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Neighbours Of LEASIDE & BENNINGTON HEIGHTS

MEET THE CARMICHAEL FAMILY...
“IT WAS MEANT TO BE, TIMING IS EVERYTHING!”

FEATURE STORY PAGE 4





Photos provided by Mallory Carmichael

MEET THE ‘CARMICHAEL FAMILY...’

“IT WAS MEANT TO BE, TIMING IS EVERYTHING!”

BY ANN HALL

The story of Jay and Mallory is truly a case of love at first sight! However, their story begins years before they actually met. Clearly a case of six degrees of separation; there were so many opportunities for them to cross paths over the years. They both grew up in Aurora, a small town at the time. Jay played hockey with many of Mallory’s friends and his sister played hockey with her best friend. They both went to the University of Western where Jay and Mallory had many mutual friends. Their paths would run parallel to each other for many years before they actually met for the first time. Mallory was in her early twenties, out with one of their mutual friends. They had convinced her to get out and have some fun after a recent break up with her boyfriend. Things changed forever when Mallory first stepped out of the car; time seemed to move in slow motion for both of them as they were introduced for the first time. From the very first moment they knew they had a special connection. Both single when they met, it was clearly meant to be, timing is everything for these two...

The first couple of years together they lived in the Distillery district; spending their off time travelling whenever they could. When they were ready to buy their first home they wanted to purchase a con-

dominium in the city. After losing three bidding wars, they decided to look in Aurora, where they purchased their very first home. Settled into their new home, Jay and Mallory took their vows and married in front of family and friends in an incredible outdoor backdrop set on acres of land owned by family friends. It was July 20th 2013, a beautiful day for a wedding. They chose an informal approach to the celebration. They wanted a beautiful outdoor setting where they could relax, connect and have fun with family and friends. They took a unique approach to their reception; they set up food stations around the property, they had a caricature artist, photo booth, and a food truck in order to create just the right party vibe for their special day. Their honeymoon took them to Spain, Italy and Greece. Jay had lived in Italy one summer, a place they went to on their first big vacation together. It was such a special place for them they knew immediately this would be included in their honeymoon plans. They spent time on the Isle of Capri; a beautiful place filled with lots of history, picturesque gardens, cobble stone streets, interesting places to explore, wonderful food and people. The last stop of their honeymoon took them to Greece; they rented a villa with eight of their best friends. It was a trip they will remember for a life time!

In parallel to their evolving relationship; career remains an important focus for Jay and Mallory. They are driven to be their best self and very supportive of each other’s goals. They both graduated from Western University. Mallory graduated with an Honours Specialization Degree in Media Information and Techno culture. Jay with a double major in Psychology and History, he later completed his MBA. Mallory enjoys a passionate career in pharmaceutical sales as a Business Account Manager in Women’s Health. Jay combined his health care experience with his business entrepreneurial background and secured an exciting new position as Director of Business Development and Operation’s at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. Jay and Mallory are so proud of the work done by this facility;

“Holland Bloorview is a global leader in care, research and education for children with disabilities including; cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, amputation, epilepsy, spina bifida, arthritis, autism, acquired brain injury, including concussion. When you enter the incredible facility you immediately feel the positive energy, passion and commitment to improving the lives of the children with disabilities and their families.” says Mallory.



Photos provided by Storey Wilkins Photography

If you are interested in finding out more about this wonderful facility located in the Leaside community their website is www.hollandbloorview.ca.

Based on what they have both accomplished so far, I can only imagine where their paths may take them in the future. It is clear that Jay and Mallory have a lot going for them. They are a beautiful couple, who are well educated, successful in their careers and the nicest two people you could ever meet. All the pieces of the puzzle seemed to come together perfectly for them up to this point; until they decided it was time to start a family. Mallory's intuition told her something wasn't right. She was referred to a Reproductive Endocrinologist; she had blood work done and several ultrasounds completed. It was not long before it was determined that Mallory would have a difficult time getting pregnant. She was only 28 yrs old at the time and in really good health. Their minds were racing, so many questions; how could this happen, what are our options, what does this mean for us, what are the next steps? However, there was hope...

Jay and Mallory were referred to the Anova Fertility & Reproductive Clinic. They followed the typical fertility path for a young couple; they started first with taking prescription medication which did not work for them. They quickly moved to injection based medications; Jay would have to give Mallory two needles every day. Timing was crucial; in order to obtain the best possible result it was critical

the needles were given at the exact same time every day. At the same time, they made a decision to move back to the city and buy a home in their preferred area Leaside. Many of their days consisted of; 7 am at the fertility clinic to get blood work and monitoring done, usually followed in the evening by viewing one or two houses for sale in Leaside. Most days were filled with optimism; will this be the month we get pregnant and buy a house? However, over the next two years there would be many challenges for them. There were highs and lows along the way, they always found a way to laugh at the many interesting circumstances they found themselves in. One time they were at a Leaf's Game at the ACC, the time was 7 pm. They asked a paramedic if there were any private spots where Jay could give Mallory her fertility shot. The well intending paramedic could only think to take them to what is called the 'Drunk Tank'. There Jay and Mallory were amongst various intoxicated people and police officers while trying to administer their fertility shots. Now that is perseverance...

Over time and with the guidance of the doctors; it was determined the best course of action for Jay and Mallory was to try In Vitro

Fertilization (IVF). From the start, Mallory's intuition told her this was the right direction for them. As fate would have it they were successful this time. Cooper Capri Carmichael was born on March 4th 2016 at Sunnybrook Hospital. She has just celebrated her 1st birthday with family, friends, her 1st birthday cake, balloons and her very own 'mini Cooper' car that her parents just couldn't resist buying for her. Although it was a different path than they expected, Cooper is the best thing that has happened to them. Neither of them would change a thing, as they now have the sweetest little girl in their lives. It is interesting how life works; in parallel to having a beautiful little girl, and after bidding on more than eight houses, they finally purchased an amazing home in Leaside. It clearly shows it was meant to be, timing is everything...

The experiences they have had to date



have made them stronger; love and perseverance helped them navigate a challenging path with optimism and hope.

A message to the community from Mallory on behalf of the Carmichael Family:

"We drove through Leaside for the first time before we got married and we both knew immediately that we had to raise our family here. It has the strongest sense of community and family and we couldn't imagine living anywhere else."



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~ Mallory Carmichael

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