

**Interviewee : Carol Mills**

**Interviewer : Avery Young**

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Carol Mills, who goes by Kerrie to those who know her, has lived in Easton since 1974. At that time, there were about 4880 people living in Easton, \_\_\_\_\_ was the First Selectman and as Kerrie recalls: much of the local farmland had yet to be turned into houses. Gerald Ford was President of the United States and average prices of gas was .53 a gallon.

A lot has changed since then. To capture Kerrie's memories for the 175th Anniversary of Easton, we spoke about her early years in New England and important moments from her life in Easton. She shared some of those with me at her beautiful and sunny antique home on Black Rock Turnpike.

- **How has Easton changed in the time you have lived here?**

It has changed because farmland has now turned into land for houses. There are also now more people in Easton. Since the farmland was turned into land for houses there are now less farms in Easton. Also, the team of EMTs used to be a volunteer group.

- **What do you think has developed the most since you have been living in Easton?**

In Easton now, there are new, bigger houses. There are also new and better schools. Plus there are fewer farms but actually more fresh produce being sold.

- **Why did you move to Easton?**

Kerrie said she always wanted to have a horse since she was a child so she moved so she could have one. While in Easton, she owned 1 horse and 1 pony She also owned a cow and chickens.

- **Can you tell me about some interesting events you remember happening in Easton?**

Kerrie once found an old letter in her house, dated from around the 1850's. She found the letter inside a wall when she was renovating her house. The letter was from a girl who was writing to her friend about what they were doing on Thanksgiving.

On another occasion, Kerrie hosted Hollywood superstar Bette Davis for dinner. Her keepsake from that evening is an autographed table cloth.

- **What has been your happiest memory of your life here in Easton?**

Kerrie says she was happiest in Easton knowing she had fulfilled her wish of owning lots of animals.

- **How does Easton compare to other places you have lived?**

Kerrie has lived in larger cities, so Easton is much smaller, rural and has fewer people. As a result, Easton also has smaller schools than other places Kerrie has lived.

- **Did you live here during major events in American history?**

Kerrie lived in Easton through the events of 9.11, and the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

- **What is your vision for Easton in the future?**

She hopes that there will be a small shopping center in Easton.

*Kerrie also shared more about her life, her work and her family. Kerrie's husband Peter is an artist, who loves to work from his studio on their property.*

- **What do you do for a living?**

Kerrie worked at The University of Connecticut as the Director of Admissions for 18 years. She also worked for Internationals Student Exchange for five years.

Kerrie worked in the art business for several years. She was also in the Peace Corps in Chile for two years.

- **How did you meet your spouse?**

She met her first husband in college and they were married for 30 years.

She met her second husband when she was working in the art business and they are currently married for 20 years.

- **Who has been the most important person in your life?**

Her husband, Peter and her son.

- **What is your earliest memory?**

When she was younger her and her family used to rent a cottage in Cape Cod during the summer.

- **What are some important lessons you've learned in life?**

Some important lessons she learned in her life are Flexibility, Having a Sense of Humor and, Friendship

- **Who has the biggest influence on your life?**

The biggest personal influences in Kerrie's life were her college professor of American Literature, because he taught her it was ok to be different. Also, an artist she met from Kenya because he sacrificed his life to save his family and friends.

