

"We went to their ceremonies and they were very helpful with all the paperwork we had to do and the ideas," he says.

Kirby's early years involved working at the CIBC and Famous Players Theatres before attending Loyalist College's print journalism program from 1985 to 1987 (upon graduation he received The Intelligencer Award). A series of newspaper jobs followed, including The Bancroft Times, Picton Gazette and Kingston Whig-Standard, before he started the monthly publication, Business to Business in the early 1990s. He operated it for about four years with friend Laurie Ann Storing before selling the company in the mid-90s.

It was around that time he became involved with QUIS.

"I started out as a volunteer and when a position became available I applied," he says. He's now in his fourth year with the organization. "I've always been interested in immigration being an immigrant myself, and it suited what I was looking for at the time," he says. The job involves a lot of work around promoting anti-racism and trying to eliminate xenophobia.

In his leisure time Kirby enjoys reading biographies and listening to music (he's partial to Sting, Loreena McKennett and Neil Diamond). Recently he learned to swim through a course at the YMCA.

Plans for the future include more of the same. "I would love to be able to write full-time but the reality of the situation is it's extremely difficult to do that," he

says. "I don't write to make money, I write because I enjoy it. If I make money off it, that's a bonus."