

Neighbours of

MARCH 2018

West Galt

*Meet Maxwell
and Laura!*





Location: Gaslight District

Photos by Stan Switalski

Eat Well and Travel Often!

By Tara Mondou

Max Shiffman and Laura Doherty live in a red brick home in the Victoria Park neighbourhood where Laura spent her childhood. “I grew up in West Galt, and my parents still reside here,” says Laura. “Max and I have always loved the neighbourhood, so when we decided to move back to Cambridge from Vancouver, we had hoped to find a home nearby.”

“We were so happy to find the perfect house for us,” says Max. “We love the proximity to Victoria Park and the trails, as well as having family and friends so close-by.”

“It’s really special to me to live in the same neighbourhood where I grew up,” says Laura. “It’s such a beautiful area and we love the old homes and tree-lined streets.”

It’s also lucky for Laura’s parents because whenever they are out of town, the couple enjoys taking care of their dog, Kelly. “We love getting the call to have her,” says Max. “We take Kelly on walks along the trails out near Langdon Hall and in and around the neighbourhood.”

Living in West Galt also makes it an easy commute to Matlow, Miller, Cummins, Thrasher located in downtown Galt, where Max is an associate lawyer. He practices in the areas of Corporate Law, Real Estate, and Wills and Estates. Laura is a Crown Attorney with

the Ministry of the Attorney General and works out of the Regional Courthouse in Kitchener where she prosecutes criminal offences.

Max is originally from Vancouver and the couple makes a special effort to visit as much as possible. “We still have lots of friends and family there. Not long ago, my parents bought a cottage on Salt Spring Island—it’s a beautiful place to visit,” says Max.

Recently, the couple renovated the entire main floor of their home, creating a new open-concept floor plan with a spacious kitchen, new mudroom, and bathroom. It was important for them to have a kitchen they could enjoy together.

“Max and I both love to cook—Max’s specialty is his thin crust pizza. We took a class at Bread Heads in Kitchener, purchased a pizza oven, and now we often have friends over for pizza nights,” says Laura.

Max and Laura married in June of 2015, but met in their first year at Dalhousie University in Halifax. “Max lived next door to a childhood friend of mine in residence—she introduced us, and we’ve been together ever since!” says Laura.

“After we graduated university, we moved to Vancouver and worked there for about two years,” explains Max. “I was working as a Youth Worker, running a drop in centre for at-risk youth. I had become involved in mentorship as a Big Brother in Halifax and wanted to continue that type of work,” explains Max.

Max is currently a member of the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Waterloo Region. “I was a Big Brother while I was at university, and I still keep in touch with my little brother—he’s doing really well. It’s important for me to continue to give back to the organization, so I’m happy to do that by sitting on the Board of Directors.”

“I was focused on attending law school, and studying abroad seemed like a great opportunity. So we were excited to be accepted to the University of Leicester in the UK,” says Laura.

The couple decided to travel to Asia for several months before starting law school. “We began our journey in Hong Kong for Chinese New Year and traveled most of South East Asia over the next few months. It was an incredible experience,” remembers Laura.

“After all our travels, it was time to head to Leicester, which is about 40 minutes north of London,” says Max. “We had a great time in Leicester. We met lots of Canadians who were going to school there and we are all still in touch.”

“While we were in England, we tried to travel as much as possible during school breaks. We were lucky enough to visit many European cities, but some of our favourite trips were to Morocco, France, and a road trip to Scotland,” recalls Laura. The couple got engaged in Malaga, Spain on a trip Max had planned to celebrate Laura’s 25th birthday.

After they got engaged, Laura and Max took six months to finish law school and then married a year later. “We had an outdoor wedding in the summer of 2015, on property that had been in Laura’s family for over forty years,” explains Max.

“The ceremony took place at my aunt and uncle’s beautiful stone farmhouse on West River Road,” continues Laura. “It was very special for me to be married at their place because my godmother was also married there.”

“We were lucky to have friends attend our wedding from all over the country—some even drove all the way from Vancouver to celebrate with us,” recalls Max.



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"We bought our house a month before we got married and took possession while we were away on our honeymoon in Greece," says Laura. "We bought it from a lovely lady who had lived there for over 20 years."

Although Max and Laura are busy lawyers, they still love to travel whenever they can. "In the last few years, we've spent lots of time in Mexico," says Laura. "We've gone on a few trips to the beaches, but

also to Mexico City. It was wonderful—the city has incredible markets and culture."

Every year, Max's parents spend a month in Oaxaca, Mexico, and the couple has traveled to visit them there as well.

"It's been wonderful to be back here in Cambridge," says Laura. "It's so friendly and it's been fun to re-connect with the people that I grew up with. We're very happy here."

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