



WITH baby No. 2 on the way, Tori Spelling and hubby Dean McDermott have a lot to celebrate – and his marriage has been a fairytale come true for the 41-year-old Canadian actor, who escaped from a life of grinding poverty, *The ENQUIRER* has learned.

Amazingly, while Tori – the daughter of super-wealthy producer Aaron Spelling – grew up with Hollywood royalty, Dean fought his way out of the slums.

Tori has bared her secrets in recent interviews, but Dean has been more guarded about his past.

“Dean has come a long way,” reveals Victoria Connor, his childhood friend and neighbor. “His early life was an absolute nightmare.”

“His family was dirt poor,” Victoria told *The ENQUIRER*. “Dean’s father was an alcoholic – who left when Dean was 10. And five years later, his mother died of problems caused by obesity.”

DEAN’S FAMILY LIVED OUTSIDE TORONTO IN A dilapidated, low-income housing project that was crawling with drug dealers – and became famous for several murders.

“Dean dreamed of getting out. He was always very ambitious, and when he discovered his acting talent, he realized that was his way out.

“He skipped college and found work straight out of high school as an actor. By his early 20s, he was working steadily in the U.S.



Dean’s former home near Toronto

“His high school girlfriend became a crack addict – and served a prison sentence for armed robbery.

“Dean’s mother Doreen suffered from depression and sat home all day eating junk food. She ballooned to

350 pounds and died from complications of obesity.

“Dean’s father David was a hopeless alcoholic. Doreen wouldn’t let him in the house, so he visited Dean and his three sisters outside on the sidewalk.”

But Victoria says her friend always seemed destined for a better life.

“I think that was part of what attracted Tori to Dean – his drive and ambition to make a better life. He pulled himself up by his bootstraps.”

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

Dean McDermott NIGHTMARE CHILDHOOD TO DREAM COME TRUE

With 2nd baby on the way, he & Tori couldn't be happier



Dean pulled himself up by his bootstraps