

Ian Proudfoot celebrates his 60th birthday



A husband, a father, a grandfather, a business leader, a mentor, a community advocate, a humanitarian, a patron of the arts — a man who is all these things — is marking a milestone birthday.

And we can't resist celebrating.

As he enters the sixth decade of his life Oct. 6, Ian Proudfoot finds himself at the peak of both business and personal success.

The venerated Metroland Media Group executive is vice-president and regional publisher of a territory that stretches from cottage country to the heart of the city, including North Bay, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Simcoe County, York Region and Toronto.

The lives of readers in more than 900,000 homes are touched every week by the stories in the more than 50 print and online products that carry the Metroland Central division banner under Ian's leadership.

His abiding commitment to business success, equally paired with caring for community, continues to inspire the more than 800 employees who look up to him.

The initials O.M.C. that he is entitled to place after his name, as a recipient of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, signify his longtime and sustained outstanding service to community.

Most notably, Ian's current commitment to community includes serving as chairperson of the Pickering College board of directors. He has held volunteer leadership positions with the United of York Region, Newmarket Chamber of Commerce, Southlake Regional Health Centre capital campaign, Newmarket Downtown Development Committee, Newmarket Economic Development Advisory Committee and was a board member for Resurgence Theatre.

The signature initiative of York Region Media Group's community partnerships remains Celebration of the Arts, founded by Ian 13 years ago to provide York

Region's brightest young artists not only with a stage but financial support. More than \$340,000 in bursaries to 237 individuals and groups have been awarded by sponsors of the arts from across the region.

As a resident of East Gwillimbury, Ian has stayed close to his roots, raising his own family near his place of birth. He grew up on a farm in Sharon, where he particularly loved riding horses. Today, he marks his enduring love of the land by puttering about his gardens and yards and riding the lawn tractor. Ian was a short walk away from his elementary school, Sharon Public School, and later attended Newmarket High School. He graduated from Trent University, where he studied history and political science.

He began his newspaper career on joining The Topic in 1974, followed by leadership roles in sales and distribution at Metroland's Mississauga News, The Independent News and The Era-Banner. He was appointed publisher of York Region Media Group 16 years ago.

He and his wife, Kathy, a well-known local real estate agent and passionate community volunteer herself, revel in their close-knit family of adult children Stephanie, Elliott, Natalie, Laura and Neil and grandchildren Ross, Madelaine and newly arrived Kaili.

To borrow from one of Ian's favourite songs, Nights in White Satin:

Just what you
Want to be
You will be
In the end

While you are nowhere near the end, Ian, you are so much of just what you want to be. To our inspiration, our mentor, we give you our gratitude on the occasion of your 60th birthday and wish you many, many happy returns.

