

# The remarkable story of Kirkland media personality Claudia Marques



Mike Cohen



Claudia Marques

If you meet Claudia Marques in person, the first thing you will notice about the Kirkland resident and popular on air personality from The Beat 92.5 FM is her beauty and charisma. But life was not always this way for the outgoing mom of two.

"I was bullied and it started when I was in elementary school," Marques recently shared with a group of students I invited her to address. "I wanted to fit in and be part of the cool kids, but the truth is I did not fit in. I was overweight, I did not know how to fix my hair and I had really big thick glasses. I wasn't good at sports and I loved school, so I really had everything to be the target. Kids would say mean things to me every time I would stand up to do an oral presentation."

For Marques, the bullying became relentless. She was called names like "nerd" and "four eyes," and nasty remarks like, "we don't need a ball to play sports because Claudia is round enough and we can use her as a ball."

What hurt Marques the most was an incident at a lunch hour when all of the "cool" kids had gathered as many people together as possible. When she walked in they all shouted "everyone hates you, shoo shoo!"

Marques was devastated. She went home and cried, begging her parents not to send her back and to change her school. "My mom told me 'No Claudia, you are going to stand up for yourself. You are a beautiful individual. So I went back to school the next day with my head held up high and I finished my Grade 6."

In high school circumstances changed. Marques got in with the 'smart crowd.' She lost weight, fixed her hair and started to get the attention of boys. New friendships were formed. However, not all was rosy. She developed an eating disorder and became anorexic.

Ultimately, Marques was able to get her life together and carve a successful career in the media. Impeccably bilingual she

worked for TVA, LCN, Évasion, Canal Vie and now 925 The Beat, where she can be seen making her way across the city each day representing the station via all kinds of interesting promotions. Last weekend she attended the Grammy's in Los Angeles.

On the West Island, Marques has found time to put on her dancing shoes. She did so most recently last month at the H4L Dance Studio ([www.danceh4l.com](http://www.danceh4l.com)) mid-year show. Groups from seven to 40 years of age got up on stage to showcase to family and friends what they had been working on for the previous 13 weeks. Marques joined Classic Crew because she wanted to prove that love of dance is ageless. "Dance has always been a passion of mine and every time I would watch *So You Think You Can Dance*, I would think to myself how I would love to get back on stage even if I am 36 and a mother of two," she said. "A meeting with Christine Harrison, owner of H4L, made that dream possible as she asked me to audition to be part of Classic Crew and the rest was history. It's just so nice to hang out with a group of women who share the same passion for dance, and who want to show the world that we can still bust a move and have fun to the beat of the music, even if we are no longer in our 20's".

Their coach Cheryl Larente is making sure they will be ready to compete next April at the 5678 Showtime Nationals in Mont Tremblant.

Have you got something to share? E-mail [mcohen@thesuburban.com](mailto:mcohen@thesuburban.com) or call 514-484-9203, ext. 307. Follow me on Twitter @mikecohensl and at <http://blog.thesuburban.com>

## FEATHERS

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would normally seep under the asphalt and cause the pot hole. The asphalt literally has feathers sticking out in some places. Another layer of asphalt without chicken feathers would be layered as the final coat for a more pleasant appear-

ance.

There are 5 million tons of feathers discarded each year that could be used to mix with the asphalt easily at a low cost.

"This is pretty simple and it would help towards saving the environment," Bellas said, "It would also save the taxpayers because the roads would last longer." ■