

NEIGHBOURS OF

TOLLENDAL



Meet

THE JONES FAMILY:

Tenacious and Versatile



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COVER PHOTO BY
AL JONES

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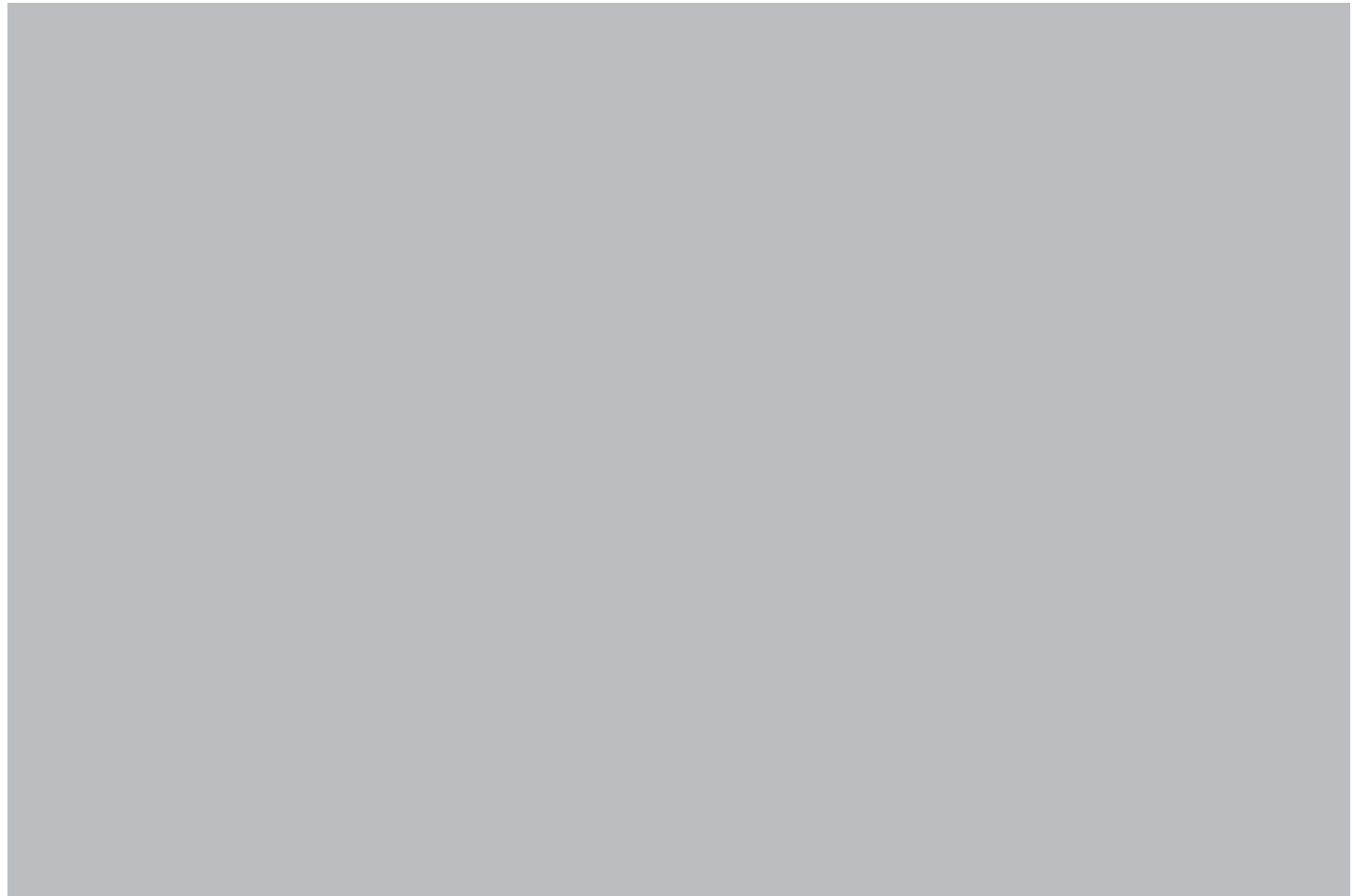
The Jones are both family and community focused. Giving back is just part of what they have accomplished.

Al Jones is a 7th generation proud Canadian with Nova Scotia roots. Suzanne, Al's wife, is an 8th generation French Canadian. "The Jones family has a significant military history dating back to the Empire Loyalists. Our children have Canadian roots that run deep. As a family, we have travelled from coast to coast of our wonderful country in our camper trailer. We have always felt it was important to share the beauty of Canada with our boys Adam, now 29 and Connor, now 25. We have spent many summer holidays exploring our great country and spent a weekend every spring birding at Pelee National Park," declares Al.

However, long before settling in Barrie and taking family vacations, Al met his future wife Suzanne while working at Bolton Camp as counsellors in the summer of 1979 and married in July 1988. Al attended Humber College for Recreation Leadership, and then studied Recreation at the University of Waterloo. Al states, "I worked as a Youth and Family Worker at Hincks Treatment Centre working with hard to serve youth for 10 years. I was seconded by the Ministry of Education to work as a Youth Worker in a pilot project for expelled students. I was recruited by London Life under a special initiative in 1997, thus beginning my career in the Life Insurance and Financial industry.

Al went on to earn his ICD.D (Institute of Corporate Directors. Designation) in 2018 and was recognized by his peers as class Valedictorian during the graduation ceremony of the Director Education Program. This program was jointly developed by the Institute of Corporate Directors and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The ICD.D represents a lifelong commitment to excellence in the boardroom, a desire to stay current, and to be a more effective director. Al is a member of Million Dollar

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Round Table (MDRT), an international association whose members are in the top 10% of the insurance industry. Currently, Al, a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), has his CLU, which is an advanced estate planning and life insurance designation. He is the President of A. Jones Wealth and Estate Planning Inc. in Barrie. Recently, Suzanne retired after teaching with the York Catholic District School Board for more than 30 years.

As mentioned, Al and Suzanne are proud parents of their two sons. Al shares, “Both boys graduated from St. Michael’s elementary and St. Peter’s secondary schools. Both boys played soccer, hockey and rugby in the community, and spent many years in the Boy Scouts. Adam attended Georgian College, then Carleton University. He then enlisted in the military and has been based in Ottawa for 8 years. He participated in the Invictus Games, representing Canada in 2017, and has set up a military veteran’s association at Carleton University.

Connor’s passion for the outdoors led him to Nipissing University in North Bay for a Bachelor of Science in Biology, and he recently completed a Master’s Degree in Forestry at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. He is taking a bit of a break from school while exploring a future in the military or perhaps seeking a PhD in Astro Biology.

Throughout the boys’ lives, Al had been actively involved in the community by coaching his sons’ hockey teams, volunteered as a Scout Leader for 10+ years, was on the School Council at the boys’ elementary school and was elected Chairperson on the Innisfil Chamber of Commerce for two terms, as well as Chairperson of People’s Credit Union in Innisfil/Barrie for three terms. “I was honoured to have been the first Black Canadian to be chairperson of both of those organizations,” states Al. He was awarded the Accredited Credit Union Director’s Designation (ACCUD) from Dalhousie University in 2009.

For almost 30 years, Al and Suzanne have made Painswick their home. It is a choice they were glad that they made. Al says, “A big part of our connection to the community is our wonderful neighbours, who we enjoy socializing with and supporting each other in good times and bad. Every spring, we have a neighbourhood tradition of gathering to raise flags in our backyards to celebrate the coming of summer. We come together for Super Bowl games, Leafs and Canadian hockey rivalries and euchre tournaments.” Al also enjoys a good dram and is the Past-Convenor for the Simcoe Scotch Nosing Society which he enjoys sharing with his neighbours.

So, how does Al relax? He chuckles, “I enjoy the outdoors, camping, birding, travel, photography. I have been appointed by the Governor General of Canada as the Honourary Lieutenant Colonel of the Grey & Simcoe Foresters for a three year term. It is a position that

I hold with great pride.” As a member of the Honourable Guard of the Grey & Simcoe Foresters Regiment, Al is committed to the regiment’s goal to promote, educate and support our Canadian Armed Services. During this appointment Veteran’s Affairs Canada (VAC) approached Al’s son Adam to be highlighted in a promotional video focussing on families who serve. Al’s appointment and affiliation with the Regiment led to Al being included in this project.

Al reminisces, “Sue and I have been fortunate to travel extensively, most recently on safari in South Africa, a trip that we purchased as the winning bid at a fundraising auction by Theatre by the Bay, which we continue to support. We also believe that Neighbours of Tollendal magazine presents a great opportunity for people to connect as a community and to share a bit of ourselves, reminding me of a time when neighbours gathered for conversations on the front porch.”

