

TAMARA TAGGART

IT'S CLEAR SKIES AHEAD FOR THE WEATHERCASTER AND NEW MOM



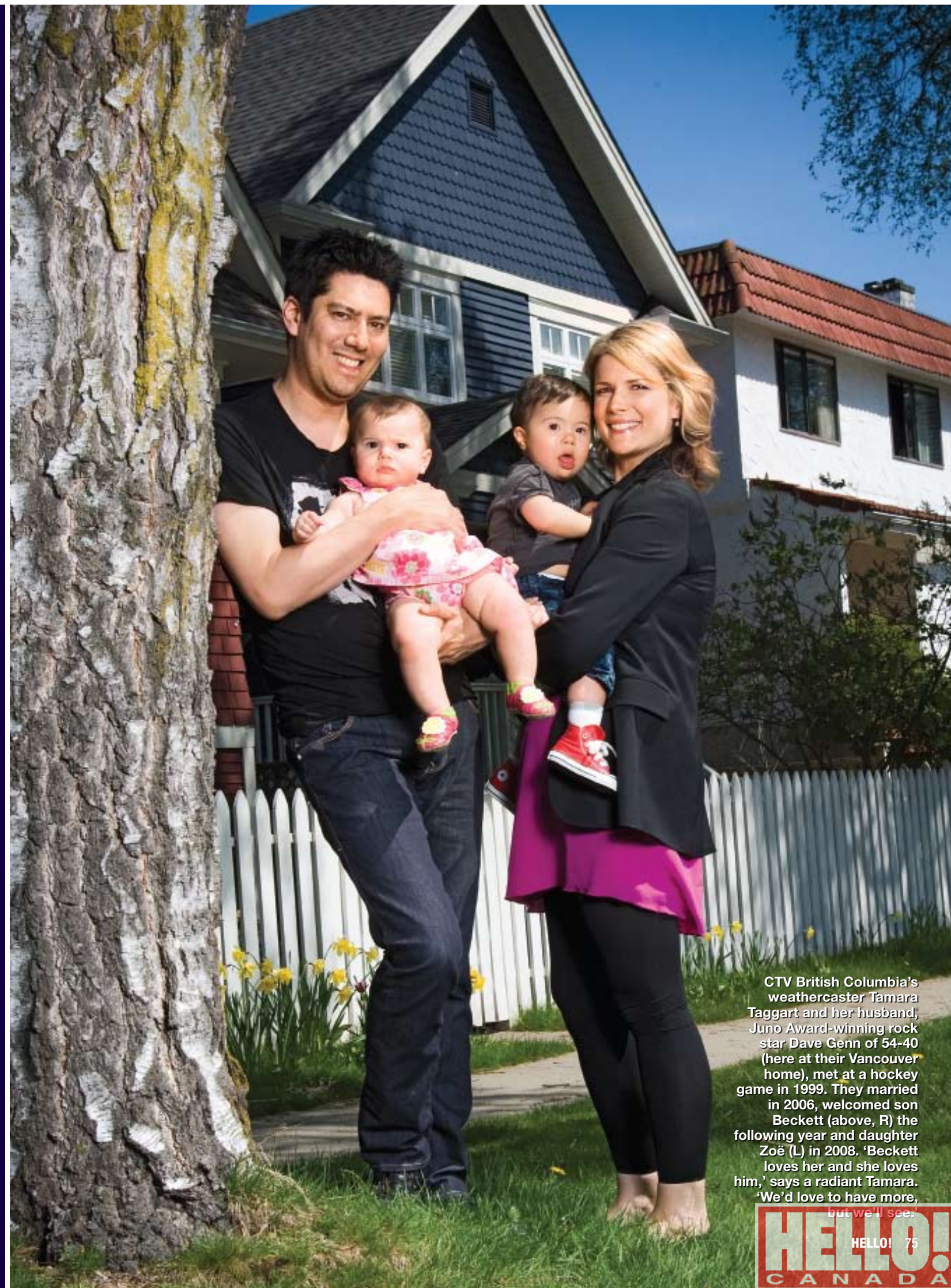
'Our house is a three-ring circus now,' says Tamara of her hectic life in Vancouver. 'I love it!'

Tamara Taggart – CTV's bright, beautiful British Columbia weathercaster – is considered by many to be the face of Vancouver. The hard-working blond with the sunny smile has been well-loved in Lotus Land since she took to the small screen 12 years ago, first reporting on community events and then moving on to breakfast banter, entertainment and finally weather.

In 2006, the West Coast celebrated along with Tamara when, on an exhilaratingly stormy night in February, she married her soulmate, 54-40 rocker Dave Genn, in a lavish bash attended by many of the country's brightest lights in music and the media. In 2007, the couple welcomed a son, Beckett (who was diagnosed with Down's syndrome), and in 2008, a daughter, Zoë.

Here, the dotting mom – who is now back at work and has been chosen by CTV to report the weather nationally during the Olympics – shares her personal forecast with *Hello! Canada*.

How did you get your big break in broadcasting? I was hired to work in the promotions department [of a CTV affiliate station]. They wanted to have a community calendar. I could hear them talking around the corner from my desk: "Who are we going to get to host this? ▶



CTV British Columbia's weathercaster Tamara Taggart and her husband, Juno Award-winning rock star Dave Genn of 54-40 (here at their Vancouver home), met at a hockey game in 1999. They married in 2006, welcomed son Beckett (above, R) the following year and daughter Zoë (L) in 2008. 'Beckett loves her and she loves him,' says a radiant Tamara. 'We'd love to have more, but we'll see.'



'When you have a child with special needs, you look at the world differently. You have more compassion'

talk to him for about eight months. Then I heard from another mutual friend that he and his girlfriend had broken up. Three months later, I saw him and he asked me out on a date.

How was your first date? We went to a Peter Gabriel concert. I just knew he was different... He's a very kind, generous, reasonable, loving person. He dials me down. He's a great partner for me. He's just a really good person. And he makes me laugh very, very hard.

With your busy schedules, was it difficult to find time to see each other? We had to make some adjustments. I was used to getting up really early and he was used to going to bed at two or three in the morning. We had to meet in the middle. Once we did that, it was much easier. We were together all the time, no matter what. He was paying rent for an apartment he was never in, because we were never, ever apart.

What makes the marriage work? Dave and I communicate really well. We have disagreements, but we're able to work through it and move on. He's my best friend. I know everyone says that, but it's true. We have the same goal – we want to make each other happy. We want to have a loving family.

What has your journey as a mother been like? Six months after we got married, we started to try to have a baby and we got pregnant right away. It was the first grandchild on both sides of the family. It was a perfect pregnancy and delivery. Everything was great and we were completely over the moon in love

There's no one. Let's just get Tamara to do it." They came and said, "We need you." I was dressed in a T-shirt and jeans! I phoned my best friend, who worked across the street, and said, "What did you wear to work today?" She said, "Oh, it's really cute." We traded clothes in the bathroom, and I went down on the street and

taped. Twelve years later, I'm still doing it!

What was dating like for you as a TV personality? It was horrible. Terrible. It's hard to meet people no matter what, but if you're on television, people have already formed an opinion about you, so you're not

at the same starting spot.

How did you meet your husband? We met at a Canucks game through mutual friends. I was instantly drawn to Dave and we had a great conversation. The next day, I found out he had a girlfriend, so I erased him from my memory bank and didn't




Tamara (opposite, and above with Beckett, Dave and Zoë) says family life has changed her outlook. 'Before, I could easily get all wrapped up in all kinds of ridiculous things that were a waste of my time,' she admits. 'That's just not important to me anymore. I've realized that friends and family are number one.' Right: Tamara and Zoë (in mirror) with Dave and Beckett. Says Tamara: 'Nothing gives me greater joy than watching my daughter try to crawl, or making my son laugh doing "This Little Piggy Went to Market" on his toes.'

with this tiny little boy that we made together. Five days after Beckett was born, he was diagnosed with Down's syndrome. We were completely blindsided – we had no idea what it meant.

What was your response to the diagnosis? When we found out, we were both on the phone to the pediatrician. We hung up and cried. Then we looked at each other and said, "OK, that's it. No more tears. We don't want a baby to live in a house that feels sad. Because this isn't sad. We have a beautiful baby boy and he's healthy. We need to get educated and move forward." And that's exactly what we did... When you're faced with a fairly big challenge, you can either buck up or you can crumble. No one around us did

that. It was an amazing, emotional experience. Beckett has been the light of our lives, and now, since his little sister came along, there's two lights. Beckett loves her and she loves him. Our house is a three-ring circus now. I love it!

How has motherhood changed you? When you have a child with special needs, you look at the world a little bit differently. You have a greater understanding and more compassion for everyone around you. 

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