

Neighbours of

February 2019

CROWNISLE

Lara and Danny

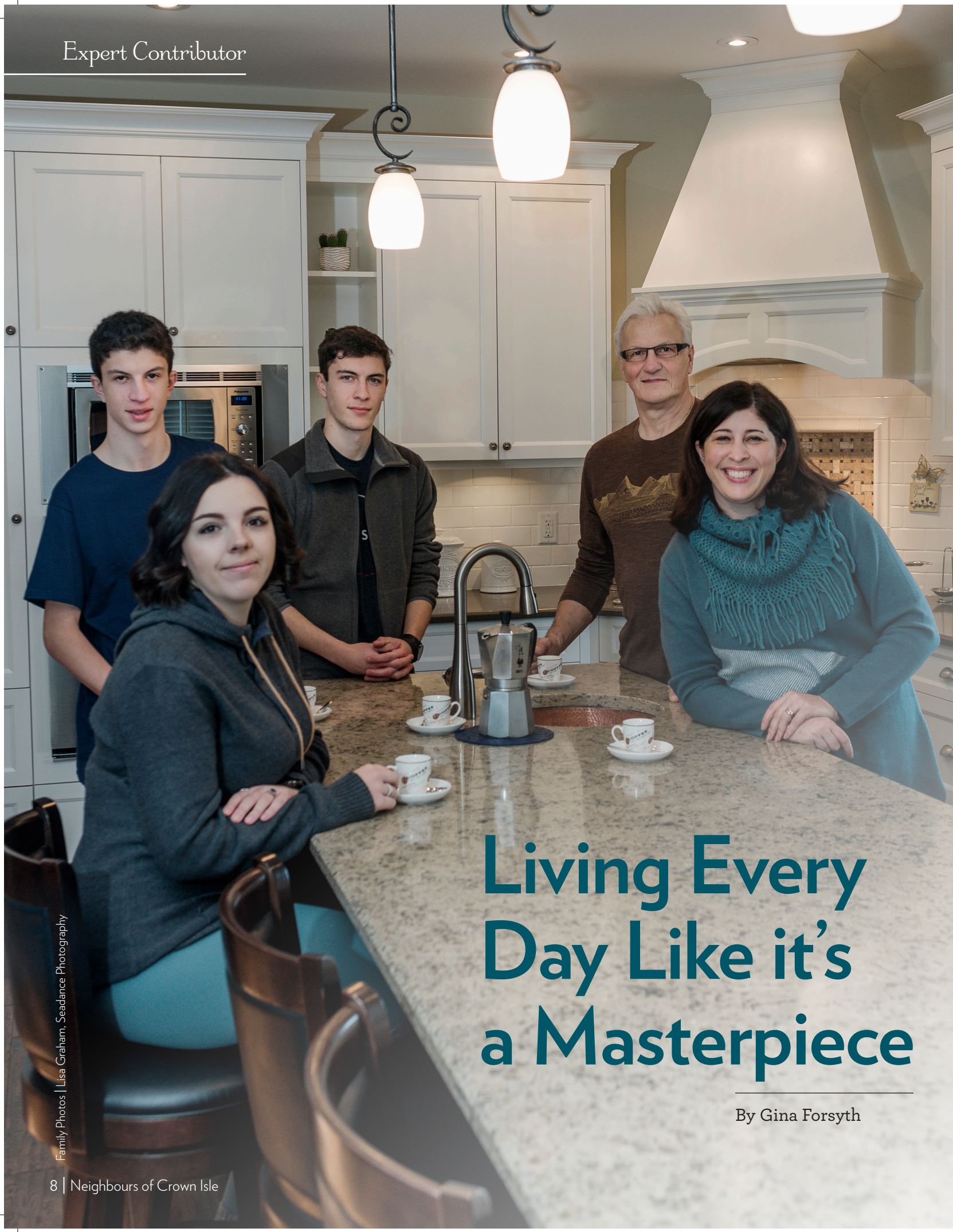
Living Every
Day Like it's a
Masterpiece



Best Version Media



Cover Photo
Lisa Graham, Seadance Photography



Living Every Day Like it's a Masterpiece

By Gina Forsyth

Family Photos | Lisa Graham, Seadance Photography

For Lara Austin and her family, the Comox Valley is their playground. They love all it has to offer and it helps them fulfil their family motto to “live one day at a time, and make it a masterpiece.”

Lara and her husband of 25 plus years, Danny (Danilo) Stangherlin, met in Ontario when she was a student. “I worked at a bar while I was at the University of Guelph and he was a patron. He would come in regularly with his friends,” she says. They have been together ever since, and both found themselves drawn to the natural beauty of Vancouver Island.

“Danny and I vacationed here on the island more than 20 years ago to visit a family member and it felt like home. He grew up in the mountains of northern Italy and I love the ocean air. We both enjoy skiing and Mt. Washington is a tad more challenging than the hills in southern Ontario!” says Lara.

Lara holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in psychology from the University of Guelph, and realized her keen interest in psychology was an invaluable asset in the world of finance. “Money decisions are often driven by behaviours and learned beliefs developed early in life,” she explains. “My job is to educate and coach to help my clients improve these decisions.”

Lara has worked with RBC Dominion Securities since 1992. Once in the financial services industry, I set out to build on my financial expertise,” says Investment Advisor, Lara. “I started by completing the Wealth Management Essentials Course and then the coursework required to achieve my Chartered Investment Manager designation.” More recently, Lara has achieved the more coveted title of Associate Portfolio Manager.

Danny also has a career in a professional field. “I’ve been a skilled tradesman for more than 35 years, installing custom kitchens and cabinetry for two local companies,” he says. “I’m ready to start winding down but business is booming.”

The couple has two sons, Damon, 21, and Kiano, 17. The oldest spent the last four years since graduating

high school living and learning in Burnaby and down island in Victoria. This past year, Damon returned to the Valley to apprentice with his dad in the cabinet installation industry. He is also a skilled photographer! Damon loves to get out and about on his dual-sport motorcycle, and he recently took a 5,000 km solo trip to California and home again, camping along the way. Damon’s high school sweetheart, Cassidy, joined the family five years ago, and has endured many memorable “Stangherlin adventures.” Cassidy is pursuing a career in dental hygiene and is currently working at the Crown Isle Timber room as a server.

The younger son, Kiano will graduate from high school in June and has applied to post-secondary institutions with an eye to pursuing the sciences or an earth and ocean science program. He is also an accomplished diver – with more than 50 dives under his belt – and has been certified to dive since he was 13.

Although the family doesn’t have any “official” pets, Lara loves the hummingbirds that regularly visit the three feeders she provides for them.

Since the family moved to the Comox Valley 17 years ago, their time outside work has been dedicated to exploring the Island and travelling. Everybody skis and the family of lefties also plays golf. Lara, Danny and the boys also appreciate their boat which allows them the opportunity to explore smaller islands or lakes for picnics.

“The boys in the house all love challenging the crazy mountain bike trails in Cumberland, but mom is too scared to anymore,” Lara says with a laugh. “Occasionally we leave our little island for road trips through B.C. and the Western U.S, warm adventures to Hawaii, and rare trips to Europe to visit family in Italy.”

When it comes to sports, she’s still cheering for the Toronto Maple Leafs as a former Ontarian (and insists that “persistence will pay off someday!”). As an Italy native, Danny follows Series A soccer but has also grown to appreciate and support the Vancouver Whitecaps.

“I believe financial literacy at all ages is a powerful resource to share,” says Lara.

Lara is a past board member of both the Comox Valley Newcomers Alumnae and the Comox Valley Women's Business Network.

Over the years, she has spoken about financial literacy in the Planning 10 class of a local high school. "I'm open to being approached for this on an ongoing basis. I believe financial literacy at all ages is a powerful resource to share," she says. To further promote financial literacy in the community, Lara founded an annual financial scholarship for Comox Valley students who are passionate about wealth management.

It will be two years this month since the family moved into the Majestic Loop in Crown Isle. Lara recalls the exact moving day: "That weekend it snowed more than three feet. It felt like we shovelled at two houses for three days straight!"

"We had been house hunting for over a year and just hadn't found the right one," she goes on to say. "We then found a lot we liked and were looking for

builders. The house we are in now was just three years old and custom built by one of the builders on our list. We stopped in on a Sunday afternoon open house and I said, "This just feels like home."

Lara and Danny had an accepted offer 52 hours later and sold their house three days after that! With a moment to breathe, they wondered what they'd done and whether they could undo it, "but as it turns out, we love where we are," says Lara, adding, "I think it is the neighbours who make the street so amazing. Over the last two years, we have had a number of neighbourhood get togethers, from beer and burger nights to gin and tonics on sunny afternoons. We've even golfed together."

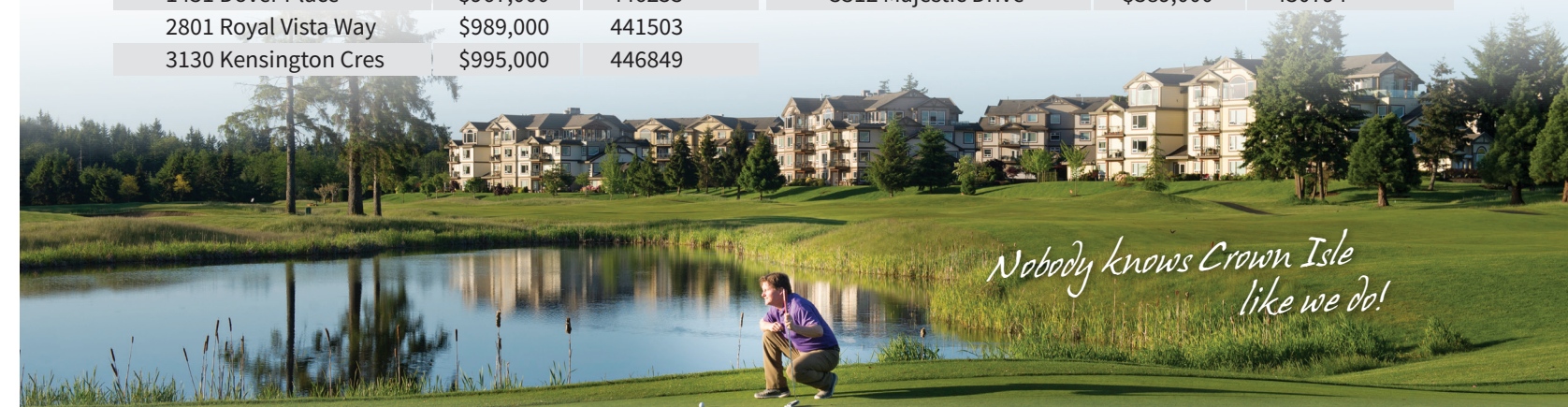
"We look out for each other and if someone mentions they're going to be away, we are extra diligent about keeping an eye on their place. And, just walking through the subdivision, everyone is so friendly," she adds with a smile. "It does make it hard to weed your front law because everyone stops to chat. That's okay, because who wants to be weeding anyway!" ♦

House Photo | Damon Stangerlin



Current Listings - as of January 5th

| ADDRESS | LIST PRICE | MLS# | ADDRESS | LIST PRICE | MLS# |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|------------|--------|
| SINGLE FAMILY HOMES | | | MULTI FAMILY | | |
| 1055 Crown Isle Blvd | \$699,900 | 441749 | D-993 Prestwick Place | \$529,900 | 439964 |
| 1213 Crown Isle Blvd | \$739,000 | 445886 | 109-2828 Bristol Way | \$689,000 | 448822 |
| 1132 Crown Isle Blvd | \$785,000 | 447283 | 115-1055 Crown Isle Dr | \$699,000 | 447331 |
| 129-1290 Crown Isle Dr | \$789,900 | 446538 | | | |
| 971 Crown Isle Drive | \$849,000 | 447207 | BUILDING LOTS | | |
| 922 Crown Isle Drive | \$899,900 | 449081 | 1169 Crown Isle Blvd | \$219,900 | 434538 |
| 1431 Dover Place | \$967,000 | 446253 | 3312 Majestic Drive | \$389,000 | 430794 |
| 2801 Royal Vista Way | \$989,000 | 441503 | | | |
| 3130 Kensington Cres | \$995,000 | 446849 | | | |



Sales Statistics 2014-2018

| YEAR | UNITS | TOTAL SALES \$ | AVERAGE SALE \$ | YEAR | UNITS | TOTAL SALES \$ | AVERAGE SALE \$ |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| SINGLE FAMILY HOMES | | | | BUILDING LOTS | | | |
| 2014 | 48 | \$24,512,716 | \$510,682 | 2014 | 35 | \$6,673,800 | \$190,680 |
| 2015 | 57 | \$31,561,900 | \$553,718 | 2015 | 14 | \$3,077,400 | \$219,814 |
| 2016 | 82 | \$50,320,132 | \$613,660 | 2016 | 71 | \$13,049,585 | \$183,797 |
| 2017 | 94 | \$63,721,250 | \$677,886 | 2017 | 66 | \$13,848,960 | \$209,833 |
| 2018 | 81 | \$63,163,199 | \$779,793 | 2018 | 15 | \$4,356,030 | \$290,402 |
| CONDOMINIUMS | | | | PATIO HOMES | | | |
| 2014 | 12 | \$3,754,000 | \$312,833 | 2014 | 20 | \$7,685,700 | \$384,285 |
| 2015 | 12 | \$3,894,140 | \$324,512 | 2015 | 22 | \$8,147,600 | \$370,345 |
| 2016 | 21 | \$8,405,600 | \$400,267 | 2016 | 14 | \$6,556,200 | \$468,300 |
| 2017 | 15 | \$6,614,215 | \$440,948 | 2017 | 7 | \$3,859,500 | \$551,357 |
| 2018 | 17 | \$8,507,100 | \$500,418 | 2018 | 8 | \$4,640,900 | \$580,113 |

Note** Sales figures include Re-List thru the MLS Plus Internal Sales / New Construction

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Lara D. Austin
Associate Portfolio Manager, Investment & Wealth Advisor
250-334-5606 | lara.austin@rbc.com | www.LaraAustin.com



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TF 888-338-8439 | 250-703-5054