



Kim McKey

I first met Kim in a grocery store. Just to set the record straight, we both worked there, even though they are known for being places to look for a date. After a few months of regular coffee breaks and having lunch together, we started to date. Within a few weeks of dating, we both knew that we were meant to be together. In time, we were convinced that we were soul mates, for which later we eventually proved.

Meeting Kim was, and has been the best thing that has ever happened in my life, before meeting her, my life had very little direction. After meeting Kim, it seemed that everything came together and my direction in life became very clear. I have never had someone have so much influence on my life, like Kim has.

After 16 months of dating, we were engaged, followed by our wedding (November 11th, 1980) 11 months later. Our Honeymoon was spent in Jamaica. It was at this time that we discovered vacationing in the Caribbean. This was something we did regularly thereafter.

In December 1993, our son Eric was born. Approximately 4 years later, our daughter Mallory rounded out *the* family to four. Five if you counted our dog "Presley" at that time. We lived in Thorold for 9 years, then bought a house in Niagara Falls

One day, out of the blue, Kim mentioned that while taking shower, she noticed that a mole on the back of her left arm had started to bleed. Having a physical exam scheduled for the next week, she mentioned it to our family Doctor. Immediately, he took a sample and sent it out for testing. A few weeks later, while eating dinner, our Doctor called and asked that we meet him in his office that evening. We knew it wasn't going to be good news, but we did not expect the worst. Kim's test came back positive for Melanoma. Despite our love for the Caribbean, Kim was not partial to the sun, and always took great lengths to avoid it as much as possible. Melanoma was not something that Kim was a candidate for.

Shortly thereafter, the mole was completely removed from Kim's arm. After extensive testing, it was determined that they caught it early enough and that it hadn't spread.

Kim was only a few days away from being 5 years clear, when she noticed a small lump on the right side of her neck. An immediate investigation showed that it was a tumor, and her Melanoma had

returned. The tumor grew quite rapidly and within 2 months, it needed to be surgically removed. During the surgery, they also found some radical cells, so Kim then started a treatment program. The treatment made her deathly sick for nearly 6 weeks straight; she was scheduled to be on it for a year. However, within 6 weeks, signs of new tumors started to appear the treatment was stopped and re-evaluated.

Kim was such a courageous girl. She took this whole illness on in stride. In doing so, she supported all her friends and love one's more than we were able to support her. She was more concerned about us, than she was for herself. We were all expected to continue with life, as if she wasn't sick. Her objective was to make her life, and our lives, as normal as possible, that's what Kim wanted, and that's what we did. Looking back, it was the best thing for all of us.

As the disease progressed, it was estimated in October that Kim would only have a few months. We were not even sure if she was going to make it to Christmas that year. The new treatment was not nearly as harsh on her system, and under the circumstances, provided her with a reasonable quality of life. It was at that time, we decided to make one final trip to the South, as a family. Kim chose to go to the Mien Riviera in Mexico, The trip would include Kim's morn (Lynda) and her Dad (Ralph), her brother (Pete), our children (Eric & Mallory), as well as myself (John).

This is where Dreams 2 Memories came in. A neighbor of Kim's parents told them about this organization that would help fund a dream for young terminally ill parent. It provides an opportunity for the whole family to build wonderful memories, in an environment that will always be memorable. Due to this organizations incredible generosity, they funded the expenses for Kim, the kids and I, to take this incredible trip. It will truly be a trip that none of us will ever, ever forget.

We were fortunate that the treatment Kim was on, was doing a great job of prolonging the progression of her disease. We had a wonderful Christmas that year, which was the best gift of all. We even had nearly 100 people show up for Kim's 40th Birthday Party that April.

In late April of her final year, we learned that the treatment had run its course, and the disease was starting to progress at a much faster rate. While Kim was still feeling up to it, the four of us spent a week in San Francisco. Kim got to tour Alcatraz, something she has always longed to do.

Unfortunately, only a few weeks after we were home from our trip, Kim suffered a stroke. Even spending 4 1/2 weeks in the hospital, her strength and passion for life just continued to amaze us. Her goal was to be at home one more time. It was something that she accomplished for 3 1/2 weeks, before she passed away in August of 2006.

Kim was an incredible wife. If someone told me, before we got married, that I would only have 17 years with her, I would have still married her in a minute. The only thing we would have done different is to try to cram more life into such a short period of time. Our relationship is irreplaceable. Kim and I will always truly be soul mates.

As incredible as Kim was as a wife, she was even more so as a Mother. She loves Eric and Mallory dearly, and went to great extents in life, to make sure that they were always looked after and treated right. Never a more loving mother, could there ever be. Kim's only fear about passing was that she was afraid that Eric and Mallory would not remember her. Kim has left such an impression on both of them, there is no way that they could ever forget her.

As a daughter, and as a sister, she was always part of an incredibly close and loving family. She will be missed by all her family, as well as our loving and devoted friends, who supported her through her most challenging years of her life.

We all know that even though you are not here with us now Kim, your spirit and guidance will always be with us. We Love You and miss you dearly!!!

Our deepest appreciation goes to the Dreams 2 Memories Foundation, for the gift of a life time. Through your support and generosity, you have given our whole family something that no amount of money could ever replace. Thank You!!

John McKey
July 9, 2007



Dreams to MEMORIES®

Foundation Canada

(A registered, non-profit, charitable family wish granting foundation)

Cordially invites you to attend

**the tree & bench dedication & volunteer appreciation
service at our**

"MEMORIAL GROVE"

Maple tree have been planted in memory of our wish parent

Kim McKey

Saturday September 22, 2007

3:00 pm

Lions Sugar Bowl Park, Fort Erie, ON

(corner of Central Ave. and Gilmore Rd., Fort Erie)

Barbeque to follow at 1903 Dominion Road

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