

Tina Driscoll
From Rock and Roll Queen to Bathroom Queen
by
Brian Campbell

Tina Driscoll hadn't originally intended to work in the family business at Dynasty Bathrooms. "I thought that I was too cool for that," she admits with a smile. "I was the Rock and Roll Queen. I always loved music and I had played in bands for years, I enrolled in a work experience program right out of high school and got a job at HMV. It turned out to be a very good career; I worked with them for 13 years, managing the retail outlets."

When the music industry began to change, Tina decided it was time to make a change as well. So she left HMV with the intention of getting her Real Estate licence, saying: "I've always loved homes and designing."

But her dad persisted. "He said, 'Why don't you come work for me. It is a good opportunity for you,'" Tina says. "So I gave it a try and found that it was a very good fit. I was a home owner, so I understood the challenges of home ownership and wanting to redesign it to fit your needs."

So she gave up on her Real Estate licence and began working at Dynasty Bathrooms full time. "Dad just threw a bunch of tasks at me, and here I am eight years later," Tina says. "But I'm glad I did it that way. I didn't want to just walk into my Dad's business. I wanted to build my resume first, to prove to him, and to myself, that I could do it."

It was during her rock and roll days that Tina met her husband Christopher Driscoll. Her band was looking for a drummer and Christopher showed up to apply. Tina says, "We started playing together and instantly there was chemistry between us and I knew he was the one."

Although Christopher still actively plays in a band, Tina is too busy at Dynasty to play on stage, but they still go on trips to music festivals together and jam once in a while.

Although they both love playing music, neither planned to make it a full time career. Tina, of course is fully involved with Dynasty, and when he isn't playing in his band, Christopher's day job is as an IT Advisor for Nine Circles Community Health Centre. Outside of music, they love to travel, go camping, do yoga and plant. "I have a green thumb, Christopher doesn't," Tina says. "However, he is learning to like it now that he found out that he can grow his own hops for his beer making hobby."

Tina is the second generation of her family to work at Dynasty Bathrooms and the first to live in Linden Woods. When her Dad, Ken Onsowich, started the business in his basement, his intention was to operate the business for a few years, until it ran its course. Thirty two years later Dynasty Bathrooms is not only running, it is thriving, with a major expansion into Linden Woods nearly completed.

When Tina and Christopher first moved into Linden Woods, they weren't aware of the Christmas decorating tradition on several of the streets, or that they were moving onto Candy Cane Lane. "Our neighbours thought it was funny that we didn't know about it, because it started in our home 28 years ago," Tina says with a laugh. "There is still spray paint on our basement floor from when they spray painted the wrought iron candy canes for the trees."

It didn't take them long to become fully immersed in the tradition. Now they work with their other neighbours to help promote increased decorating on their street. "We send out newsletters asking people to put more candy canes out," she says. "We want to see it all through Foxmeadow Drive. It's really very special to be a part of Candy Cane Lane and share it with our neighbours. Plus, the lights are absolutely stunning on the street. Dynasty made a 'Seasons Greetings' sign to put up at the beginning of the road. Then, when we are done with our float figurines, we stick them on the front lawn. People stop and take pictures."

Tina and Christopher have even been working on a potential new tradition by decorating their garage for Halloween a couple of years in a row. "Rather than kids coming up to our house in the traditional way, they had to follow a path through the garage and get spooked before they got their treats. We took the sign that said Seasons Greetings Candy Cane Lane and changed it to Nightmare before Candy Cane Lane," Tina says. "The kids loved it. They were disappointed because we didn't do it last year. Maybe we'll do it again this year."

Of course there is more to Linden Woods than just the Christmas decorating competition, and Tina and Christopher are enjoying all of it. "There is that sense of

calm, that you are in a safe neighbourhood,” Tina says. “It is still a place where you can go to your neighbour’s for a cup of sugar.”

According to Tina, Linden Woods offers so much to love, from the man-made lakes and parks for them to take their dog for a walk, to the many close amenities, to the numerous activities at the Community Centre to take advantage of. “They are always doing something for the community,” she adds, “whether it is the Linden Woods run-a-thon or the community garage sales, there is always something that everyone gets together to do.”

Tina also enjoys the fact that it is family friendly and her 12 year old stepson, Evan, can get involved in activities such as Tai Kwon Do, go to the park and fly his drone, or play at the sprinkler pad. There is so much that they enjoy doing in Linden Woods, the only trouble is finding the time to do it.

“My time is pretty much cut short, especially since we are working on the new store,” she says. “But I like that fact that we are going to be a main fixture in Linden Woods. People in Linden Woods need a place where they can go and talk to someone who can help them from the design process right through the renovation. They need something like Dynasty who can give them one on one attention.”

Of course, the new store is technically not the first showroom that Dynasty will have in the neighbourhood. “One of the prerequisites Christopher and I had when we were looking for a home together was that we wanted a place with more than one bathroom. Then we found a place in Linden Woods with four,” Tina says with a laugh. “We renovated them all within the first two years. So when people see the Dynasty truck in our yard and ask about it, I bring them in and show them what we’ve done.”

Although expanding Dynasty Bathrooms has been in the planning stages for several years, Tina’s living in Linden Woods was very instrumental in the final decision on where to locate it. “For me it’s a no brainer,” she says. “It just makes sense to have it here.

“There is really nothing like Dynasty here,” she adds. “There are some kitchen places, but no bathroom places, and we all have bathrooms.”

Eventually, Tina will likely be taking over the family business, but she doesn’t expect that to be any time soon. “My Dad was planning to retire, but that isn’t

going to happen now,” she says with a laugh. “I think he just likes it too much. He likes to interact with people. He isn’t the retirement type.”

So Tina’s future plans mainly consist of getting the new Dynasty Bathrooms and Kitchen’s Store up and running, playing music whenever she can, and spending as much time as she can with her family and her community. Of course, she plans to do what she can to see that Candy Cane Lane wins the Best Decorated Street competition this December. Make sure to come by and check it out.