

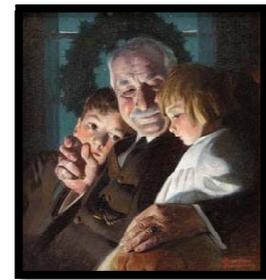
Happy Father's Day

(Grandfather's, too!)



When I was a child, my *grandfather* was the most important male figure in my life. He was a tall and trim man, with bushy eyebrows, a square jaw, and soft voice. My Granddad never slept - or so I thought. He was always awake when I went to bed and always up when I woke. He often took me on walks to the beach at 6am to catch sight of the fishermen unloading smelts in the harbour. This provided us with fresh fish cooked in melted butter in Grandma's black cast iron frying pan. My Granddad was always there for me. Once, when my cat had gone missing, he walked all evening long searching until he found her. She had been hit by a car, but nevertheless my Granddad brought her home and nursed her back to health. My Granddad taught me how to make pastry, bread, and helped me plant my first vegetable garden. He took me to Stanley Park in the wee hours before the park had even opened and we would feed the animals together. I loved his '56 two-tone blue Chevy that cruised really fast over the Granville Bridge where, inadvertently, he received his first speeding ticket while trying to impress me, his granddaughter. Later on, I bought my Granddad's car for \$100.00 as I couldn't bear for him to sell it – too many wonderful memories in that car!

With the birth of my four children, Granddad came to stay and help me out, even though his health was failing. He seemed to know about everything, and was able to fix or solve anything! Later, I discovered he only finished grade 8 in school, yet he had worked hard all his life. He is still the smartest man I have ever known. I am so grateful for his kindness, love, devotion, and wisdom. It is now 20 years since his death and I still miss him dearly. I am ever grateful for his love and care for me throughout the years. He taught me the meaning of being a wonderful grandparent.



In honour of Father's Day, I would like to express my immense gratitude and respect for all the Father's, and Grandfather's, who dedicate their lives to loving, encouraging, inspiring, and caring for their children and grandchildren. I am grateful to all these men who understand the purpose and responsibility of fathering, and grandfathering! It is a most honourable gift.



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