Steam Whistle's Roundhouse Winter Craft Beer Festival
 @ Roundhouse Park outside Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Avenue
 Don your stompin' boots, pull on a toque and wear your best retro ski gear because it's time to hoist a pint or two with the Craft Brewers of Ontario while the snowflakes are falling. The Winter Craft Beer Festival showcases beers from bona fide Ontario Craft Brewers, based on their passion to re-kindle and keep alive the spirit of traditional brewing: independent ownership, smaller batches, artisanal styles, quality ingredients, all-natural and undiluted.
 Time: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm
 Cost: From \$25
www.craftbeerfest.ca

TUE. FEB. 13 – SUN. FEB. 18
Come From Away
 @ Royal Alexandra Theatre, 260 King Street West
 After a sold-out, standing-room-only Toronto engagement before heading to Broadway, Come From Away returns to Toronto due to overwhelming demand. Set shortly after the tragic events of September 11, 2001, 38 planes with 6,579 passengers are stranded in a small town in Newfoundland as air traffic is suspended. The locals open up their homes to these weary travellers, offering a sign of hope in a troubling time.
 Time: Visit website for times
 Tickets: \$69.00 - \$200.00
www.mirvish.com/shows

FRI. FEB. 16 – MON. FEB. 19
The GTA Home & Reno Show
 @ The International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga
 The GTA Home & Reno Show brings over 300 of the GTA's finest contractors, suppliers and design experts on hand to the International Centre. Find everything you need to kick-start your next home project under one roof. While at the show, get hands-on in DIY

and Tooling Centre and learn the basics like how to patch drywall from Canada's Handyman, Shawn Monteith. Meet one-on-one with renovators, interior designers and certified landscapers for complimentary consultations. www.gtahomeandrenoshow.com

THRU FRI. FEB. 23
Rigoletto
 @ Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, 145 Queen Street West
 One of the world's most popular operas, Rigoletto, returns to Toronto's Four Seasons Centre stage this winter in a production from acclaimed American director Christopher Alden. A tragedy of Shakespearean dimensions, the opera features some of Verdi's most passionate and heartbreaking melodies, including the famous tenor aria "La donna è mobile." www.coc.ca

SAT. FEB 24 – SAT. FEB 25
Sesame Street Live
 @ Hershey Centre, 5500 Rose Cherry Place, Mississauga
 Take part in the sunniest and funniest street celebration, Sesame Street Live at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga. The inaugural production features favourite Sesame Street pals Elmo, Abby Cadabby, Big Bird and more in a brand-new sensory adventure live on stage. From the moment the curtain rises, parents and children alike will be on their feet dancing along to a pop-infused soundtrack with new Sesame Street friends and live emcees Casey and Caleb. A unique, up-close-and-personal pre-show experience will be offered at an additional charge prior to select performances, allowing families the opportunity to tour the on-stage neighborhood of their favourite, furry friends before they arrive for the main show.
 Cost: Tickets from \$15.00
www.sesamestreetlive.com

THRU SUN. MAR. 4
Toronto Light Festival
 @ The Distillery District
 The Toronto Light Festival is a visual journey and imaginative cerebral adventure designed to entertain and inspire. During the cold, dark days of winter, City residents can experience one of the largest open-air lighting galleries in North America at the Distillery Historic District. The event exhibits the creativity of local & international light artists.
 Cost: Free
 Time: 11:00 pm
www.torontolightfest.com



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