

Not All Old People Are Cranky

A neighbour is not necessarily someone who lives nearby, but rather someone who has shown great helpfulness and kindness towards others. Someone could live the next house over, but still not be a neighbour. A good neighbour is hard to find but once you do, it can bring you joy every day you walk out the door. I'm very fortunate to have neighbours that bring a smile to my face every time I see them. This is not only because they are amazing, friendly, and a kind individual, a good neighbour some may say, but they also inspire me, although I did not expect this at all when I first met them.

It all started 4 years ago, when my parents decided that we needed a change and decided to move. I was a little sad and mad because I was comfortable in my house, where I have lived my whole life. I knew the people around my house, to whom I would occasionally wave and say hi. I had the same routine every day, I was in a convenient location, and I liked my life the way it was. I didn't want to move but ultimately, I was scared of change. I was excited to move to a new neighbourhood with lots of kids that I could play with because in my old neighbourhood everyone was middle-aged with no kids. Once we moved I was extremely sad because we lived far from everything, my sister got the room I wanted, my brother was moving out, and on top of all that most people in my neighbourhood were retired. I think I was just being pessimistic because instead of seeing how close we were to Lake Ontario, I saw how far we were from the mall, instead of seeing how many wonderful people I was going to meet, I saw all my friends that now lived so far. Eventually, I met what I now consider my neighbours.

First, I met the couple across from us who I didn't really know. When I first met them, I definitely did not expect them to be warm-hearted, caring, and most importantly neighbours. Overtime, it was fortuitous that I was able to get to know them. Whenever I would be playing outside with my sister, they would come over and talk to us. They told us about their lovely family and especially about their beloved grandson that's 2-years old. Every time they spoke about their family, I could tell that they were everything they lived for. Anytime I saw them outside, they would be talking to someone; it seemed like they knew the whole community. Over the last 3 years, I have learned many valuable lessons from them. I have realized that networking can help you meet some amazing people, whom may become people that are there for you through your obstacles and success'. In addition, I have learned the usefulness of having a great personality because character is more important than intelligence. I don't know what their jobs were because that's not important; all I know is that they are outstanding human beings. If you don't have a good character, not only will you not be able to go anywhere in life but you won't have anybody to share the memories with. They have made a huge impact on my opinions and morals, although they may not know it.

Next, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to meet the couple that lives beside me. Whenever I saw the lady working in her garden with her lipstick on, I thought that she was one of those typical grandmothers that were boring; I was extremely wrong about that. One day, my mother and her were talking when she realized we had a cottage and liked boats and then she invited us to go on her beautiful yacht. This is when I really got to know her and her husband. At this time, I knew that she was going to be very sweet and kind as she invited us on her yacht without knowing us too well. I learned that she is a great-grandmother, which shocked me, because she definitely does not look like one. In addition, she is still very active at her age as goes skiing in Europe for a month every winter, gardens every day in the summer, and still has a lot of energy. She truly inspires me to stay active through all my obstacles and injuries as even she is able to stay active despite being a great-grandmother. Every time I get discouraged throughout all my injuries and don't feel like playing sports or being active anymore, I think of her and how she is definitely more fit than I am. It ignites a spark inside of me, which makes me wish to be like her when I'm older, active, happily married, and enjoying every day as it comes. She has been a gift that has come in my life and I couldn't be happier to have met her.

Although, you may not think you have a good neighbour, you never know until you get to know them. Sometimes you have bad luck and just don't get along with the people living next door, but you also have the chance to meet people that could change your life. They may change it slightly or majorly but they are still able to make an impact on you and teach you something new. Everyone around us is filled with knowledge and stories, so instead of judging people, get to know them first. People can hide a lot behind their appearance. Next time you think you may not share anything in common with someone, think again.