

## **Michael and Diana Damon, Owners of "It's About Time" Villa**

### **They are often asked for the story of what brought them to St. John. Here it is:**

It all started when they were bit by the "island bug"! No they are not talking about one of the insects that live on St. John. They are talking about the love and appreciation for St. John, its' beauty and the easy going way of life, and the extraordinary people who live and vacation there. It has been said by a very wise man, Roger Damon, "You know you been 'bit' if you have trouble leaving the island and are planning your next return on your way to the ferry and you have been 'bit bad' when you sell your 'Go Home Ticket' and stay"!

Michael's first trip there was in 1979, when he accompanied his parents, Roger and Kathy Damon to the island to assist his Uncle Ken and Aunt Sylvia build a home on Upper Carolina overlooking Coral Bay. It was very "hot and thirsty" work but he didn't mind, he had been "bit". Ken and Sylvia had lived in many parts of the world, but decided to retire in St. John. They became very immersed in the community and the Caribbean culture. In addition to building three homes, Ken was very involved in the local theater which frequently had messages regarding the well-being and protection of the island and ocean life. Sylvia was a Minister at the Unitarian Church and was part of many of the island functions. They introduced many people to their beloved island.

Roger and Kathy planned their retirement to St. John for many years and moved into the first home they built in 1991. They had a very deep appreciation for the island, its history, and people. They were known all over the island as a very kind and generous couple, who helped people in need and even opened their home to so many in Coral Bay following Hurricane Marilyn. They had 5 children and 13 grandchildren and it was very important to them that each one of them see and appreciate this beautiful part of the world. Their daughter-in-law, Diana's first visit was in 1995 with Michael and their 2 young children, Rileigh and Colby. It was another "Love at first Sight" for Diana and she was informed that she had been "Bit"!

There are so many beautiful memories with family and friends over the years. "It's About Time" Villa was the second home Roger and Kathy built. It was created and constructed as a place to bring family and friends together in Saint John for visits. "It' About Time" was named by Kathy, when she jokingly wondered if it would ever be finished. In 2004, Roger sadly and unexpectedly passed away in a horrible accident while he was helping a neighbor move a shipping container. The villa was almost complete and one of their daughters and son-in-law moved down to help finish the work and live in the original house with Kathy. With another sad and tearful goodbye, Kathy passed away in 2009. "It's About Time" was for sale for a couple of years during a slower sales season.

With sheer determination, affectionate bond, and financial commitment, Michael and Diana purchased the home from family members in 2014. Since then they have poured their heart and soul into updating and refurbishing the villa. They have personalized it with their touch and made it another home. St. John was hit very hard during hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 and since "It's About Time" received mostly cosmetic damages, they opened their home and assisted neighbors in need as Rog and Kath had done before. They have completed all the repairs and continue to go there every chance they get and carry on the tradition of sharing the love and admiration of the island with as many people as they can. They truly hope that you will have a wonderful time, enjoy the island and their beautiful home, and if there is anything that would make your trip more pleasant, please let them know. If by chance you get "bit" too, please inquire with them for a return visit.

With Love from Diana and Michael Damon