



Restigouche Multicultural Association (RMA)

Telephone: 506-789-7747 email: info@rma-amr.ca website: <https://www.rma-amr.ca/>

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Reference: File 530 - News Articles

April 6, 2021

INTERVIEW



Kerry Ann Babin

Community Advocate
Supervisor / Tim Hortons

Q. Place of birth?

Lawrence, Massachusetts



Lawrence has been aptly nicknamed the "Immigrant City". It has been home to numerous different immigrant communities, most of whom arrived during the great wave of European immigration to America that ended in the 1920s.

- Source: Wikipedia

Q. Did you choose the Restigouche (NB) or did it choose you?

I moved to Canada with my mother and step-father in 1989. I was 17 years old.

I lived in Listuguj, QC for seven years. Met my late husband in 1995 and moved to NB, fell in love with Campbellton and the surrounding area. It will always be my home.

Q. Your passion?

Helping people remains my greatest passion.

I have worked with teens for years and led youth (teenagers) volunteer groups for more than eight years - plus lots of other volunteer work, too.

Q. Preferred leisure activity?

Reading, I read pretty much anything and everything.

Q. Which of our four seasons do you prefer & why?

Autumn

I love the start of the cool air after a warm summer and the bright colors of the changing of the leaves.

Taking a walk in the woods and hearing the crunch of dried leaves, it makes me feel whole.

Q. Best advice you ever received?

Live for today.

I was given this advice in my first year of sobriety in 1996. Today, more than 25 years later, I still live by this rule. It makes my life easier.

Q. Most enjoyable travel experience?



Visiting Prince Edward Island a few summers with my sons. I had never been there. PEI is such a beautiful place!

I felt so blessed to have had those days with my sons.

Q. Destination to discover?

Europe is my dream destination I want to visit England and Rome, Greece, Italy and Spain

Q. You have the opportunity to dine with anyone in history, you choose?



Billie Holiday

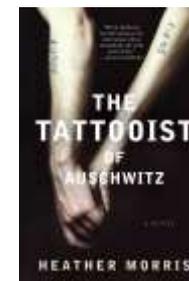
She was an incredibly beautiful singer which such a silky voice.

I would enjoy to learn how she became the singer that she was.

Q. Favorite expression?

You cannot change what you are, only what you do.

Q. Last book read?



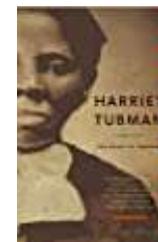
Q. Favorite authors?

Anne Frank, Stephen King, Nora Roberts,

Q. A book or reading that you would recommend and why?

Harriet Tubman: The Road To Freedom

I read this for the first time when I was 12 years old for a school book report.



To this day it still has an impact and reminds me of the courage Harriet had, how she stood up

for what she believed in and how she fought to free the escaping slaves.

Q. What are you most proud of?

My sons

They make me so proud of the young men they have become and continue to be.

Theirs was a very modest upbringing, some would say: in poverty.

They saw their parents struggle to provide for a better life for them.

Their mother walked to her classes to complete her GED and their father - who had major health issues - use his talents as a wood carver to help bring in what financial assistance that he could.

Those life lessons were significant.

Nothing is free and you need to work for what you want.

You also need to give back to your community for all the help and guidance that they gave you.

Financial partner:





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Q. You win the lottery grand prize. What would you do with your new found fortune?

- First, set up my 15 year-old – who loves the art world, to attend any art school he desired.
- Then, make sure my grandsons hand the money for college or university.
- I would take a year to travel to all my dream destinations.
- Finally, I would buy a building and renovate it to accommodate the youth and elderly homeless persons or for people just passing through to have a place to stop in at any time.

It would be unlike a coffee shop or a store.

We need such a drop-in centre where people can just be themselves, feel totally secure and at ease in the surroundings to talk and exchange with others without being judged.

Q. Favorite movie? Music?

Movies: anything Stephen King and music: Jazz, Country, and Kenny G.

Q. Your advice to the newcomer who relocates to the Restigouche Region, NB?

Be opened minded! Let the Restigouche region welcome you.

Soon, you will appreciate the cultural, economic and other opportunities our region has to offer.

Q. One word describes you?

Humble

Q. You have three wishes. What would they be?

1. Provide financial security for my children and grandchildren;

2. Peace of mind and security in my old age; and
3. Own a small house with a beautiful view of the woods and mountains plus with a garden to plant.

Q. Who was your hero in your youth? Today?

Growing up:
Wonder Woman



I know she was just a character but I always felt she had honor and strength,

Today: **Michelle Obama**



She is such a classy woman who advocates for the less fortunate people and for women rights.

Q. As an immigrant yourself, what are the main barriers that newcomers need to overcome to ensure a successful integration?

There are many however the main barrier, in my opinion, is **to keep an open mind** adapting to your new home and community.

We are all different and bring our different culture into our new community. That is a good thing.

At the same time, one needs to be open and receptive to learn about the cultures of the community that you are hoping to integrate.

Q. What would you like to see inscribed on your tombstone?

Here lies Kerry, mother, wife, grandmother a humble and kind soul

Q. The question you detest answering?

Why do you always help those in need?

Q. Please share something people may not know about you!

My on-going struggle with self-esteem – dates back to my youth.

Q. If you could recommend one improvement to your community, what would it be?

Open a **walk-in center** for all and to bring the community together to share each other's individual cultures.

Our future generations would learn to appreciate how our combined cultures contribute to make our community more inclusive, to grow and be better.



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