



Walter Gretzky TIFF 2010 by Mark Dunne



WALTER GRETZKY BIOGRAPHY

You may know Walter Gretzky only as the father of NHL hockey legend, Wayne Gretzky, but it is his personal journey and his constant engagement in the community that we look forward to hearing about at the Bishop's Company Dinner. Earlier this summer, Walter was awarded an honorary doctor of letters from the Laurier Brantford Campus; Walter also received the Order of Canada in 2007, an honorary degree from Nipissing Brantford in 2006 and the Brantford Citizen of the Year award in 1996 all in recognition of his commitment to aiding others, especially youth.

Married in 1960, Walter worked at Bell Canada for over 30 years and raised 5 children with his wife Phyllis. While working for Bell, Walter was in a serious accident that resulted in the loss of hearing in his right ear. In 1991, a few short months into retirement, he suffered a brain aneurysm which took about 4 years to recover from; he lost several years of his long term memory including the passing of his mother and some of the key highlights of Wayne's career. To raise awareness of cardiovascular health, Walter became a national spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Walter is also involved with the Wayne and Walter Gretzky Scholarship Foundation, and the SCORE Summer Program.

Despite his limitations, he delights in inspiring and entertaining others, and supporting community initiatives; whether that means opening his home for hockey fans, signing autographs, visiting patients in hospital, or travelling to speak at various events throughout North America in support of charity.

Walter has written 2 books, *On Family, Hockey and Healing* (2003), and *Gretzky: From Backyard Rink to the Stanley Cup* (1985); and was featured in the CBC movie *Waking up Wally: The Walter Gretzky Story* (2005). In his personal downtime, Walter Gretzky loves to golf, coach hockey, and spend time with his family.

Highlights from our 2013



Do not miss this opportunity: Monday, September 29th, 6:15 pm, Burlington Convention Centre
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