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## Weather



TODAY:  
CLOUDY

HIGH OF 11  
LOW OF -1



TUESDAY:  
60% CHANCE OF  
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 7  
LOW OF 2-3



WEDNESDAY:  
SUNNY

HIGH OF 9  
LOW OF -1



THURSDAY:  
SUNNY

HIGH OF 14  
LOW OF 5



FRIDAY:  
60% CHANCE OF  
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 14  
LOW OF 5

# Mothers



## MUSINGS FROM THE CITY

### HELEN FORTIN

I'm an ex-Townshipper. We have full rich blood running rampant through our veins down there. Which brings me to mosquitoes, who love this good rich blood, which brings me to my mom who was the queen of hating them, and which brings me to today and thinking about mommies.

I posted to Facebook in 2011 to share some good advice that my mother had given me over the years. I had lost her the year before and I especially missed her on that particular Mother's Day. It popped up this morning so as memory post I shared some good advice she gave me over my lifetime.

The first one, which has always served me well, was to stand up straight and throw your shoulders back. The second was about men, she professed 'when in doubt do without!'

She shared kernels of truth about men with me throughout my lifetime. My favourite was about 30 years ago I guess. I had just gotten in from the Townships and the phone was ringing off the hook. Sure enough it was Annie. I had taken a new boyfriend down to meet my family and without even an hello I hear my mom say 'Helen! dump that guy! He's not for you! 'She was right, he really wasn't for me. To give him a little credit though, he was a nice fella... so today in my post I asked others for sage pieces of advice from their moms. Here are some of my favorite quotes besides those of my sister to which you will need to tune into my FB page. Look me up!

Dana Stewart... 'If you burn your ass, you sit on the blisters'

Evelyn Miller ...'The dishes will always be there- go outside and live a little!'

Sharon McCully... "Being pretty might get you in the door, being smart will keep you there. Do your lessons!"

Peggy Killeen ...my dear auntie Jean who died too young told me when I was 14, "Boobs don't last, brains do."

Bernard St-Laurent's mom Mary Naylor 'Remember there are always three sides to a story. Your side. My side. And

the right side.'

Angie Paré Richardson ... your aunt Gertie 'you have to eat a pound of dirt before you die'.

Lorri Benedik My mom was always brilliant and a source of great advice throughout my life. When I was 25 she persuaded me to start an RRSP. Now she is 96 and has dementia but often comes out with helpful hints. These days, when talking about challenging situations she says, "Yard by yard, life is hard; inch by inch, it's a cinch."

I hope to be writing more stories about family, friends and home in the coming weeks which will require feedback from you. The funnier the better. I miss my mom and always will. She taught me to be deadly honest, a lady and confident. I had always wanted to have that smoky Lauren Bacall look about me but she assured me that a full faced smile and country wholesome demeanour would do the trick. In the end, she loved the man I chose but more about him and my dad (from whom I got my jagged sense of humour) on Father's Day.

I wish all moms peace, love, harmony and a ton of good laughs this Mother's Day. I'm sure none of us will ever forget this year.

# Covid Mother's Day

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

spelled correctly, "convertibles." I got up this morning and found the card in a memory box and enjoyed it as much 20+ years later as I did the day he gave it to me. In the same box I found a book my youngest son had created about his parents. The stick figures were quite lifelike and there was an arrow pointing me the one of me with a caption that said, "Mom, you are the round one."

Sitting in the living room the phone rings as the eldest is first to remember that it is Mother's Day. He informs me that he went to a thrift shop and found a mug, "just like the one I had when he was a kid that got broken." He saw it and thought of me. He sends me a photo and sure enough, it is exactly like my favourite old mug that I used for tea all those years ago. As familiar as an old friend, just seeing it brings back memories of sipping my tea and watching

the boys playing together outside when they were young.

As our conversation ends, another call comes in. It is son number two calling from the wharf where he is proud to be working receiving fishermen in their boats heading out on the lake despite the cold temperatures; eager to get the season started. "I'm going to stop by and fix the fence on the way home," he offers. In those words lies his gift, no fancy bows or flashy wrapping paper but rather a deed that needs doing to help the family out.

Son number three, the youngest has recently become a parent himself. No, no children yet but rather the proud owner of three piglets. He prepares their food being extra cautious of its nutritional value. He invents playthings to keep them occupied and learning. He snaps photos and videos marvelling at their intelligence in awe of every accomplishment. His Mother's Day gift comes in words; a simple "Hap-

py Mother's Day" sums it up. He has little ones of his own to take care of so no time for sentiment.

The email messages and phone calls roll in as most mothers' I know take the time to wish other mother's a joyful day. I receive snapshots of homemade gifts, ingenious creations and heartfelt expressions of love being created to bring to Moms' everywhere. Colorful flowers to bring light to an otherwise dreary Sunday.

Being a Mom has been the most joyous experience of my life. From raising my three sons to being a part of the lives of the children in my community through the CABMN Youth Centre over the past 35 years, I realise that children are the riches in life.

Wishing a Happy Mother's Day to all and reminding you that whether or not you have children of your own, mothering of pets and other people's children makes you a Mom too.

## Ben by Daniel Shelton

