

Bedford Magazine Interview

Challenges: Working as Mayor is an enjoyable experience and a continual challenge because of the many responsibilities of the office. There must always be a smooth and speedy flow of information so that all our citizens are well informed about the work of Council and the many departments which provide services in HRM. At the same time, there is the responsibility of ensuring a fair and open debate on the issues that come before Council. We hear impassioned speakers on either side of an issue and then, in the end, must make a decision we feel is in the best interest of the community.

Rewards: Some of the rewards in my position come about because of the day-to-day contacts I have with the residents of HRM. I never tire of meeting people and listening to their ideas and suggestions. Our community is fortunate to have so many talented people ready to step forward and help make this a better place to live, to work, to learn and to play. I always say to those with whom I come into contact across this region and this country that our people are HRM's greatest strength.

How long: One of nine children, I was born and raised in Bedford. I've lived here all my life and my family is here, so this is where my roots are.

Like: What I like most about living in Bedford is its feel and character yet you're within reach of downtown Halifax and Dartmouth and all the amenities they offer.

Walking: There are great trails throughout Bedford and I use them as often as my schedule permits. I frequently take the Sackville River Trail or walk along Shore Drive through DeWolfe Park on the waterfront or around Jack's Lake.

Restaurant: As Mayor, I'm going to give you a politician's answer so I don't offend anyone. (If I did cause upset, I'd never be able to get a table there again!) Let me just say I've eaten in most of restaurants at one time or another and, given the time and space, I'm sure I could point out something nice about each of them.

Reading: I recently read "Wisdom of Our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons" by the late Tim Russert of NBC's Meet The Press. I like anything relating to HRM's history and I've just finished "A Journey to The Past," a condensed history of Dartmouth, Preston, Cole Harbour and Eastern Passage. I tend to read non-fiction and I'm always interested in individuals who "think outside the box."

Music: My taste in music is eclectic. I enjoy rock, jazz, country, Nat King Cole and some rap and hip-hop. As most people know, I'm a big fan of live outdoor concerts and attended the Kiss and Paul McCartney concerts in Halifax this summer.

Movies: I went to see the new disaster movie "2012", starring John Cusack. It was all very serious and spectacular but I think we're safe in our beds for the time being. One of my favourite TV movies at this time of year is "A Christmas Story." That's the one where young Ralphie wants a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas.

Hobbies: I enjoy gardening, cooking and walking. In the kitchen, I like most kinds of cuisine but especially seafood dishes. As a gardener, I find it very satisfying to grow what I can cook and then, of course, it's good to be able to walk off the meal afterwards.

New Year's resolution: To be the best "me" I can be in the year ahead. I plan to exercise more and to eat more healthily. I will also strive to be more mindful of the needs of others and try to be of help wherever and whenever I can. And may I take this opportunity to wish all your readers and their families a very happy and prosperous New Year.

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