NEIGHBOURS OF

EDGEMONT







Cooper practicing Taekwondo



Naomi playing Metro Soccer

Left to right: Makenna, Naomi, Brian, Charlie, Halle, Cooper

Brian's Plans Come Together

By Grace Cameron

One afternoon when he was 15, Brian Eydt returned from school to find his mother, father and five older siblings gloomily gathered in the living room.

His father Sam explained that he had been forced to retire from his job as a national sales manager for a major tire company. He was 63 and the company wanted a younger team. Blindsided, he was mentally and financially unprepared for the change.

It was a pivotal moment for

the teenager.

"It was the first time I had seen my father visibly devastated," explains Brian. He had worked hard for a company that repaid him by forcing him to retire two years ahead of the customary age. He had no plan B, notes Brian.

"It taught me the importance of planning for any possible scenario and the importance of not relying on the planning of others to dictate my fate."

In 1994, living in Montreal and after breaking up with his longtime girlfriend, Brian found himself sitting on the banks of the St. Lawrence River contemplating his future. A graduate of Toronto's York University, he had worked on national advertising campaigns for General Motors and Molson Canadian before starting a successful sales promotion business in Montreal.

That afternoon, "I asked myself two key questions: Where is the best place to live and how could I best marry my skills and my interests?

An avid outdoorsman, he decided to move to Vancouver. He loved the city and had always enjoyed visiting. Although he only knew two people living there, he moved the following January. Later that year he joined the marketing and business development department of BCTel.

Ever the entrepreneur, and keeping in mind his father's predicament, Brian resigned from his job four years later. "I wanted to do something that was more impactful in the lives of others and where I could control my level of success by simply working hard and making good



Makenna during Disneyland parade



Brian and Charlie rocking plaid



Brian's work team: Jazmine, Bernadette, Brian, Erin and Eric

decisions," he explains.

After researching a number of possibilities, he decided on a career as a financial advisor with the Bank of Montreal's (BMO) Nesbitt Burns in Vancouver. The role required a strong appetite for learning and drew on the analytical and communication skills he had

built up throughout his years in business.

In the early 2000s, he discovered and fell in love with the view and vibe of Edgemont Village. In 2016, Brian and his team moved their practice to RBC Dominion Securities, opening the first of its kind wealth

management office in the village. The move, he notes, allows his team to deliver the best wealth management experience for clients.

Today Brian is often referred to as an industry pioneer who is trusted by his clients to help them plan for and live successfully in retirement. Last summer Brian, his wife Halle and their four children moved into a house they designed and built with a team of professionals. The new house is seconds away from the southern steps of Handsworth High School and an 18-minute walk to the village, he notes.

"Our kids are starting to go to high school and we wanted them to attend Handsworth based on its wonderful reputation. We liked the idea of them being able to walk to school and I wanted to be able to walk to work. We were looking to simplify the logistics in our lives and take full advantage of what living in the Edgemont community could offer."

Makenna, their oldest daughter, is in her second year at Handsworth and is also in

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Shift Dance Academy's Peak Performance program. Last November, during a visit to Disneyland, Makenna and her troupe had the opportunity to dance in one of the Disney parades and participated in a special show with fellow dance academies from across North America.

An avid soccer player and member of the North Vancouver U13 Metro team, their second daughter Naomi is heading for Handsworth next year. She's also involved in volleyball, basketball, track and field and cross country for her elementary school teams.

Brian's son Cooper works on his Taekwondo skills every week at Northshore Taekwondo. He also loves soccer and is a goalie for one of the North Vancouver Boys Gold teams. Cooper has one more year of elementary before heading to Handsworth.

Eighteen-month-old Charlie is the baby of the family. "It will be some time before he goes to Handsworth," laughs Brian. "In the meantime, he's a happy guy who enjoys spending time playing with his older siblings."

Brian, who confesses to being passionate about sports, plays hockey and works out at the new Delbrook Recreation Centre. During the spring and summer, he does the Grouse Grind, rides his road bike, and goes kiteboarding as often as he can. He plans on doing the Whistler GranFondo in September.

Given his enthusiasm for sports, it makes sense that he met his soccer-loving wife Halle in a sports bar while watching the Canucks 2011 run for the Stanley Cup. The pair got married in Halle's hometown of East Aurora, just outside of Buffalo, New York, in 2014.

Halle, who played Division 3 Soccer while earning a degree in film at Emerson College in Boston, was living and working in Los Angeles as a camera assistant on movies, television and commercials when they met. She has taken a break from work and soccer to have children but plans to rejoin her team in the North Shore Thirty-Something Women's Soccer League later this year.

Counting himself as "one of the luckiest guys on the planet," Brian notes: "I have an incredible wife and kids. Our new home is surrounded by friendly neighbours and Edgemont Village is an amazing place to live, work and play.

I am passionate about my work and my team and I have great supportive friends nearby. I feel like my plans have really come together... and it feels good."

Brian will bring his wealth of knowledge to future issues of Neighbours of Edgemont as an expert contributor. Keep an eye out for articles with his byline to learn more about important topics such as downsizing and estate, financial and tax planning.

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 LPLegare@bestversionmedia.com.



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