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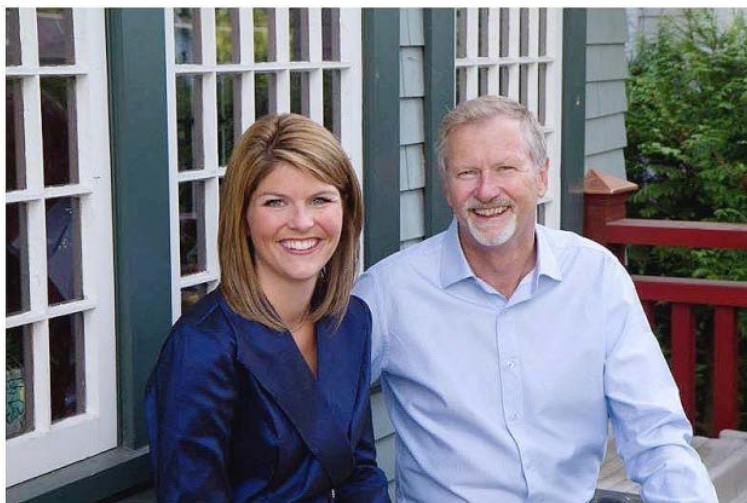


Forget Take Your Kids To Work Day, how about taking your parents?

BY GORDON MCINTYRE, THE PROVINCE NOVEMBER 5, 2014

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Kyla Gardiner of North Vancouver knows all about her dad's work — she joined him three years ago in real estate sales.

It's "Take Our Kids To Work Day" on Wednesday, but Kyla Gardiner doesn't need a designated day to go to work with her dad.

She does that every day as part of the [Gardiner real estate](#) team that specializes in heritage homes on the North Shore.

"I thought I knew about real estate because I grew up with my dad in real estate," the 31-year-old said. "I thought I could do better than him.

"I was mistaken."

Grant Stuart Gardiner has been there to tutor his daughter since she joined forces with him three years ago.

In this case dad obviously knows what it's like to do the daughter's job — but that isn't the case for many in the workforce.

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A third of people polled recently by LinkedIn said their parents have no clue as to what they do during their work days.

At the same time, research in the U.S. shows that more than two-thirds of workers believe their parents have unshared knowledge or advice that could help their careers, if only they knew what to share.

So Kyla Gardiner, a commercial pilot who flew turboprops and float planes in northern B.C. before returning to Lower Lonsdale in North Vancouver, is thankful.

“My gosh, I’ve learned so much from my dad, everything,” she said. “A real estate agent starting out without a mentor? I don’t know how they do it, it would be just stumbling in the dark.”

The kids-at-work day is organized by The Learning Partnership and is aimed at Grade 9 students.

LinkedIn has gone a step further, introducing a bring-your-parents to work day last year: More than 15,000 people in 14 countries took part.

This year’s parents’ day is Thursday.

“We got tremendous feedback last year,” said Kathleen Kahlon, a spokeswoman for LinkedIn. “There’s a gap between what we as children do and what parents think we do.”

“We wanted to bridge that gap.”

LinkedIn, a social network for businesses and professionals, has 300 million members worldwide, more than nine million of them in Canada.

“A happy employee is a productive and loyal employee,” Kahlon said. “We’ve found that professionals who have a family involved, who talk to their parents and their parents understand what it is they’re doing at work, those professionals are happier and more loyal.”

The theme for this year’s parents’ day at LinkedIn’s Canadian headquarters in Toronto is gratitude.

Seventy parents will be shown short videos made by their kids, thanking them for all they’ve done.

But are there drawbacks to having parents too close in an occupational role?

“That’s a good question,” Kyla Gardiner said. “Not for me.

“If there was one thing, it would be that dad is like my boss.

“He’s probably harder on me as a daughter, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

“It pushes me.”

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