

TWO MORE SALT-OF-THE-EARTH PEOPLE than my Grammy and Grampy you would be very hard-pressed to find. Theirs was such a traditional marriage that, when my grandmother fell ill with Alzheimer's and my grandfather had to assume some of her "roles", why, even opening a can of tomato soup was a task! But, he learned!

Up until about 10 years ago, my grandparents heated their whole house with a wood stove upon which Grammy did all the cooking. She also did the wood-chopping! When she finally got a four-burner stove, she was at a total loss – how the heck could she do anything with only four burners, when she was so used to being able to juggle 8 pots and pans at once! Whenever we came to visit, without fail, there would be meat that was shriveled and near burned to black (afterall, there is no such thing as 'rare' to an Irish Catholic Maritime Granny!).

"Does this meat taste tough to you?" she would ask, gnawing on the carcass, which always garnered a teasing chuckle from my dad. Potatoes, pies... oh, pies galore! And, as Grampy always said, "an apple pie without the cheese is like a kiss without the squeeze."

Grammy had a wringing clothes washing machine, and when we finally bought her a proper washer and dryer, why, didn't she use them to store her Tupperware! They went dancing at the Legion every Saturday night and out to McDonald's for midnight treats afterwards with their friends. Their little dog, Babe, brought them so much joy and was known to enjoy the occasional timbit Grampy would let slip.

My Grampy, 93 years young, is now on his own. Grammy passed away a couple of years ago after having spent the last couple years in a long term care home. She didn't recognize us in the end, didn't recognize her own husband. She would barely have anything to say, really. But, we would come to visit and, every time, EVERY time, upon seeing us, she would rise from her chair telling us to sit down while she puts a pot of potatoes on to boil. A true Irish lullaby.

-Heather Aggus, ACCA Communications & Events Manager on her grandparents, Joe & Mildred Connors

SHARE A STORY... If you would like to share a story about a senior or vulnerable adult in your life, please contact Heather Aggus at heather.aggus@ab-cca.ca or 780.431.4861. The intent is to share stories that have made an impact on you: that have shaped your character, influenced your interest in the continuing care world, and that simply make you smile.

ABOUT US:

ACCA represents a unique alliance of providers in Alberta's Continuing Care sector. Our Members provide care and services for over 12,000 long term care (LTC) and designated supportive living (DSL) spaces and over 5.3 million hours of Home Care to Albertans. We champion for quality of care, quality of life and enhanced wellness for Albertans requiring Continuing Care. This is our mission!

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