

Island of Stories

Anna Derossis was born in Canada but her parents migrated from Greece. She is a mother of two children. My mom's favorite place is Rockland. She first went to Rockland when she was about 2-3 years. She still remembers going to Woolworths, Steinberg's Supermarket, and Brown's shoes. My mom lives in a different neighborhood today than when she grew up. Back then she used to walk to Rockland and it took about a 30 min from her house, and 10 min from her grandparent's house. Today it takes about a 7 min walk or a 2-3 min drive from her house.

Presently Rockland is a large indoor shopping mall in TMR. It was originally built in 1959 as an open-air shopping mall. It is now in the same location but has been rebuilt and renovated over the years.

Today Rockland is much larger and has a large food court. There are few original stores that are still there, most of the stores are different. One of the original brick walls which used to belong to The Bay can be seen from the parking lot. Not too many people know that. My mom's favorite stores used to be Brown's shoe store because there was a large slide that used to go from the first level to the basement of the store. She would run in the store and go on the slide even when we weren't buying shoes. She also loved to go to Woolworths, it was a five and dime store and we always used to find little trinkets. There was a dining counter and sometimes my mom would buy a soda or ice cream.

When my mom was growing up she went there about once a week as it was the only shopping mall in the area. So she went there to shop house hold items, clothes, shoes and food. Rockland

is very special to my mom because she remembers going as a little girl and now she goes with her children.

In the past my mom had special moments at Rockland like: She had her ears pierced when she was 10 years old at The Bay. She could still remember it today. It was in the jewelry and accessories department. Actually one piercing was a little lower than the other but she never got it redone.

Now she also had special moments at Rockland like: she loved bringing her babies to Rockland. She still has fond memories of them in their strollers eating ice cream. She also loved bringing them to Chapters book store that now has closed and moved. One of the most special memories was when we bought our Yorkshire puppy at Safari pet store, about 18 months ago. This was the same pet store we would always have to visit with every trip to Rockland when the children were younger.