

FitzGibbon, Trish

cont'd.

FitzGibbon said, smiling. She golfs with colleagues, both here and in other locales, including across the border.

The love affair began about six years ago when friends invited her to play. She had just finished another passion, cycling, and was dressed in a biking outfit, which she wore on the links.

"They allowed me on the golf course ... and I hacked my way through nine holes," FitzGibbon said.

But she downplays her prowess.

"I don't think (Michelle) Wie or Tiger (Woods) are going to have any concerns, but when my putting is on, watch out," she said.

The off-road biking continues, too, usually at provincial parks.

FitzGibbon also likes the water.

"I do a little kayaking," she said, "wherever there is a puddle."

She moves more indoors for the winter, but is still active, although her job is more time consuming than in summer.

"I am a member at the Harbour Club," she said, where she does her own fitness regime that involves running on treadmills, as well as a weight program. She is a teacher and that usually spells books.

"I enjoy all kinds of reading," FitzGibbon said. That includes work-related reading, as well as other kinds. She just finished *An Inconvenient Truth* by former U.S. vice-president Al Gore. It sounds the warning bell about the environment, another of FitzGibbon's interests, not surprising given her love of the outdoors.

"Certainly I am sensitive to that," she said. "Our generation is hearing the clock ticking."

She also gardens and goes to movies. She has two cats, Alex and Barnaby, both adopted strays.

"They put up with my work hours," she said — everything leads back to teaching.

"I always knew that I wanted to teach," FitzGibbon said. "I've always enjoyed learning. It's got to be the most rewarding experience — watching them grow and mature, seeing all that potential."

Prominent on her office wall is a framed piece of artwork given to her by a senior kindergarten student, "little Ivan" at Harry J. Clarke.

Where is he now? The family moved away but she believes he is in university.

Mission accomplished.

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