

Invested: Meet Oakridge's Carol Fickling

BY PAULA SCHUCK, PHOTOS BY IMAGE DESIGN

Carol Fickling, a London-based Investment Advisor, Wealth Advisor, & Financial Planner, grew up in Woodstock, and now calls the Oakridge area her haven and forever home. Fickling moved into Old Oakridge on February 15, 2008. She spent many years getting to know the neighbourhood and enjoying the amenities the community had to offer before deciding it was her favourite part of town. By August of 2018, she decided it was time to set firm roots in this beautiful neighbourhood and she tore her house down and began to build the home of her dreams. You can often hear her compliment the community: "Oakridge is close to my office, close to some fantastic amenities such as Remark, Farm Boy, and Super Store."

Fickling, lives with her dog Dani, a Dalmatian, who gives her joy each day. Both Dani and Carol are grateful for the many trails in the neighbourhood. You can catch Carol walking with Dani a couple of times a day. In fact, it is her favourite part of the day, walking along the trails, breathing fresh air, enjoying the area.

She doesn't hesitate to tell you first-hand how blessed she feels being part of our neighbourhood. "I truly enjoy the strong community bond that exists in our neighbourhood. From the simplest things like connecting through social media, to the friendly neighbour who always helps me during those challenging winter months by clearing my long driveway or even raking my front yard in the fall, the Oakridge neighbourhood is truly special. It's the people that make it so." Carol says she loves how friendly everyone in the area is. "In our neighbourhood, you can often see families out enjoying their day, walking their dog, and stopping for a quick chat. It makes me believe that there isn't another place like ours and that we are blessed to live where we do."

Carol has worked at RBC Dominion Securities since 1997. She is a Vice President, Portfolio Manager, Wealth Advisor, and Financial Planner. She has earned special designations: FMA, a Financial Management Advisor, a CIWM, Certified International Wealth Manager, and a CIM, Certified Investment Manager.

Carol says she was originally attracted to the wealth management area to help people meet their goals and dreams. She started out as an associate and quickly learned that in order to move forward she would need to gain a solid foundation of the business and its environment.

"That led me to obtain my designations and I started to meet with clients. This is where I gained my passion for helping my clients. Nothing gives me more job satisfaction than when I can help people reach their goals, either to save for a new cottage, plan for their children's higher education needs, assist with their retirement goals and then eventually, make the most tax effective estate planning strategies. I especially enjoy working with women."

Women, she says, have their own concerns and appreciate when they are listened to, and that their goals are discussed individually, as they may not align with their partner's. "Women look at their money in terms of goals. It is important that our female clients understand them and that their wishes align with those long-term goals. Listening is the key to helping clients. Everyone has their own story, and my job is to ensure I know that story and how I can enhance it."



Over the last few years, Fickling has sponsored several sports teams and events, such as the Oakridge Firebirds Girls U12 soccer team and the London - St Thomas Croatia Soccer Club. Along with Karen Simpson of Lerner's Personal Injury Group, she helped launch Minds for Change, a fundraiser for the First Episode Mood and Anxiety Program (FEMAP) through London Health Sciences Foundation. Carol was also a committee member on the Trauma Golf Charity Tournament with Nigel Gilby, Lerner's Personal Injury Group, helping to raise funds to assist LHSC (London Health Sciences Centre) trauma department.

Every year, Carol likes to visit a location she hasn't been to before. In November of 2019, when Carol's best friend turned 50, she decided to celebrate her birthday in Peru. For two weeks, the friends explored the capital of Lima, went to Machu Picchu, the Amazon, and back. It was the adventure of a lifetime. Carol says she will never forget the friendly people she met, the fabulous vistas, wonderful food, and a culture that enables the soul to relax and recuperate.

No matter where she travels though, Oakridge is always a haven to return to. "There's a big sense



of community in the area and I have amazing neighbours who are more like family."

Dani, her one-year-old Dalmatian, is also the chief mental health ambassador in the Fickling home as well as at the Fickling Wealth Management office. She loves to go for walks, chase squirrels, and play catch with either a snowball or a tennis ball. She loves other dogs and is always trying to make new friends. She typically has play dates to run and play with her doggie friends.

Carol says this is her third Dalmatian and she's partial to the breed because they have a great temperament and energy level, plus they are very affectionate dogs. "They are easy to train as they are an intelligent breed."

Carol is certain most people in Oakridge will agree that "there isn't another place like ours and we are so blessed to live where we do. I moved here for the home affordability, mature trees, and sense of calm. I ended up with so much more." The next time you see her out in the neighbourhood, take time to say hello as she walks Dani nearby.

Do you know a neighbour who has a story to share? Or maybe your family has an interesting story. Nominate yourself or your neighbour to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at pschuck@bestversionmedia.com.