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Work Play Love
Eric Discovers it All in Our Community



Eric with wife Tamara and daughters Amelia and Kiera (Marc De Vinci, Marc De Vinci Photography)



Eric with wife Tamara and daughters Amelia and Kiera (Pure & Sweet Photography)



Amelia & Kiera (Pure & Sweet Photography)

Work Play Love - Eric Discovers it All in Our Community

By Grace Cameron

Eric Hung remembers waking up countless mornings screaming into his pillow throughout high school and university.

He had no reason for being anxious or unhappy, he notes. He wasn't bullied, he had great friends and the support of his family. The problem, he adds, "was that I had not found my passion yet and it was bugging me."

Eric, who got his first job in grade 5 delivering samples door to door, also delivered the Vancouver Sun on his bike six days a week from grades 6 to 8. In high school he worked at McDonald's, the Keg and found odd jobs around the neighbourhood from flyers he created.

He got his work ethic, he explains, from his dad Oliver who emigrated from Hong Kong for university in Toronto and met Eric's mother Marion. They moved to North Vancouver months after Eric was born and still reside there.

"My parents were wonderful role models who led by example and taught me that being respectful, humble and hardworking were

important core values."

"I learned that I needed to be productive to be happy and was not afraid of the hard work it required," says Eric, Associate Wealth Advisor at The Eydt Wealth Advisory Group of RBC Dominion Securities in Edgemont Village.

Still, when it was time to go to university, he had no idea what he wanted to pursue. "My dad ran a successful engineering firm in Vancouver that provided well for our family. I was good at math and the sciences, so it seemed like a natural fit to follow in his footsteps."

However, he was not inspired by engineering.

"I remember one morning in third year university, while working at an aviation water purification company, I woke up and screamed into that unlucky pillow. That was when I knew I was not happy doing this for a summer, let alone the rest of my life."

Recalling a quote from Mark Cuban, the billionaire owner of the Dallas Mavericks basketball team, who once noted that a key to success and happiness was

"knowing your core competencies and focusing on being great at them," it dawned on Eric that he had more to explore.

He finished mechanical engineering because, he hates leaving things unfinished, he explains. Connecting his desire to help people and his interest in finance and investments, Eric decided to give banking a try at the Bank of Montreal (BMO). In three years, he moved through the ranks to become the financial planner for the biggest branch on the North Shore.

"I started waking up looking forward to going to work six days a week. That was a refreshing feeling."

It showed in his performance, as he was one of the top Financial Planners nationally at BMO for seven years in a row. Still, he felt that something was missing.

At about the same time, he found his personal passion when he started adventure racing, which includes mountain biking, trail running and kayaking. It allowed him to push his body to the limits and master endurance sports.

"On top of spending all my free

time training, my whole social life revolved around these sports. I developed lifelong friendships as well as a sense of community. We would race up the Grouse Grind, trying to be the first at the patio so we could watch the others finish while sipping a beer."

In 2004, Eric met his wife, Tamara, a professional jazz singer. "We were inseparable from the week we met. We could count the number of days we hadn't seen each other over the first two years on one hand."

The couple got married on the beach in Cabos San Lucas, Mexico, and settled into post honeymoon bliss with their puppy Lucy, spending weekends hiking through the Capilano River trails.

That groove was shaken up when Tamara was offered the opportunity to sing full time in Asia.

"I initially resisted," says Eric, "but when I realized this was a unique opportunity I jumped at the chance to take a pause from 'reality' and take a trip of a lifetime with the love of my life."

They spent almost a year in Macau, Hong Kong, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia. Eric notes that the



The Eydtt Wealth Advisory Group. From left to right: Eric, Bernadette, Jaz, Brian, Erin

time away gave him time to reflect on his life and career back home.

“I was enjoying my job and success, but I’d already accomplished what I could within the role. It became clear that it wasn’t my forever job.”

That’s when he made the decision to join Brian Eydtt’s Team, to whom he had referred many of his top clients.

“The move was a game changer. Working with a diverse and

entrepreneurial team gave me the freedom to focus on what I really enjoyed... understanding people’s goals, building their financial plans, implementing world class portfolios and providing meaningful advice to stay on course. I’m grateful every day to work with such a remarkable group of people.”

It also was an opportunity to become a partner in the business. Their practice at the time was in the heart of Lonsdale but



The Hung family hiking along Capilano River

moved to the new Edgemont Commons building at the south end of Edgemont Village in 2016.

“We wanted to be in an area with a strong sense of community,” explains Eric. “Having been immersed in this community for almost two years now, we are excited to help our neighbours for decades to come.”

In 2013, Eric and Tamara had their first daughter, Kiera, now 5. Kiera is a feisty yet sensitive spirit who loves to swim, bike and dance. She recently got her grey belt in Jujitsu and is excelling in the pre-competitive program at Flicka Gymnastics Club.

Three years later the couple had their second daughter, Amelia. She is loving and cuddly and happiest when there’s a good tune to dance along to, says Eric.

Tamara, who was the event manager for the YWCA’s Women of Distinction Awards

before maternity leave, is back as a Fund Development Manager at the YWCA. Her passion outside of work includes CrossFit, running, teaching yoga and preparing healthy, homemade food for their family. She’s also training to become a teacher for Girlvana, programs aimed at helping teenage girls find and embrace their inner voice to become strong leaders.

“Tamara has been an amazing support. She truly inspires me to be the best person, husband and father I can be.”

As for living in a house full of girls, Eric says: “They absolutely

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Daughter Kiera riding her bike



Kiera and Amelia congratulate their dad after the 2017 Canadian Master's National Championships



The Steed Cycles Race Team at 2017 Nationals - Left to Right: Rich Costello, Geoff Watts, Steve Savage, Eric Hung, Mike Berkeley, Drummond Lawson

light up my life.”

In 2011, he traded in his adventure racing gear for a road bike, participating in the Ride to Cancer in support of a friend who had lost his dad.

“Adventure racing was exciting but hard on the body and I was struggling with injuries. The minute I stepped onto a road bike, my body and mind were happy.”

Over the last seven years he’s been racing and volunteering as a ride leader for Steed Cycles and is now competing at the highest level of local amateur Master’s racing (age 30+). Highlights from last year include riding more than 12,000 km, winning one of the biggest local road races, Race the Ridge, and placing fourth at the Master’s Road Race Nationals held at UBC.

“Most people think cycling is an individual sport, but all my results are due to the help of my team. The Steed Ride Club and Race Team have been great ways to meet people who share similar passions and goals.”

Setting goals is important, but Eric says he has learned that the key to his happiness lies in how he sets goals and prioritizes his resources.

“It would be great if we had all the money and time in the world to do everything we want to do to the fullest, but that’s not realistic.”

Planning out those resources and having an understanding with everyone involved is critical to achieving balance.

“My objectives are not results based anymore, they are based on enjoying the journey,” he adds.

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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Eric racing at the 2017 BC Cyclocross Championships



Eric receiving a bottle from Ryan Parsons while in a two man breakaway with friend, Matt Van Nostrand at 2017 Canadian Master's Championships

"It's not about winning Nationals, getting as many client accounts as possible or keeping up with the Joneses. It's about enjoying being on my bike, looking forward to seeing every client and creating memories with my family."

He reflects on his life and the momentum he has created. "I cherish every aspect of my day and appreciate my work team, cycling team and family for making it all fulfilling. In the mornings I'm eager to get into the office to help my clients enjoy their money. On ride days I'm giddy with anticipation to jump on my bike and hit the North Shore roads with my teammates.

On family days I look forward to new adventures with Tamara and the girls."

What's next? Eric is bringing his passion for cycling and the community together by organizing expert cycling info sessions. This year he is sponsoring the Steed Cycles Ride Club and Race Team to enhance the community's cycling experience.

"I believe enjoying life requires being healthy, having a passion to live for and feeling a sense of belonging in your community. Cycling is a great way to accomplish all three."



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